



Speaker Bio

Esben Hallundbæk Østergaard, PhD

An inventor and entrepreneur, Esben Østergaard founded Universal Robots in 2005 with two members of his research team. The company was purchased by Teradyne Corporation in May 2015 for a total of \$350 million. Esben remained with Universal Robots as Chief Technology Officer until March 2019, when he stepped down to follow other pursuits, including co-founding REInvest Robotics with his wife Richa Hallundbæk Misri.

An accelerator platform, REInvest Robotics provides advice, guidance and angel funding to collaborative robot start-ups on the forefront of creating unique robotics solutions that uplift humans and inspire their dreams.

Esben was the 2018 recipient of the Joseph F. Engelberger Award, the world's most prestigious robotics honor. The award was granted to Esben for spearheading the development of Universal Robots' collaborative arms – now considered one of the most significant breakthroughs coming out of the robotics community in decades.

Esben has served as a member of the Danish Government's Disruption Council and the Danish Society of Engineers (IDA) SIRI Commission. He's currently an Advisor to the Manufacturing Academy of Denmark. Esben holds several patents and scientific publications. He received his PhD in AI and Robotics from the University of Southern Denmark in 2004, and a Masters degree in Computer Science in 2000, with additional courses in Physics and Multimedia Science.