



drag&bot as a
software platform for
development of ROS-based
industrial applications

Pablo Quilez
Co-Founder & CTO



drag&bot – Company & History



2008

Beginning of research at
Fraunhofer IPA

2015

First business plan

2016

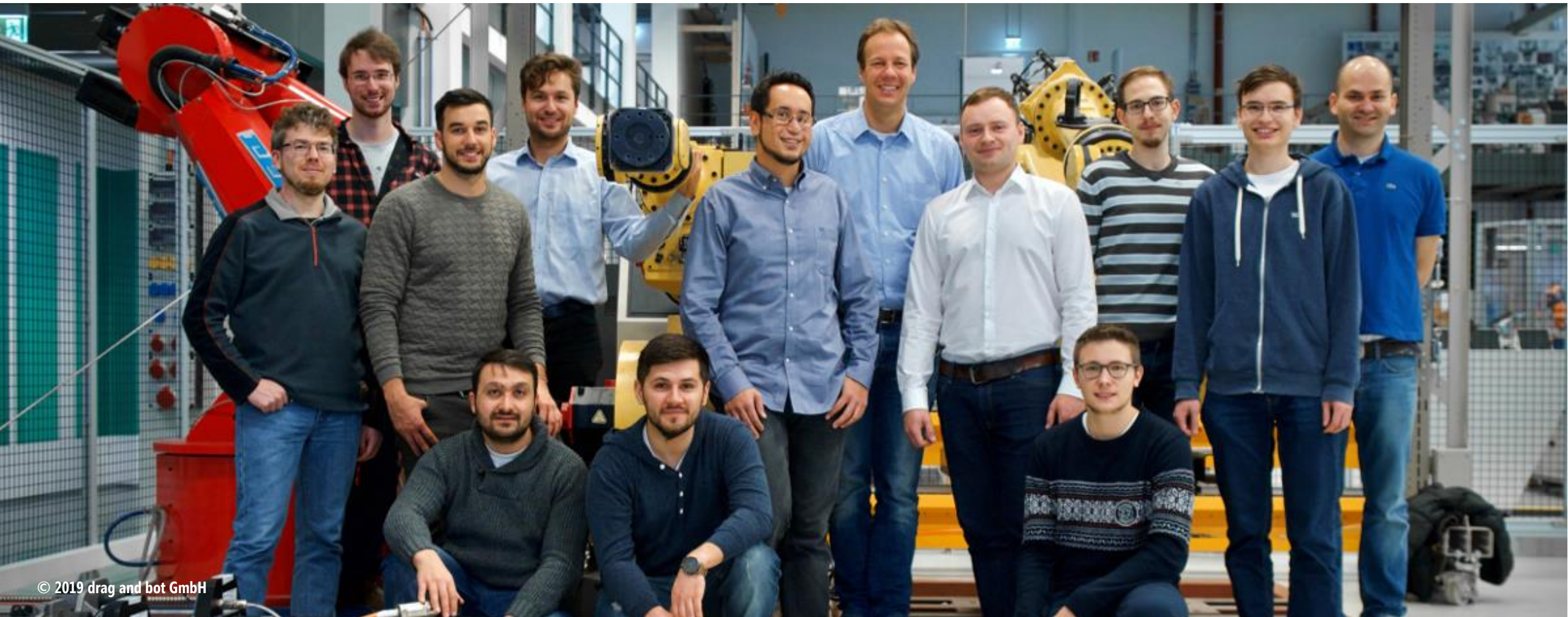
First prototype Positive
feedback

2017-2018

First customers and
pilot projects

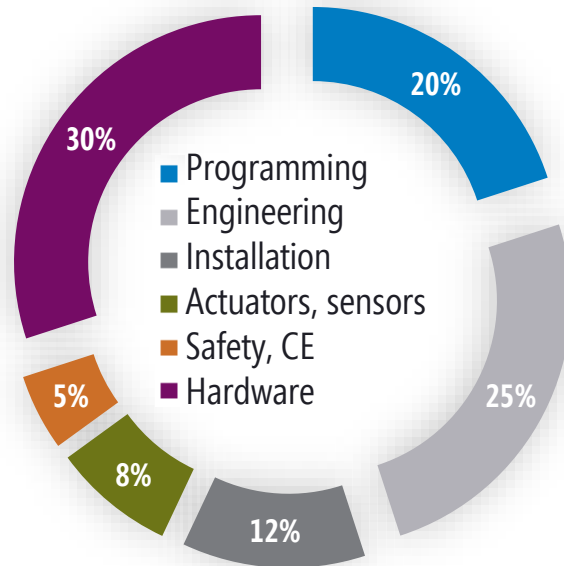
2019

Financing by Speedinvest (VC)
10+ employees



Typical challenges for robotics R&D

Hardware & Expertise



Different robot hardware requires brand-specific know-how and is complex to configure and use.

Research



It takes a long time to set up a working robot system. This time is missing for "the real" R&D work.

Flexibility



For R&D rapid changeovers are required.



drag&bot is the software platform for simple, graphical setup and programming of robot systems.

drag&bot enables manufacturing companies to flexibly and economically automate small lot sizes.

drag&bot pursues to be for ROS what Windows was for MS-DOS.

Main features of drag&bot



Intuitive HMI

Programming by drag&drop.
Experts are 5x faster.
Workers can use robots.

Uniform HMI

Same user interface for
different robots.

Plug&produce

One-click installation of compatible
hardware.

