Melonee Wise

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WORK EXPERIENCE

Chief Product Officer (Previously Chief Technology Officer) 05-2023 – present
Agility Robotics San Jose, CA, United States
Act as head of engineering & product, built and led the company's engineering and product organizations, including robotics & enterprise software and hardware teams. I drove the first successful customer deployments of humanoid robots, which have been operating in production for over a year. Restructured the organization, hired key technical leaders, and aligned the team with strategic goals. Led the establishment of a new safety standard for humanoid robotics, ISO 25785.

VP/GM Robotics Automation 08-2021 – 02-2023
Zebra Technologies San Jose, CA, United States
Was the CTO of the Robotics Automation business unit created around the Fetch Robotics acquisition. Responsible for developing the innovation and technology roadmap for the robotics business.

CEO and Co-founder 08-2014 – 08-2021
Fetch Robotics San Jose, CA, United States
Led and built the Fetch business until its acquisition by Zebra Technologies for $305M in August 2021. At the time of acquistion the business was operating as a 70+% GM business.

CEO and Co-founder 01-2013 – 06-2014
Unbounded Robotics San Jose, CA, United States
Developed a next generation low cost mobile manipulation robot for the research market.

Robot Development Manager 01-2007 – 01-2013
Willow Garage Menlo Park, CA, United States
Led a team of engineers and designers to develop next generation mobile manipulation hardware.

EDUCATION

M.S. Mechanical Engineering
University of Illinois Urbana Champaign
2004 – 2005 | Urbana Champaign

B.S. Physics Engineering
University of Illinois Urbana Champaign
2000 – 2004 | Urbana Champaign

B.S. Mechanical Engineering
University of Illinois Urbana Champaign
2000 – 2004 | Urbana Champaign

SKILLS

CAD ●●●●●
Solidworks, Autodesk, Pro Engineer, etc

Robotics ●●●●●
Navigation, Manipulation, ROS, etc

Programming Languages ●●●●○
C++, Python

Prototyping ●●●●●
3D printing, laser cutting, etc

AWARDS

Engelberger Award for Technology - The "Nobel Prize" of Robotics 2022
Advancing Automation Association (A3)

MechSE Award for Distinguished Service 2022
Department of Mechanical Engineering at University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

Supply Chain Woman of the Year 2021
Demand Chain Executive

Technology Pioneer 2018
World Economic Forum

MechSE Distinguished Alumni Award 2016
Department of Mechanical Engineering at University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

MIT TR35 - Top Innovators Under 35 2015
MIT Technology Review

PUBLICATIONS

Fetch & Freight: Standard Platforms for Service Robot Applications 07-2016
International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence

Towards Autonomous Robotic Butlers: Lessons Learned with the PR2 05-2011
International Conference on Robotics and Automation

Autonomous Door Opening and Plugging In with a Personal Robot 05-2010
International Conference on Robotics and Automation

Model-based, hierarchical control of a mobile manipulation platform 09-2009
ICAPS Workshop on Planning and Plan Execution for Real-World Systems

Application and analysis of a robust trajectory tracking controller for under-characterized autonomous vehicles 09-2008
Conference on Control Applications

PATENTS

System and method for support structure detection 2025
US 12,241,969

System and method for order fulfillment using robots 2024
US 11,934,181

System and method for semantically identifying one or more of an object and a location in a robotic environment 2023
US 11,835,960

Robotic cart configured for effective navigation and multi-orientation docking 2023
US 11,809,173

System and method for automatically annotating a map 2023
US 11,703,350

System and method for robot-assisted, cart-based workflows 2022
US 11,427,404

Method and system for facility monitoring and reporting to improve safety using robots 2022
US 11,331,804

System and method for order fulfillment using robots 2021
US 11,137,742

System and method for computing a probability that an object comprises a target using segment points 2021
US 11,087,239

Method and system for facility monitoring and reporting to improve safety using robots 2021
US 11,059,177

Method and system for facility monitoring and reporting to improve safety using robots 2021
US 11,059,176

Robotic cart configured for effective navigation and multi-orientation docking 2021
US 10,908,601

System and method for automatically annotating a map 2020
US 10,853,561

System and method for computing a probability that an object comprises a target 2020
US 10,699,219

System and method using robots to assist humans in order fulfillment 2020
US 10,691,109

System and method using robots to assist humans in order fulfillment 2020
S 10,562,707

System and method for computing a probability that an object comprises a target 2019
US 10,515,319

System and method for order fulfillment using robots 2019
US 10,423,150

System and method for load balancing of robots to create more equivalent task loads across task servers 2019
US 10,363,659

System and method for responding to emergencies using robotic assistance 2019
US 10,356,590

System and method for determining and promoting safety of a robotic payload 2018
US 9,943,963

System and method for localization of robots 2018
US 9,927,814

Robotic torso sensing system and method 2017
US 9,827,669

Steering column lock assembly and method of operating the same 2008
US 7,406,845