



ploying systems incorporating AI technologies. This year's papers address applications in a wide variety of domains, including large-scale scheduling, monitoring for terrorism response, text and language processing for customer support, engineering configuration, education, call-center scheduling, and quote generation. These applications provide clear evidence of the impact and value that AI technology has in today's world.

Papers on emerging applications and technologies describe efforts whose goal is the engineering of AI applications. They inform AI researchers about the utility of specific AI techniques for applications domains and also inform applications developers about tools and techniques that will enable the next generation of new and more powerful applications.

This year we are very pleased to have two invited talks. Robin Murphy's talk, "Robots for Urban Rescue," will describe the use of robots to facilitate rescue during both man-made and natural disasters and includes footage from efforts at the World Trade Center. In a talk jointly sponsored with AAAI, Ray Kurzweil will speak on "Human Level 'Strong' AI: The Prospects and Implications," in which he reflects on the accelerating pace of change in high technology areas.

New for IAAI in 2002 is a series of events focusing on AI Businesses. We begin with the panel "AI Businesses: A 20

Year Review," chaired by Neil Jacobstein, President and CEO of Teknowledge. This panel will focus on the lessons learned from 20 years of AI businesses. Next, Craig Knoblock, Chief Scientist of Fetch Technologies, chairs the panel "Recent Startups." This panel will focus on the how to overcome the hurdles in starting an AI business. Finally, Steve Chien and Minda Wilson chair the Entrepreneur's Forum, an informal event designed to enable Technologists, Legal Professionals, and Financiers to network during the AI Festival.

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*– Steve Chien & John Riedl*