ROS-based

Extends ROS for graphical use.
Standard use of ROS is allowed.



drag&bot system architecture – online (1)

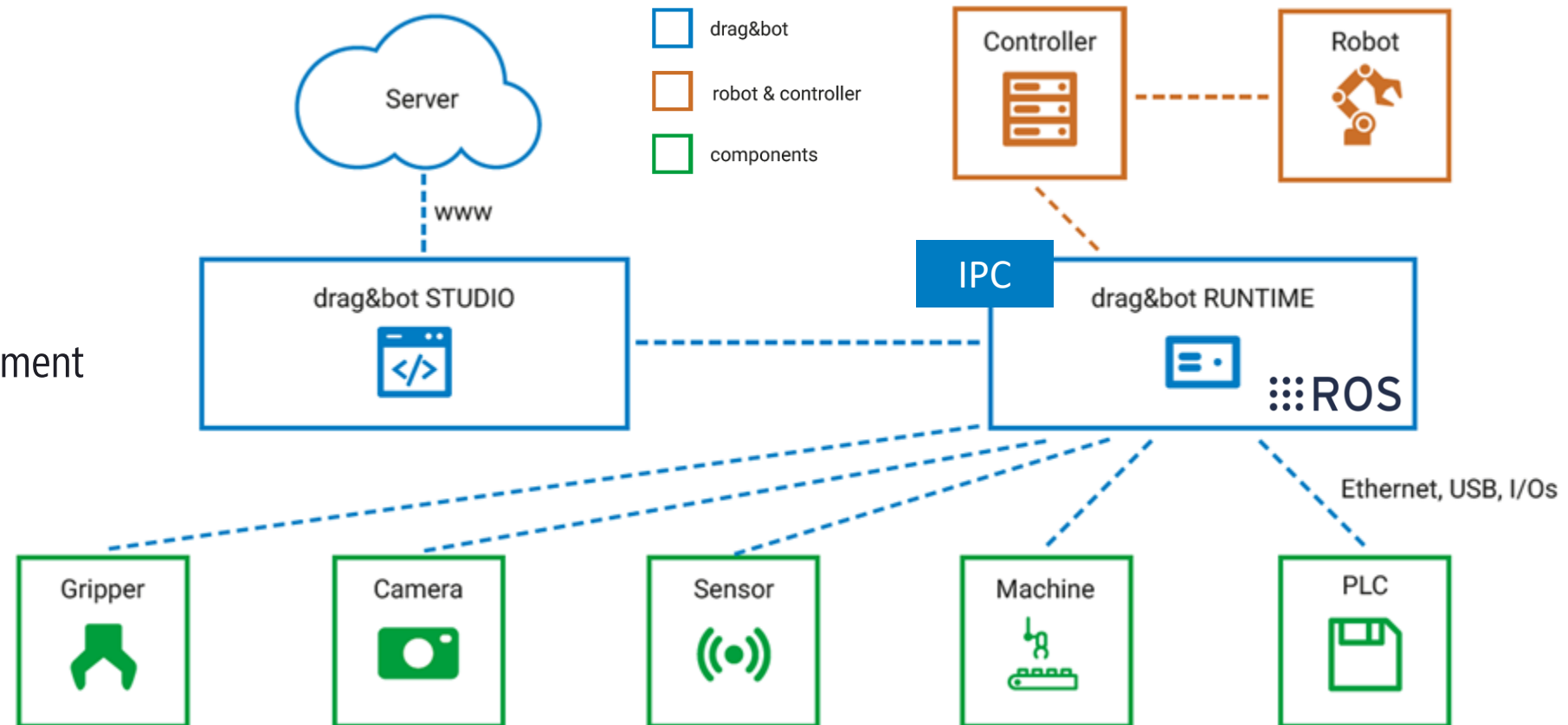


drag&bot STUDIO: develop

- Website running on browser
- Intuitive
- Graphical

drag&bot RUNTIME: produce

- IPC-based execution environment
- ROS is running inside



drag&bot system architecture – offline (2)

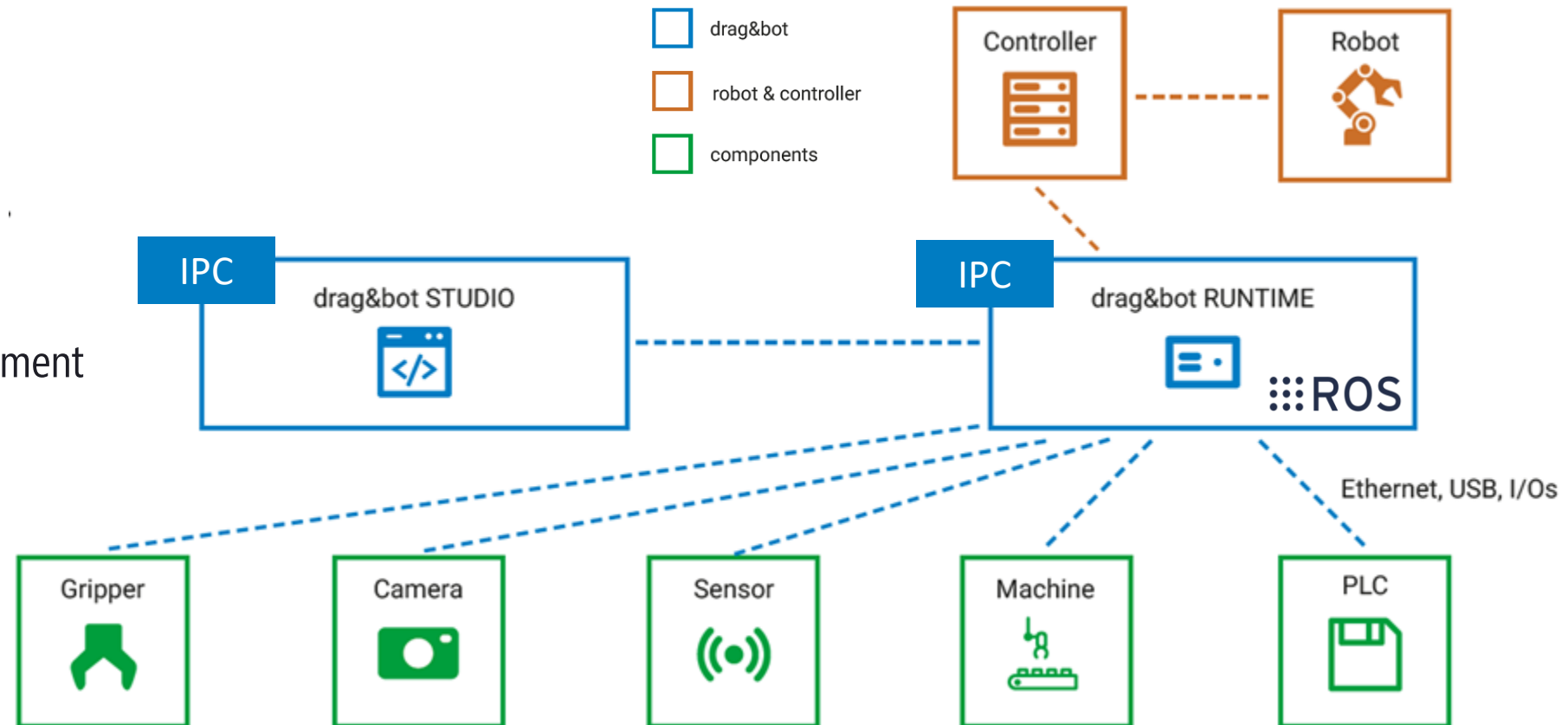


drag&bot STUDIO: develop

- Website running on browser
- Intuitive
- Graphical

drag&bot RUNTIME: produce

- IPC-based execution environment
- ROS is running inside



drag&bot system architecture – cloud sim (3)

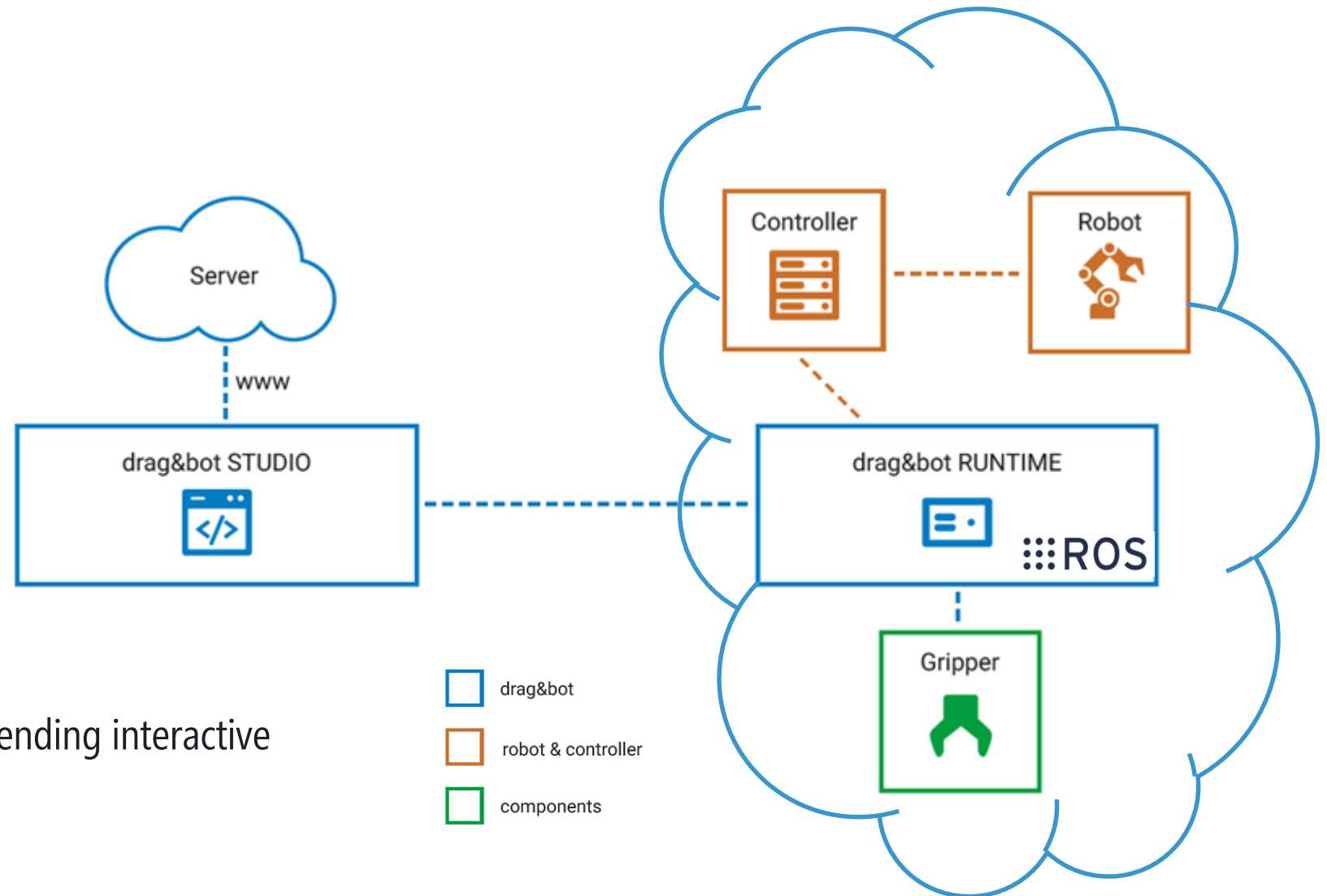


drag&bot STUDIO: develop

- Website running on browser
- Intuitive
- Graphical

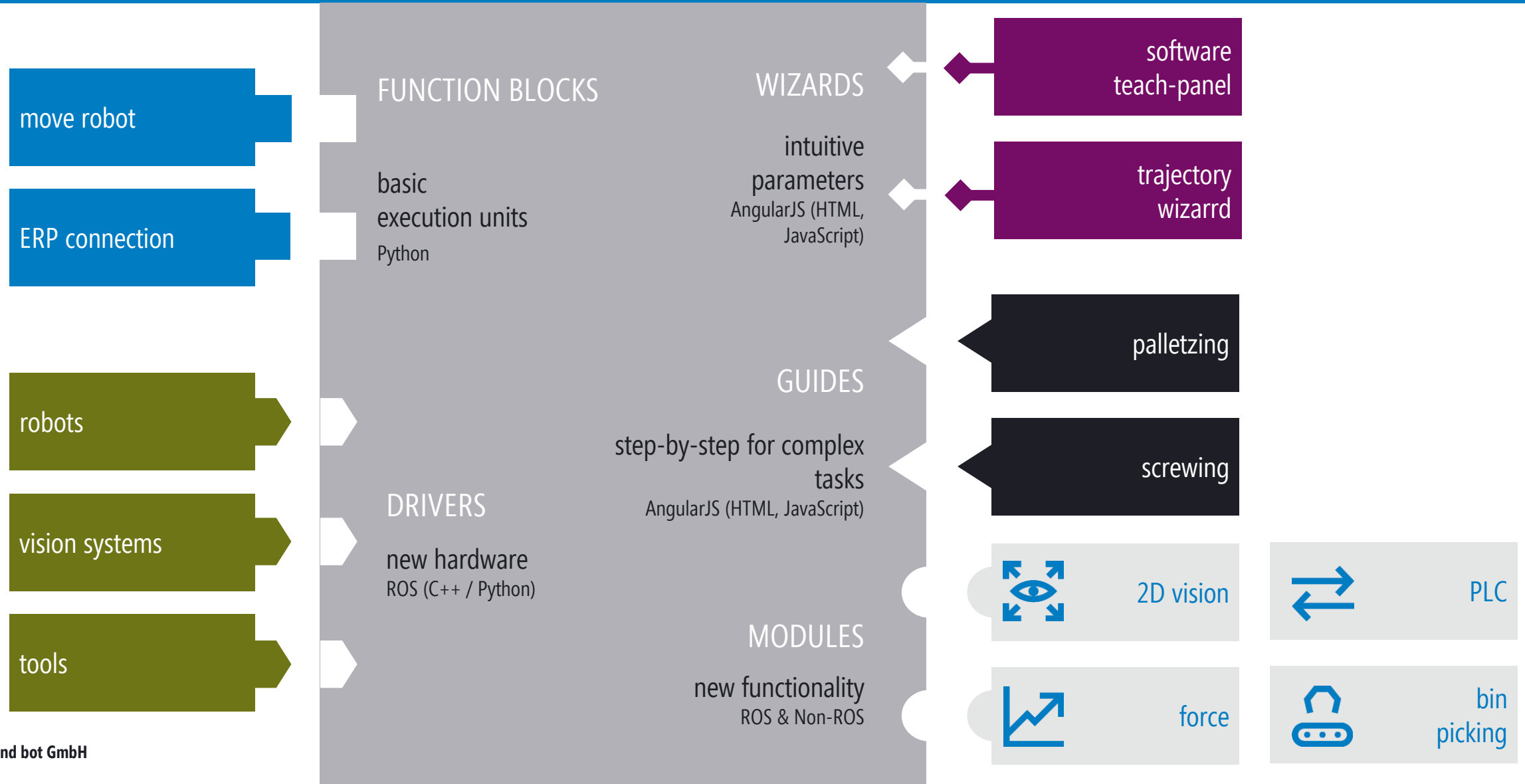
drag&bot RUNTIME: produce

- ROS running inside on the cloud
