

# **First Chief Executive appointed at the National Robotarium**

**The new National Robotarium, a partnership between Heriot-Watt University and the University of Edinburgh, has appointed its first Chief Executive.**

Stewart Miller is a business leader with a great deal of experience in technology development in the aerospace sector. He will lead the Robotarium on its journey to become the globally recognised centre for excellence in AI and Robotics.



Miller was previously Chief Technology Officer at the UK Government body, Innovate UK. He has held senior roles at firms including Leonardo and BAE Systems.

Stewart Miller, chief executive officer of the National Robotarium, said: “It’s a huge honour to take up this role, helping set the direction of the National Robotarium which has enormous potential to transform lives. The opportunity is to bring together the needs of businesses and society and the emerging technology solutions from research at the UKs leading universities.

“As someone who has been working in technology for 40 years, leading a facility that is tackling some of the world’s biggest challenges using Robotics and AI is incredibly exciting. It is clear to me that this role presents an

extraordinary opportunity to build productive global partnerships, creating economic, environmental and societal benefits. I look forward to working with research teams, students, and partners across industries and governments as we grow the National Robotarium's influence and impact."

Professor Richard A Williams, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Heriot-Watt University, said: "The appointment of an outstanding CEO underpins the ambition for the National Robotarium to accelerate digital and AI driven skills to serve society in a positive way and to create new businesses and jobs for Scotland and address global opportunities. Stewart's appointment is a significant moment as we drive forward our collective research and education strengths to lead innovation in this area and to ensure, working with partners, we catalyse the talent pipeline needed to serve this fast-growing sector. A massive opportunity for Scotland."

UK Government Minister Iain Stewart said: "Congratulations to Stewart Miller on his appointment to head up the exciting work at the National Robotarium.

"The UK is investing £21 million for cutting-edge facilities at the Robotarium as part of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal, bringing jobs, opportunities and businesses to the region and helping to make it a global data capital.

"We are investing more than £1.5 billion in region deals across Scotland, and helping communities to build back better after the pandemic."

Finance and Economy Secretary Kate Forbes said: "I offer my warmest congratulations to Stewart Miller on being appointed to this exciting role. His extensive experience of both the public and private sectors will be a real asset to the National Robotarium, and have a direct impact on our world-leading manufacturing industries.

“This is a crucial time for business, trade and investment in Scotland. City Region and Growth Deals have a key role to play in our economic recovery from the pandemic as we work towards a fairer and more inclusive Scotland. Our investment in the National Robotarium is part of our £300 million commitment to the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal, which will help to build a future economy that benefits everyone.”

The National Robotarium is one of five innovation hubs supported by the £1.3 billion Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal – a 15 year investment programme funded by both governments and regional partners.



Stewart Miller, CEO of the National Robotarium, with ‘Spot’ robots