

Call for Participation



Third Annual AAAI Mobile Robot Contest and Exhibition

The third annual AAAI mobile robot contest and exhibition will be held at the AAAI-94 conference in Seattle, Washington, July 31-August 4. The format will be similar in spirit to last year's contest, with events designed to allow participants as many opportunities as possible to showcase their robots' capabilities in a spirit of friendly competition. In addition, this year we will provide the opportunity for participants to showcase their robots' capabilities in a public exhibition.

The organizing committee hopes to have a draft set of rules distributed very early this year in order to allow participants as much time as possible to prepare for the contest. In order that we may meet the needs of as many participants as possible the committee requests that anyone interested in participating in the contest contact us so that we may start a mailing list for obtaining feedback about the rules and other aspects of the contest.

What follows is a the current strawman proposal for the contest format. Although it is couched in imperative terms, it may be subject to some change in the next few months. The competitive phase of the contest will be held July 31

and August 1, concurrent with the tutorials and workshops. The contest, which will be judged, will consist of two events, one focusing on navigation and the other on an integrated delivery-type task. Both events will take place in the same arena, which will be a hallway-and-office environment similar to that used in the 1993 contest.

A publically attended robot exhibition will be held during the main conference. The exhibition will include the final rounds of the competition, plus "freestyle" events that showcase robot capabilities. Participants are encouraged to enter the exhibition, regardless of whether they participate in the competition.

In addition, a symposium is being planned, to be held during the conference, that will discuss strategies, tactics and open problems that arise in the context of the competition tasks. Speakers at the symposium will include participants in the competition and exhibition.

Interested participants are asked to contact Reid Simmons at the School of Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh PA 15213 (reids@cs.cmu.edu).