- Includes a robot simulator with different URDF models and inverse kinematics
- Includes a gripper and a machine tending interactive environment



drag&bot is an open platform

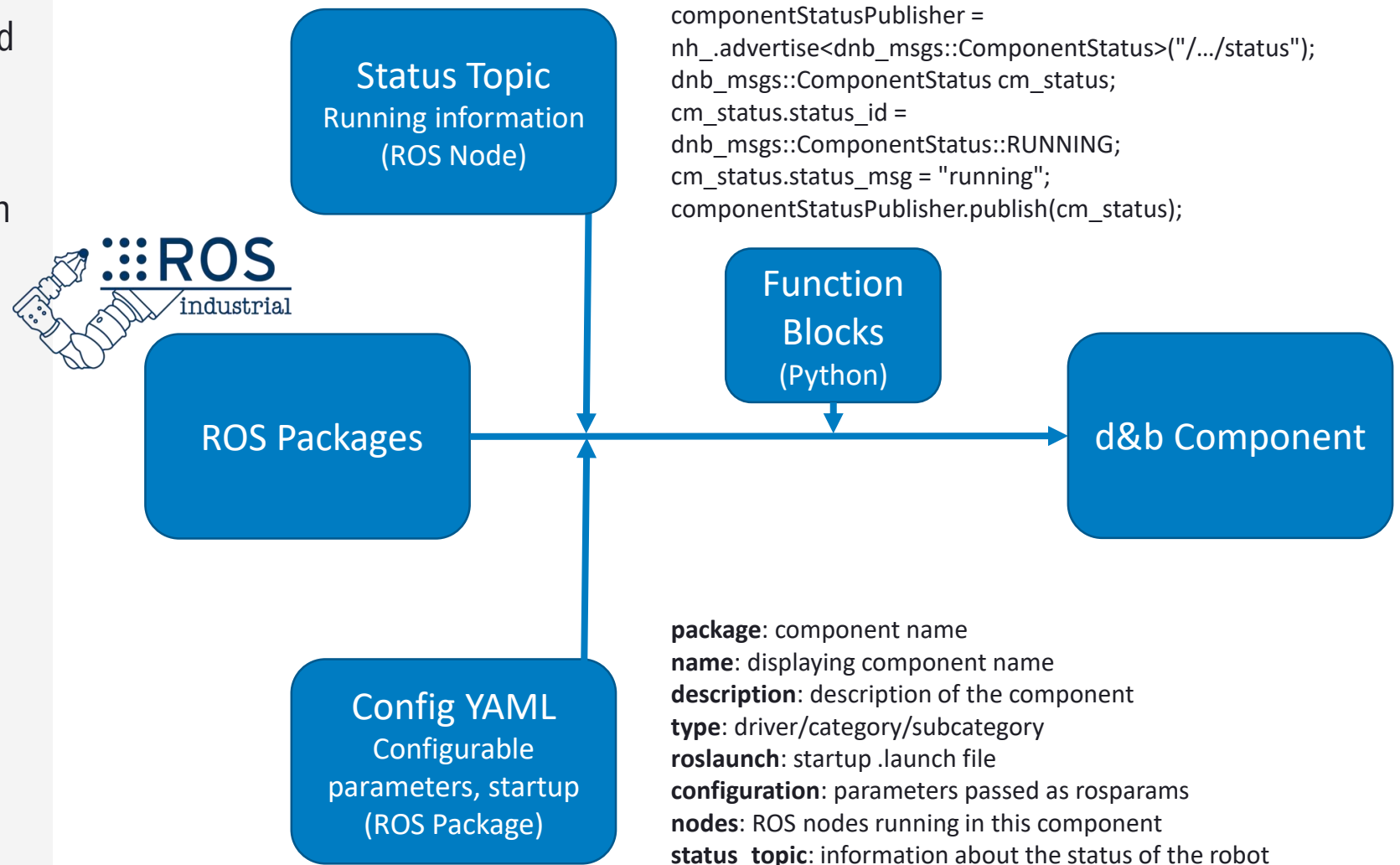
Third parties can create extensions



How to use your own ROS packages in d&b?



