



Dr Rob Buckingham CEng FIET FEng

Rob is a Director of the UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) based at Culham and the first Head of RACE. RACE is the UKAEA's centre for Remote Applications in Challenging Environments - i.e. robots being used in places where people cannot or should not work. RACE builds on the pedigree of 20 years of remote operations at JET, the Joint European Torus, the world leading fusion experiment at Culham.

Rob was a lead author of the UK's Robotics and Autonomous Strategy which has been incorporated into the UK's Industrial Strategy. RACE is a component of delivering this strategy, including nuclear robotics, connected and autonomous vehicles and living laboratories.

Before leading RACE, Rob co-founded and was for 13 years the Managing Director of OC Robotics which developed and commercialised snake-arm robots. He won the prestigious Royal Academy of Engineering Silver Medal in recognition of his contribution to this new field. OC Robotics was recently purchased by GE Aviation.

In his early career Rob was a National Engineering Scholar, a UKAEA-sponsored undergraduate and then lecturer at the University of Bristol. He holds BSc and MEng degrees from the Special Engineering Program at Brunel University, London and a PhD from the University of Bristol. He is a Chartered Engineer, Fellow of the Institute of Engineering and Technology and a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering.