"Foodly", a humanoid collaborative robot in food factory

Organization
RT Corporation

Launched time
2018 Prototype
2020 Release

Overview
- Foodly is a dual-armed humanoid robot which is expected to contribute to food loss issue, developed and produced by RT Corporation.
- With the AI Vision System utilizing deep learning, Foodly can recognize and pick bulked foods one by one then arrange them on the lunch box. And the robot also can work safely next to each other on the same belt conveyor line as people.
- Now some units of Foodly are being tested in several food factories in Europe and Japan.

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Barriers on developing the innovation

- Developing "the physical AI technology" for robots which can distinguish foods and have not been developed anywhere else yet.
- Securing and training engineers who can control the physical AI technology.

Success factors to overcome the above barriers

- Using Google's deep learning framework "TensorFlow" helped the physical AI technology to learn how to distinguish foods and to apply the technology on a robot.
- Developing in-house robot engineers who understand the physical AI technology for more than 10 years.

Future action plan

- Pioneering sales channels or markets since the performance of Foodly cannot be known before use.
- To expand its market, revising the labor law is necessary so RT corporation plans to deal with it in the future.
- The company's initial goal is that Foodly handles 10% of the simple work of the entire food factory in Japan.

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