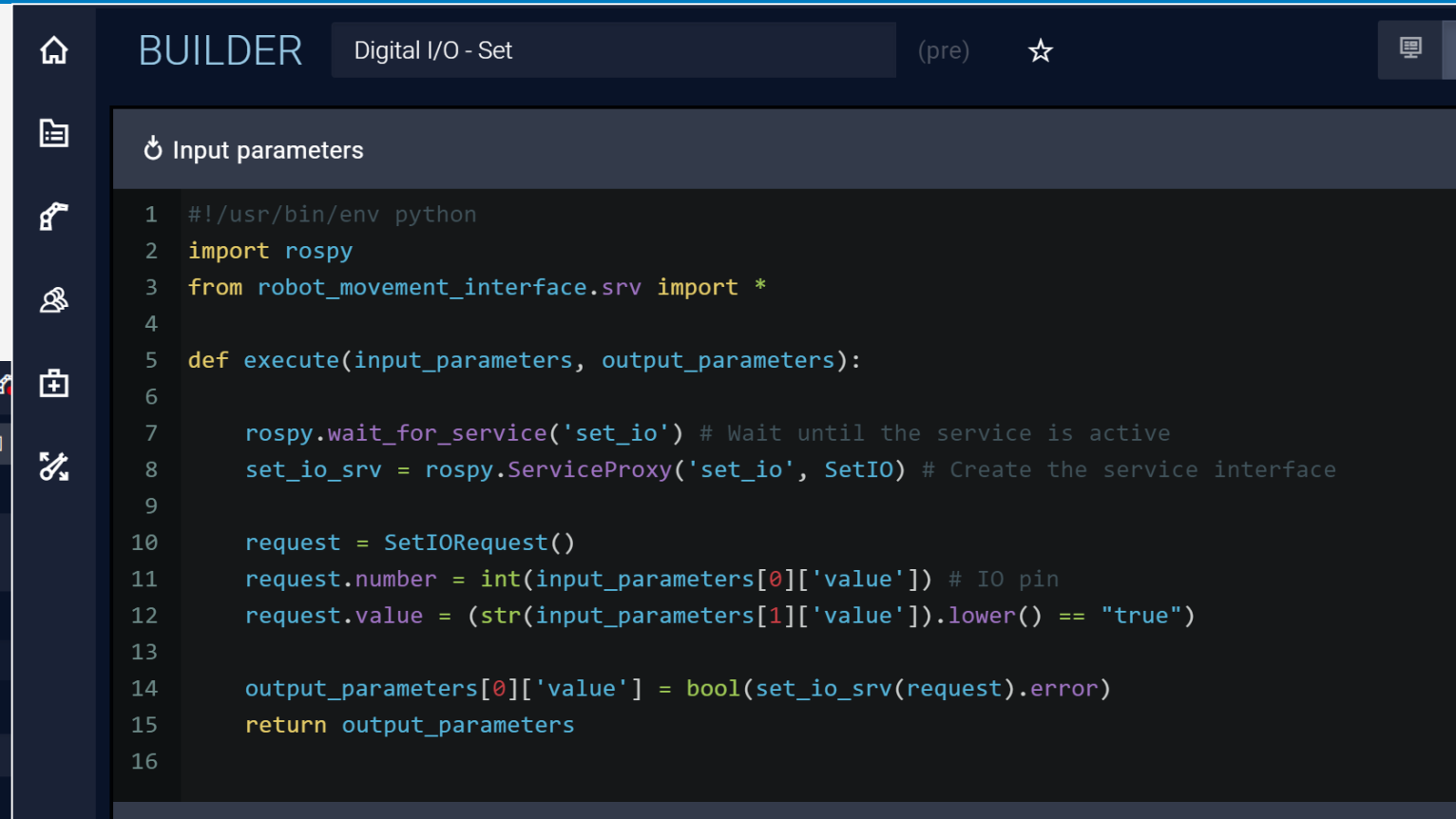
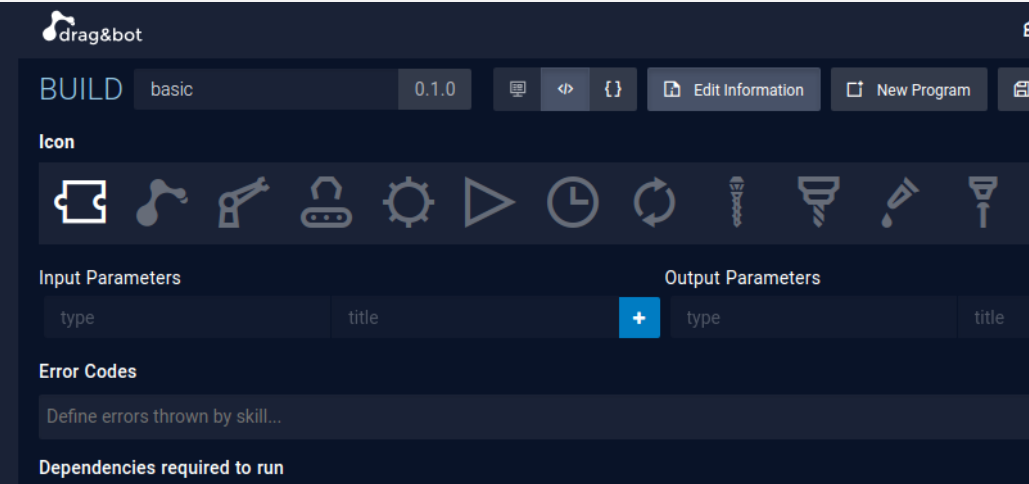
- **Drivers & modules** are based on ROS and can be developed in Python or C++.
- **Drivers, modules and function blocks** can be easily packaged together as **d&b Components**.
- **Catkin overlay space** /dnb_catkin_ws automatically loaded by drag&bot.
- The resulting Component can be **graphically** added and configured.



