Flippo The Robo-Shoe-Fly: A Foot Dwelling Social Wearable Companion

Tech ID: 32826 / UC Case 2020-290-0

BACKGROUND

Social interactions in school and office settings traditionally involve few coordinated physical interactions, and most group engagement centers on sharing electronic screens. Wearable robot companions are a promising new direction for encouraging coordinated physical movement and social interaction in group settings. A UC Santa Cruz researcher has developed a wearable social companion that encourages users to interact via physical movement.

TECHNOLOGY DESCRIPTION

A UC Santa Cruz researcher has designed an on-body robot companion, Flippo, that attaches to shoes. Flippo is a robot ecosystem designed to encourage wearers to engage in co-located social interaction. The robots have synergistic needs for connection that require users to engage in social interaction. Social interaction results in reactions from the robot, e.g. light and/or haptic responses.

APPLICATIONS

- Team building in group settings: schools, offices etc.

ADVANTAGES

- Encourages real-world social interactions
- Requires physical movement
- Fosters non-traditional group interactions

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INFORMATION

Patent Pending

CONTACT

Marc Oettinger
marc.oettinger@ucsc.edu
tel: 831-502-0253.

INVENTORS

- Isbister, Katherine
- Peled, Ella

OTHER INFORMATION

KEYWORDS

Social interaction, Embodied interaction, Robot companion, Smart device

CATEGORIZED AS

- **Communications**
  - Networking
  - Other
  - Wireless

RELATED CASES

2020-290-0

RELATED MATERIALS

- Flippo the Robo-Shoe-Fly: A Foot Dwelling Social Wearable Companion - 04/25/2020

University of California, Santa Cruz
Industry Alliances & Technology Commercialization
Kerr 413 / IATC,
Santa Cruz,CA 95064

Tel: 831.459.5415
innovation@ucsc.edu
https://officeofresearch.ucsc.edu/
Fax: 831.459.1658