# Symbotic Inc. appoints Dr. James Kuffner as new Chief Technology Officer



Symbotic Inc., a prominent player in A.I.-enabled robotics technology for supply chain management, has announced the appointment of Dr. James Kuffner as its new Chief Technology Officer (CTO), effective January 1, 2025. This transition comes as George Dramalis retires from his role as CTO. Kuffner’s extensive background in robotics, spanning over three decades, positions him to lead Symbotic’s technological innovations and drive the company's strategic growth ambitions.

Rick Cohen, the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Symbotic, spoke on the significance of this appointment, stating, “James has more than 30 years of leadership experience in robotics. He has helped forge groundbreaking technological advances at Toyota, Google and Carnegie Mellon University’s Robotics Institute.” Kuffner is an accomplished field expert, recognised for co-inventing the Rapidly Exploring Random Tree (RRT) algorithm for robot motion planning, and is credited with 125 publications and 40 patents across 3D graphics, robotics, and autonomous vehicles. Prior to joining Symbotic, he held several leadership roles at Toyota Motor Corporation, most recently serving as a Senior Fellow and managing the company’s Software Development Center.

Cohen added that Kuffner is “a visionary leader whose cutting-edge research and development have accelerated the world’s technological solutions,” emphasising the company's eagerness to leverage Kuffner’s expertise to develop innovative solutions that will propel Symbotic's next phase of growth.

Founded to revolutionise supply chains, Symbotic combines A.I. powered robotics with advanced software platforms to transform warehouse operations into strategic assets for major companies in retail, wholesale, and food and beverage sectors. By integrating next-generation technology, high-density storage systems, and machine learning, Symbotic aims to address the intricate challenges of distribution, enabling its clients to enhance the speed, agility, accuracy, and efficiency of their logistics operations.

In an evolving business landscape, the appointment of Dr. Kuffner marks a significant step for Symbotic, reinforcing its commitment to innovation and technological advancement within the supply chain industry.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_J._Kuffner_Jr.> - Corroborates Dr. James Kuffner's background in robotics, his role at Toyota, Google, and Carnegie Mellon University, and his contributions to robotics such as the RRT algorithm.
* <https://pressroom.toyota.com/biographies/james-kuffner/> - Provides details on Dr. Kuffner's roles at Toyota, including his position as Senior Fellow and his leadership in software development and digital skills.
* <https://ohmnilabs.com/about-us/james-kuffner/> - Confirms Dr. Kuffner's Ph.D. from Stanford University, his work at Google, and his invention of the RRT algorithm, as well as his patents and publications.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_J._Kuffner_Jr.#Academic_research> - Details Dr. Kuffner's academic research, including his work on RRT algorithms and his time as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Tokyo.
* <https://pressroom.toyota.com/biographies/james-kuffner/> - Outlines Dr. Kuffner's experience at Google, including his role in the self-driving car project and the introduction of the term 'Cloud Robotics'.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_J._Kuffner_Jr.#Toyota> - Describes Dr. Kuffner's roles at Toyota Research Institute (TRI) and Toyota Research Institute - Advanced Development (TRI-AD), and his leadership positions within Toyota.
* <https://ohmnilabs.com/about-us/james-kuffner/> - Mentions Dr. Kuffner's role as CEO of TRI-AD and his continued involvement as an Adjunct Associate Professor at Carnegie Mellon University.
* <https://pressroom.toyota.com/biographies/james-kuffner/> - Highlights Dr. Kuffner's awards, such as the Okawa Foundation Award for Young Researchers, and his extensive publication and patent record.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_J._Kuffner_Jr.#Google> - Details Dr. Kuffner's involvement in Google's robotics division, including his co-founding of the division with Andy Rubin.
* <https://ohmnilabs.com/about-us/james-kuffner/> - Confirms Dr. Kuffner's educational background from Stanford University and his postdoctoral research at the University of Tokyo.
* <https://pressroom.toyota.com/biographies/james-kuffner/> - Explains Dr. Kuffner's current role as Senior Fellow at Toyota and his focus on software and digital skills development.