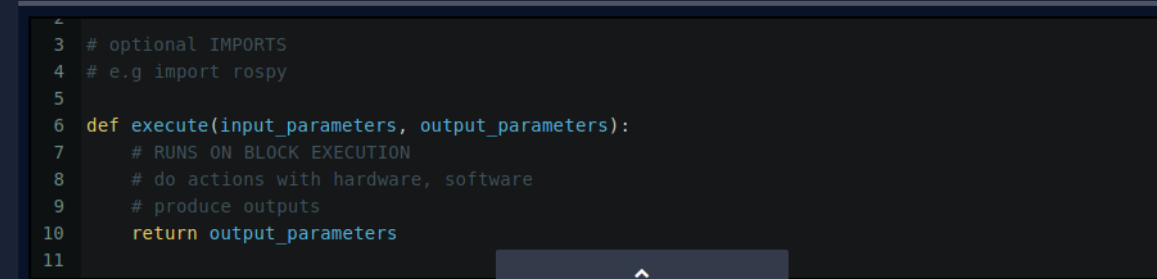
How to create associated Function Blocks?



- **Defined structure** for data formatting & exchange, exception handling
- **Function blocks** are based on Python and access drivers and modules



Real example of Set IO Function Block



Example: Basler 2D Camera & Vision components



- ROS Nodes
 - Basler 2D camera driver
 - Extrinsic calibration module
 - Intrinsic calibration tool
- Component configuration
 - Connection IP, MTU
 - Intrinsic calibration ROS file
 - Active camera profile
- Function Blocks for pattern matching and object localization



Official ROS driver can be found: <https://github.com/basler/pylon-ros-camera>

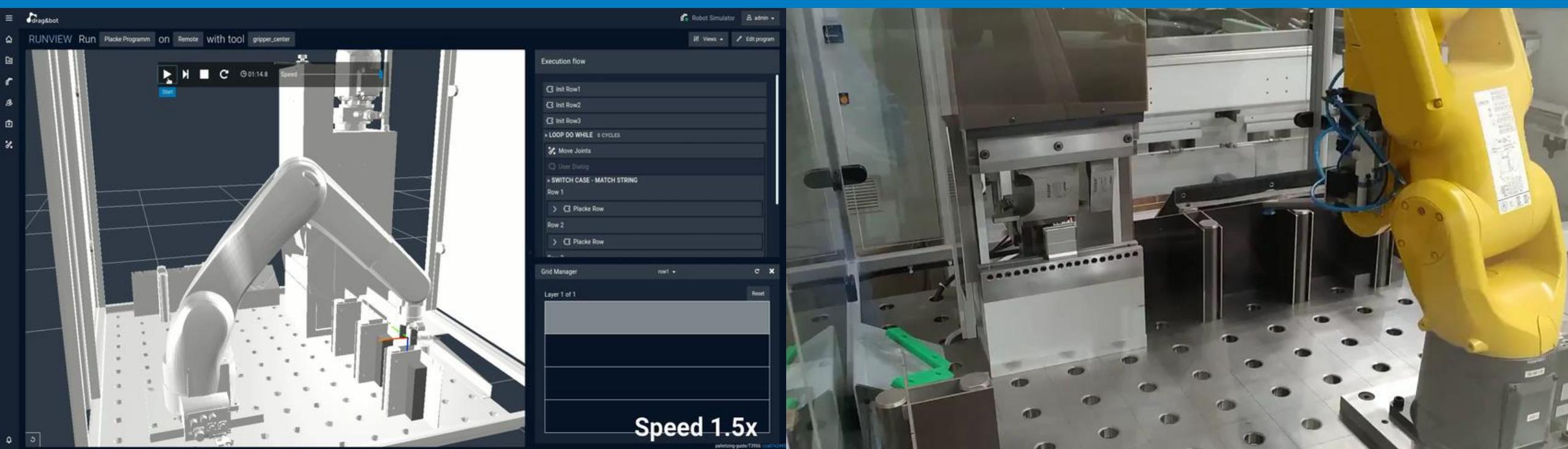
Supported robots and components



Robots	Universal Robots	Denso	KUKA	Fanuc	ABB	Yaskawa	Mecademic	Epson	Stäubli (TBA)	Franka Panda (TBA)
Grippers	Zimmer	Schunk (WSG serie)	Robotiq	All pneumatic	All vacuum	All I/O, IO-Link controlled				
Cameras	Basler 2D cameras	Balluff Smart-Cams	Sick PIM60	many USB/GigE cameras						
Modules	2D / Vision	Force control	PLC	Bin Picking bp3™ Roboception						
Communication	Siemens S7	IO-Link	Modbus TCP	TCP/IP						

What our customers say

Example: bending application – Placke GmbH



drag&bot allows to create [ROS-based industrial applications](#) with an easy interface for the user.

Users are able to [use, configure and reprogram](#) industrial cells.

