

# **Cancellation of ELROB 2021**

## European Land Robot Trial

ELROB is an event where robotic system suppliers coming from a variety of countries present their systems and tackle various task courses. The focus is on presenting technical options and the performance of robotic systems.

Due to the pandemic the regularly conducted ELROB envisaged for 2020 was first postponed to May 2021. As regards the planning and preparation of this event henceforth scheduled for 2021 a point was reached which made it impossible to avoid entering into relations with third parties and an associated commitment of budgetary funds became inevitable. Therefore, the conduct of ELROB in May 2021 had to be reassessed. According to a current evaluation conducted at the ministerial level the pandemic situation might well continue into the year 2021 which means that the conduct of ELROB cannot be ensured and thus the associated financial obligations to be incurred in this context would, in the event of a cancellation, be to the detriment of the Federal Government. Even in case of its conduct, it would probably not be possible to ensure a fair participation of all nations in the event taking place in May 2021 due to possible travel restrictions and/or warnings.

As regards the suppliers and exhibitors as well as the visitors, ELROB participants come from many different European countries and beyond. Based on this fact alone and against the background of the current infection development in the pandemic situation the execution of this event seems to be precarious. It is to be expected that in case of a further increase in infection numbers in combination with the colder season, the course of a second pandemic wave would be considerably worse. As regards both the preparation of the event and its execution this situation could, under the above mentioned framework conditions, lead to significant restrictions and thus poses, according to current assessments, an unacceptable risk of default.

In addition, from today's viewpoint, it is not predictable whether it will be possible to accommodate the arriving suppliers and visitors in the local lodging establishments, considering possible pandemic-related restrictions.

In an overall assessment of the aforementioned risks the patron of ELROB 2021 (Chief of Division A II at the FMOD) has decided to cancel the event and to coordinate the reorganization with Austria, the 2022 host nation.