

## 2006 Trends in Service Sector Robotic Applications

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In 2005 we watched robotic systems do the impossible. For instance we watched a Volkswagon named "Stanley" drive 200 plus miles through the desert, driving on steep canyon cliffs, through tunnels and over absolutely horrific terrain, while averaging a 35-mph click. And this Stanford Built robotic guidance system did so without remote control, without a driver and fully autonomously all by its lonesome.

In 2005 we saw more car washes being built around the nation, with no people working there, perhaps someone to take your money or a kiosk where you put in your order and simply drove thru. The machine and robotic system sensed the presence of your automobile in the tunnel and started cleaning it, just like that.

In 2005 we saw a few Shell Gas Stations with automatic self serve systems which opened the gasoline filler hatch unscrewed the cap, filled your car, replaced the cap, charged you card, closed the gas cap door and well there you go.

In 2006 we will see more and more industries do this. Right now you can get a lawn mower and mow your lawn once, set it and it will remember and all you have to do is remember to start it in the same place every time. Soon you gardener will drive up, program your lawn. Punch in Mr. Smith's Lawn One or SL1 and it will mow, blow and go and even load itself back onto the trailer or drive itself to the nextdoor neighbors to do his lawn next. What does this mean to you? Lower costs due to less labor for your gardener's crew and more profit for your gardener too. So, think on this in 2006. Lance Winslow - Online Think Tank forum board. If you have innovative thoughts and unique perspectives, come think with Lance; [www.WorldThinkTank.net/wttbbs/](http://www.WorldThinkTank.net/wttbbs/)