What our customers say

Example: automotive supplier

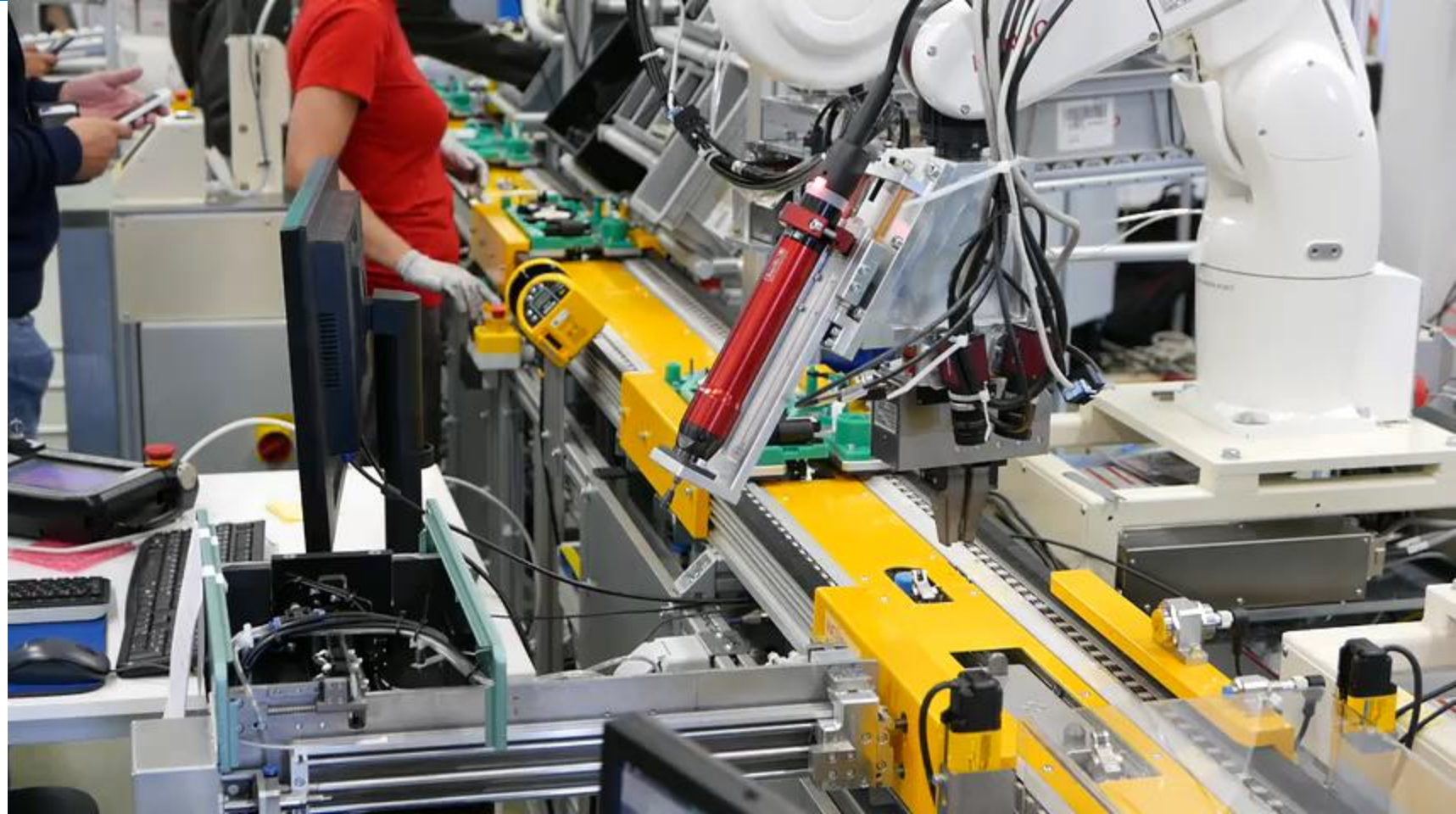


drag&bot controls two robots in a human-robot mixed assembly line.

The line runs 24/7.

Handling and screwing processes.

Thanks to drag&bot can the maintenance engineers adapt the robots to new product variants.



What our customers say

Example: fast prototyping – Atlas Copco



With [drag&bot](#) you can [fast prototype](#) new applications.

[New hardware](#) or software modules can be integrated in a couple of [days](#) or even [hours](#).



What our customers say

Example: ZF Friedrichshafen AG

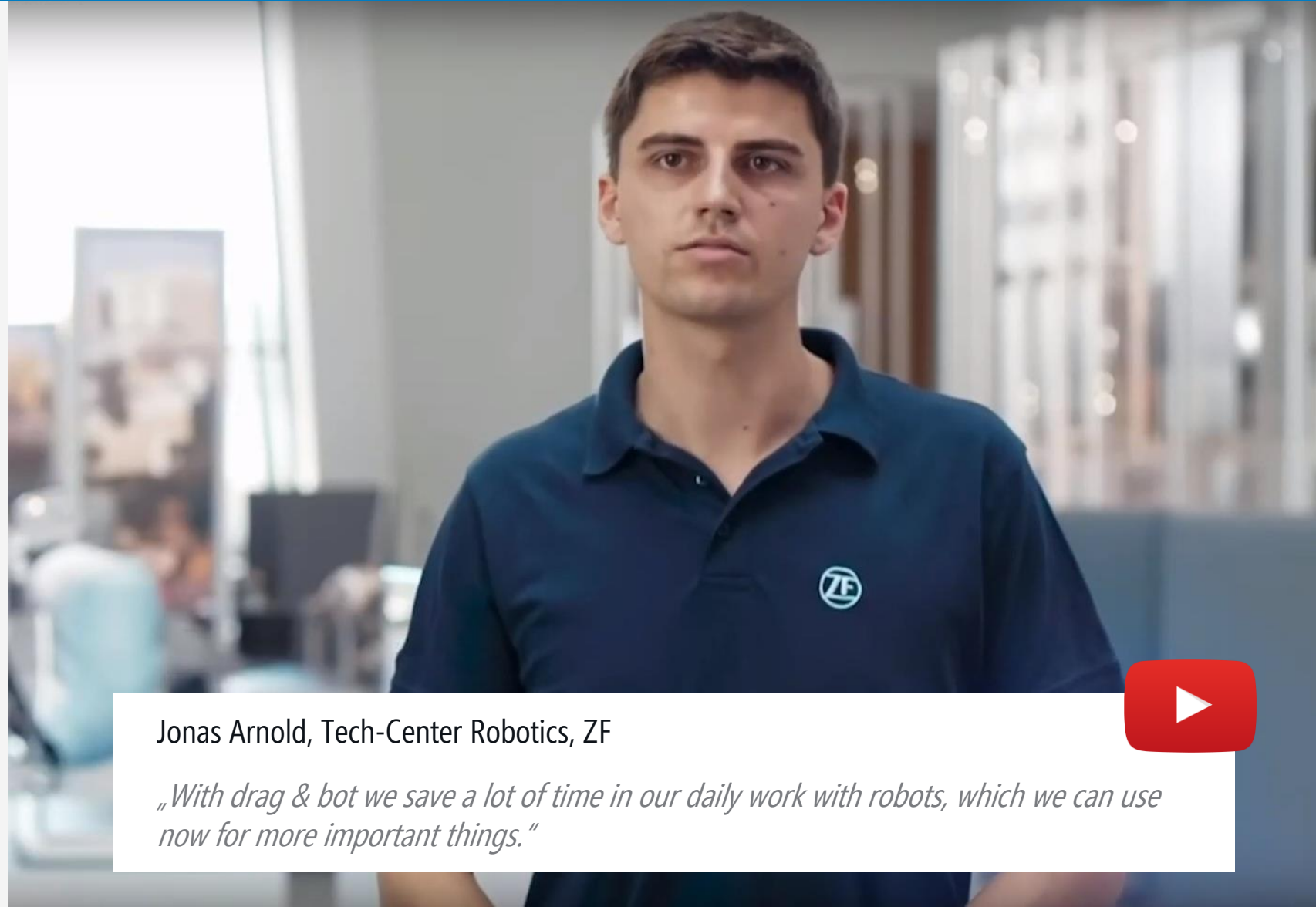


Different robots can be flexibly used by end-customers.

