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**Panasonic Industry supporting ETH Zurich to develop robot for exploring asteroids**

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Panasonic Industry Europe is currently supporting a development program by young students at ETH Zurich to develop a robot that will be used to explore asteroids. The main challenge to overcome for the SpaceHopper program is the virtual absence of gravity on asteroids, which makes it very difficult for any robot to move around. The development team from ETH Zurich assumes that the most effective way of traveling in that low-gravity environment would be controlled leaps. Therefore it has chosen a three-legged design for its robot.

Panasonic Industry’s main contribution for the SpaceHopper program is to provide advice and support in selecting and supplying the optimum batteries for the robots validation tests in low gravity environments, like parabolic flights. Currently a battery pack of twelve highly robust and temperature-resistant BK-300SCP Ni-MH cells has been selected. According to Jorit Geurts from SpaceHopper these batteries are “the optimal solution for the zero-g-flights due to their robustness and their large temperature ratings.”

At present and thanks to the help of ESA Academy, the SpaceHopper robot was tested under microgravity conditions. On Earth, there is only one very cost-intensive way to do this: parabolic flight, where a special large-scale aircraft can simulate a short period of weightlessness by using a parabolic flight path.

Comments Carl-Frederik Riemenschneider, Head of Business Development at Panasonic : “Our company is happy to support this project because it fits in perfectly with our vision: Energy that changes the future.” He continues: “We are very much looking forward to seeing the results of the current tests and to see how this SpaceHopper project will move forward.”

For more information about Panasonic Industry’s support for the SpaceHopper program from ETH Zurich please click [here](https://industry.panasonic.eu/spacehopper1#panasonics-contribution-paragraph-7185348).

**About Panasonic Energy**

The Panasonic Energy Co., Ltd. is globally active in the dry battery business that supports everyday convenience and comfort, as well as the B2B business such as industrial and automotive batteries. Panasonic is one of the world‘s largest battery manufacturers with more than 90 years of experience in the production of high-quality industrial batteries. In Europe, the products and services of Panasonic Energy are marketed and distributed through Panasonic Industry Europe.

More about Panasonic Energy products in Europe: [Battery cells | Panasonic Industry Europe GmbH](https://industry.panasonic.eu/products/energy-building/batteries/battery-cells)

**About Panasonic Industry Europe GmbH**

Panasonic Industry Europe GmbH is part of the global Panasonic Industry organization, one of the eight major operating companies within Panasonic Holding. Panasonic Industry Europe provides products and services for industrial customers all over Europe.

Panasonic Industry Europe is committed to enabling customers to achieve their goals in a broad range of industrial sectors such as mobility, infrastructure, automation, medical, appliances, smart living, and security. With the know-how of devices and solution technologies, cultivated through a global mindset and over a century of tradition, Panasonic Industry collaborates closely with customers to create a sustainable future.

Panasonic Industry Europe’s broad and diverse product portfolio encompasses key electronic component sectors including electromechanical and passive components, batteries and other energy products, sensors and wireless connectivity modules, thermal management materials and custom solutions, as well as automation devices & solutions.

More about Panasonic Industry Europe: <http://industry.panasonic.eu>

**About the Panasonic Group**

Founded in 1918 and today a global leader in developing innovative technologies and solutions for wide-ranging applications in the consumer electronics, housing, automotive, industry, communications, and energy sectors worldwide, the Panasonic Group switched to an operating company system on April 1, 2022, with Panasonic Holdings Corporation serving as a holding company and eight companies positioned under its umbrella.

The Group reported consolidated net sales of Euro 54.12 billion (8,496.4 billion yen) for the year ended March 31, 2024. To learn more about the Panasonic Group, please visit: <https://holdings.panasonic/global/>