



Call for Participation

AAAI-98 Mobile Robot Competition

July 28-31, 1998, Madison, Wisconsin

Sponsored by the American Association for Artificial Intelligence

The Seventh Annual AAI Mobile Robot Competition will consist of two events: one rewarding innovation in human-robot interaction (a continuation of the 1997 Hors d'Oeuvres Anyone? event), and the other challenging more traditional navigation, task planning, and mapping activities (a continuation of the 1997 Find Life on Mars event). We are currently soliciting competitors to construct functioning systems and subsequently present their results at a follow up workshop. A preliminary specification of the rules is now available.

New participants are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the competition by reviewing articles about prior entries in previous issues of *AI Magazine* and the Robotics Competition Corner columns in the *Robotics and Autonomous Systems* journal (on line versions at http://www.mines.edu/fs_home/rmurphy/column/), plus visiting the web sites of previous AAI competitions.

The mission of the 1998 competition is to serve AAI, AI-robotics researchers, and the larger AI community by promoting innovative research through events which appeal to media and sponsors, while conducting these events in a format that facilitates comparison of approaches but at low risk to individual or institutional reputations.

Differences from Previous Years

The 1998 competition is envisioned to have three major differences from previous years. First, in order to encourage bold technical innovation, the 1998 competition will make a series of Technical Innovation Awards, highlighting entries that have some noteworthy innovation regardless of how well the entry performed in the competition. This has been discussed in prior years, and was a well-received part of the RoboCup 97 competition.

Second, following the 1997 competition organization, the human-robot interaction event will have an optional Technical Challenge Round, where the participants have the opportunity to demonstrate the ability of their robots to function in less constrained scenarios.

Finally, teams who receive travel money must attend and present at a one-day workshop following the conference, with the flavor of a AAI symposium. All other participants will be strongly encouraged to attend and present. A research paper will be required one month in advance.

In order to be eligible for sponsored funding, competing teams may have to satisfy specific criteria related to their competitiveness and the feasibility of their approach. These may include: demonstrating a minimum level of functionality (as evidenced by a videotape of the robot doing basic tasks), intrinsic innovation, etc. We interpret this to mean that teams who start earlier and are transferring research results to their entry will get higher priority for funding.

Organizing Chairs

Robin Murphy (Colorado School of Mines), Gregory Dudek (McGill University)

For Additional Information

A list-server mailing list has been set up: aaai-robot@cc.gatech.edu. Please communicate with the chairs via the mailing list.

A web page has been set up at www.cc.gatech.edu/aimosaic/robot-lab/aaai98/ and will be linked to the AAI home page. The web page contains the latest information on the preliminary rules and will be maintained.

Information about AAI-98 is available at www.aaai.org/Conferences/National/1998/

AAAI-98

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