

I don't know if they ever sold one, but they were quite real: the bodies are the same vacuum-formed plastic as those on Topo, but with three 8088- based boards mounted internally (PC architecture). The first day I got there, the engineers had just rediscovered Snell's Law: The downward facing sonar transducer that was to keep BOB from rolling down staircases almost never returned a signal...not too surprising, given the wavelength involved. Ooops: one of the major sensor systems they planned to rely on wouldn't work. Further, the two wheel drive, while it was visually interesting, sucked for the sensors: imagine what a video camera mounted on a punching bag would see. How would you interpret that? Now, replace the video camera with two 15-degree wide sonar transducers. Needless to say, they didn't have a good solution to deal with that problem... I don't remember any conversation about monitoring body tilt, so I doubt they were trying to do that.

Basically, Androbot was staffed with a bunch of garage robot enthusiasts who were led a bit astray by their enthusiasm, didn't, in my observation, have the horsepower, the leadership or discipline to do the work to make the system really work.

(ed. I was hoping you were Androbots BOB namesake?)

I got teased a lot by Dave on that, but no, BrainsOnBoard significantly predated my arrival on the scene.

My pleasure, good luck on your beast?

Bob.

Robert Emery Smith