Standard hardware can be added by one click; Customers can extend the software themselves using Python.

Faster iterations to evaluate new applications of robotics, since the programming is much faster compared to the software of robot manufacturers.

Greater focus on application logic and manufacturing process rather than hardware integration and programming.



Jonas Arnold, Tech-Center Robotics, ZF

„With drag & bot we save a lot of time in our daily work with robots, which we can use now for more important things.“



What our customers say

Example: Lernfabrik 4.0 Bietigheim-Bissingen



Create your own robot program

With drag&bot learning factories are able to develop new robot programs.

Lessons with robots

Handling technology can be taught live on the robot.

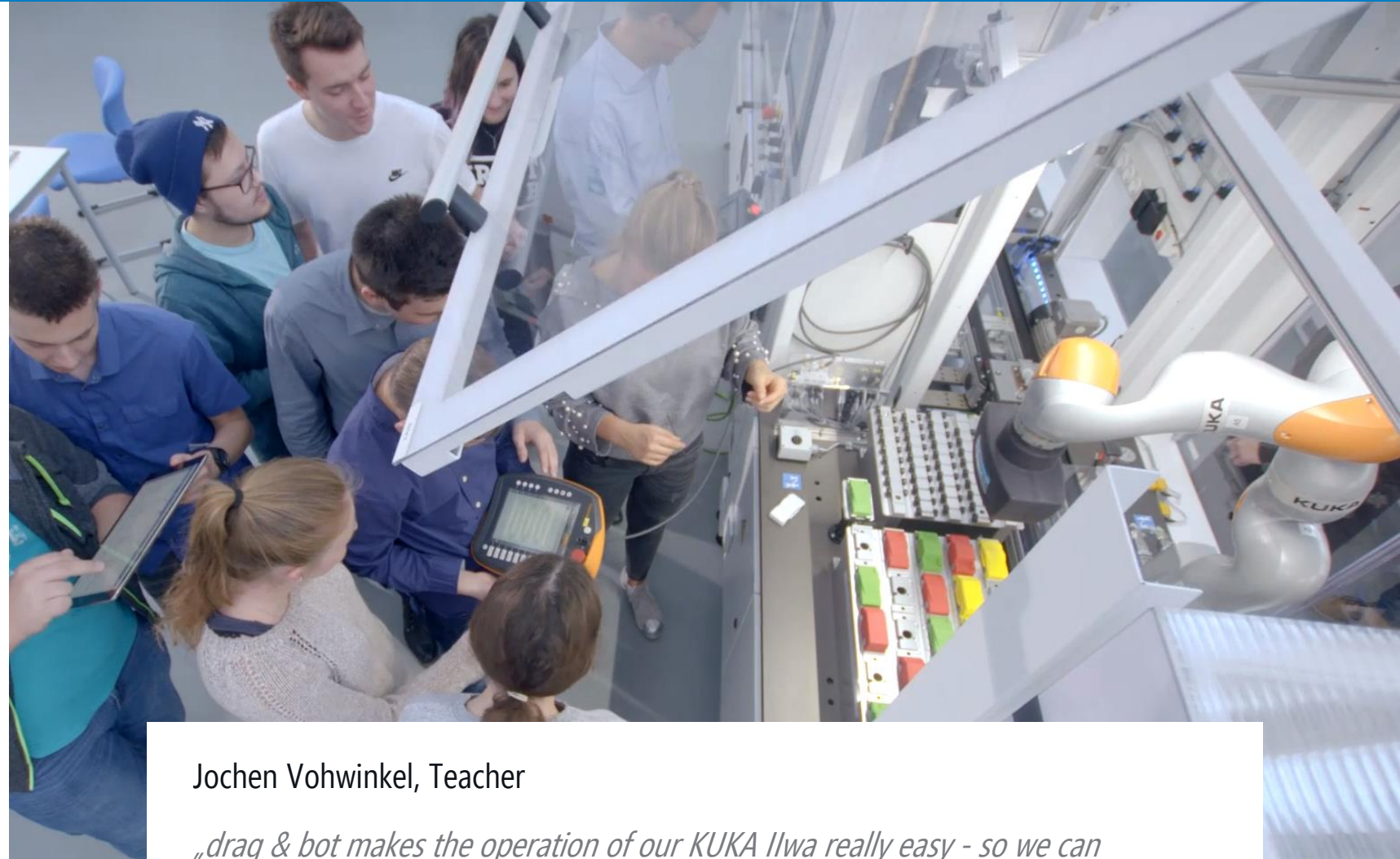
Skilled work / project teams

Students can develop small and simple applications with the software.

Tasks that are fun

With the simulation environment, simple robot controls are also possible for students without previous knowledge.

<https://www.lernfabrik-bietigheim.de/>



Jochen Vohwinkel, Teacher

„drag & bot makes the operation of our KUKA Ilwa really easy - so we can integrate the robot even better into our lessons in the future.“

drag&bot enables research organizations to work more agile and flexible with robots



Focus on your
research question



Avoid complex hardware
integration and focus on the work
that matters.

Extendable
for your specific needs



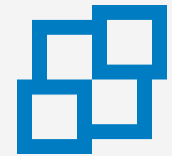
Extend the software in
Python/C++. Write your own ROS
Nodes.

Do-It-Yourself
automation



Use robots quickly without
extensive training.

Flexible
modification



Use one robot for different tasks
with fast changes.

drag&bot Starter Package



drag&bot Starter Package

- drag&bot license (either floating or for one robot)
- Service package for first year: updates, support
- Ready-to-use industrial PC
- Online training session

Available add-on modules

- SDK for developers
- 2D vision
- Siemens PLC communication
- Force control (for some robots)

drag&bot at Mecademic booth
at ATX Toronto and New York 2019

Watch video:



Interested?
Talk to us!

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