

# M-Enabling Summit

Promoting Accessible Technologies and Environments

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## 2018 M-ENABLING ROBOT OF THE YEAR AWARD GOES TO AVATARMIND FOR ITS IPAL ROBOT

**BETHESDA, MD (May 21, 2018)** – The organizers of the **M-Enabling Summit** are pleased to announce that its first “*M-Enabling Robot of the Year Award*” will be presented during a special on-stage introduction and robot demonstration on June 11, 2018.

The Award is designed to promote the awareness of the considerable potential benefits of robot applications for independent living, elderly care and special education, allowing outstanding pioneering innovators to share their latest breakthroughs.

The 2018 recipient of the M-Enabling Robot of the Year is the iPal Robot, selected for its features specifically developed for Special Education, Elderly Care and independent living for persons with disabilities. iPal operates with a friendly, non-threatening demeanor, supported by multiple sensors to assure safe human interactions. iPal has a conversational spoken language interface, facial expressions, full arm/hand movement, and can sense people’s mood. iPal is an open system based on the Android operating system with extensions for motion, sensor and natural language conversation allowing a wealth of third-party applications to be delivered on a robot.

Presenting the iPal Robot will be John S. Ostrem, Ph.D., CEO of AvatarMind, a company founded in 2014 by a group of entrepreneurs from Silicon Valley, PhDs from top universities, and robot experts from robotic companies. AvatarMind has an experienced research team with deep experience in artificial intelligence, motion control, sensors and power management technologies, all critical domains of innovation for the M-Enabling Ecosystem.

*“This year presentation of the M-Enabling Robot of the Year will serve as a milestone in the evolution of our accessible and assistive technologies eco-system,”* explained Axel Leblois, President of G3ict and M-Enabling Program co-chair. *“The iPal Robot is a great example of how leading edge enabling technologies are coming together in an affordable, versatile and open system platform which will foster multiple robotic innovations in support of persons with disabilities.”*

*“We are very pleased to receive the 2018 M-Enabling Robot of the Year Award and look forward to our interaction with the many industry and community leaders participating in the M-Enabling Summit. I cannot think of a better group of decision makers to explore the many potential applications of robotics in support of persons with disabilities, special education and the elderly,”* said John S. Ostrem, CEO of AvatarMind. *“We are at the very early stage of a true revolution in how care, social interaction and support services can be delivered, and are excited to be able to share our accomplishments and projects.”*

The M-Enabling Robot of the Year Award will serve as a great kick-off to the **2018 M-Enabling Summit** organized this year under the theme of “*Accessible and Assistive Technologies Innovations: New Frontiers for Independent Living.*” During the past seven years, the **M-Enabling Summit** has established itself as a leading global conference and showcase for empowering accessible technologies; with its primary focus on next-generation innovation and breakthrough solutions for seniors and users of all abilities.

The 7th edition of the **M-Enabling Summit** will be held on June 11-13, 2018 at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel, in Washington, D.C.

For more information on registering for the **M-Enabling Summit**, please visit <http://www.m-enabling.com>

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**About E.J. Krause & Associates:**

*For more than 30 years, E.J. Krause & Associates, Inc. (EJK) has been a worldwide leader in exhibition and conference management. EJK is one of the largest privately held exhibition management companies in the world, with offices on three continents. EJK produces a growing portfolio of over 40 events, serving 14 different industries. EJK excels in creating global brand leading events, bringing companies together to network and generate business. For more information please visit [www.ejkrause.com](http://www.ejkrause.com)*

**About G3ict:**

*G3ict – the Global Initiative for Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies – is an advocacy initiative launched in December 2006 in cooperation with the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at UNDESA. Its mission is to facilitate and support the implementation of the dispositions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) promoting digital accessibility and Assistive Technologies. Participating organizations include industry, academia, the public sector and organizations representing persons with disabilities. Through its division IAAP, the International Association of Accessibility Professionals, G3ict offers professional development training and certification to more than 1,300 members in 39 countries. For more information, please visit [www.g3ict.org](http://www.g3ict.org)*