



# AAAI-2000 Robot Program Call for Participation

Austin Convention Center, Austin Texas ■ July 30-August 3, 2000

*Sponsored by the American Association for Artificial Intelligence*

We are seeking participants ... competition teams, exhibits, and challenge teams!

The Ninth Annual AAI Mobile Robot Competition and Exhibition, held in conjunction with the AAI National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, brings together teams from universities and other research laboratories to compete, and also to demonstrate cutting edge, state of the art research in robotics and artificial intelligence.

The mission of the Mobile Robot Competition and Exhibition 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. Our goals are to:

- Foster the sharing of research and technology
- Allow research groups to showcase their achievements
- Encourage students to enter robotics and artificial intelligence fields at both the undergraduate and graduate level
- Increase awareness of the field

In previous years, the event has attracted both local and national news media — the 1996 contest resulted in a segment in Alan Alda's "Scientific American Frontiers" program on the Discovery Channel.

The Competition and Exhibition comprises three separate events; participants may enter any number of these events.

## Contest

The contest allows teams from universities and other labs to show off their best attempts at solving common tasks in a competitive environment. Teams compete for place awards as well as for technical innovation awards, which reward particularly interesting solutions to problems. There will be two contest events this year. Details and rules are now available!

## Exhibition

The exhibition gives researchers an opportunity to demonstrate state-of-the-art research in a less structured environment. Exhibits are scheduled through several days of the conference, and in addition to live exhibits, a video proceedings is produced.

## Challenge

In addition to the contest and exhibit, we are adding a new aspect this year — the Robot Challenge. In this event, a particularly challenging task is defined which is well beyond current capabilities, will require multiple years to solve, and should encourage larger teams and collaborative efforts. The challenge task is defined by a long-term committee of researchers. Currently the task is for a robot to be dropped off at the front door of the conference venue, register itself as a student volunteer, perform various tasks as assigned, and talk at a session. The challenge will require integration of many areas of artificial intelligence as well as robotics.

## Awards

Win a robot! Robots will be awarded for first and second place in two contest events! Contestants in contest and challenge events are qualified to win these prizes. Certificates of achievement and participation will also be awarded.

## Robotics Workshop

On the last day of the conference, a robotics workshop will be held. Teams who receive travel support must attend and present at the workshop. All other participants will be strongly encouraged to attend and present. A research paper will be required within one month after the end of the workshop, and will be published in a proceedings. The purpose of this workshop is to allow researchers to understand and benefit from each others efforts.

## Conference Proceedings

Each team will be allowed a two-page abstract in the AAI Conference Proceedings. In order to have an abstract in the proceedings, you must register your team by March 15, and your camera-ready copy must be submitted by March 30.

## Additional Information

For more information, please contact the chairs at the following address: [aaai-robots@gmu.edu](mailto:aaai-robots@gmu.edu) or visit the Robot Competition and Exhibition web site at [www.aaai.org](http://www.aaai.org) or [www.aic.nrl.navy.mil/~schultz/aaai2000/](http://www.aic.nrl.navy.mil/~schultz/aaai2000/)

Participants are encouraged to join the [aaai-robots](mailto:aaai-robots) moderated mailing list by sending email to "[listproc@gmu.edu](mailto:listproc@gmu.edu)" and sending in the body of the message a request to join the list:

subscribe [aaai-robots](mailto:aaai-robots) your-full-name-goes-here

Official notices will be posted to this mailing list.

## Committee

**General Chair:** Alan C. Schultz (NRL)

**Competition:** Lisa Meeden  
(Swarthmore College)

**Exhibition:** Marc Bolen (CMU)

**Challenge:** Tucker Balch (CMU)

**Workshop Chair:** Alan C. Schultz  
(NRL)

The AAI 2000 robot program is sponsored by by AAI, the Office of Naval Research, and DARPA.