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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Conference on Artificial Intelligence & Robot Competitions

Leading researchers to convene in San Jose, California

July 25-29, 2004
San Jose McEnery Convention Center

MENLO PARK, *Calif.* **– July 24, 2004.** AAAI's Nineteenth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-04) and 2004 Mobile Robot Competition will be held at the San Jose Convention Center from July 25-29, 2004. This is the leading national conference for AI researchers, practitioners, and technology analysts.

Within the conference program are a number of important domains where AI is emerging as a critical component for new computer systems, including:

- Counter-Terrorism / Crisis Management / Defense
- Space Exploration
- Robotics
- Web / Computer Science
- Scientific Research
- Health Care / Elderly Care
- Education
- Manufacturing / Business

(more)

Each area is potentially a substantive story unto itself. Together they illustrate the wide range of critical contemporary issues AI is helping to solve (for more information see Synopsis of AI Trends emerging from 2004 AI Conference included in press kit.)

Various conference components

Once again this year, the conference offers a wealth of content to attendees through the various conference components.

The Thirteenth Annual **Mobile Robot Competition and Exhibition** will bring together 15 teams from universities, colleges and research laboratories to compete and demonstrate state-of-the-art research in robotics and AI. The Robot Competition will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, July 27-28, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm. This year there will be three events: (1) the Robot Challenge wherein the competing robots are supposed to register, volunteer, and give a talk at the conference, (2) Rescue Robot Competition which challenges robots in a simulated fallen structure to find human victims, and direct human rescuers to the victims, and (3) Open Interaction Task involving human-robot interaction in an unstructured environment. In addition, The Robot Exhibition will provide a venue to showcase current robotics and embodied-AI research that does not fit into the competition tasks. Co-located with AAAI-04 is the **Botball Tournament** designed to get students in middle school, high school and college involved in robotics. (www.botball.org)

The **Invited Speakers** promise highly thought-provoking and informative talks, such as:

- "Intelligent Systems and the Nation's Vision for Space Exploration" by Dan Clancy, Chief, Computational Sciences Division, NASA Ames Research Center

- "Applications of Artificial Intelligence to Web Search" by Peter Norvig, Google Director of Search Quality

- "Human Dynamics" by Alex (Sandy) Pentland, Director of Human Dynamics Research at the MIT Media Lab

- "Intelligent Technology for Adaptive Aging" by Martha E. Pollack, Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, University of Michigan.

- "Real Robots for the Real World" by Sebastian Thrun, Director of the AI Lab, Stanford University

- "Agents Meet the Semantic Web in the Aether" by Tim Finin, Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Maryland

- "AI and Biomedicine: Helping Scientists Reason about Genomes, Drugs, Diseases" by Russ B. Altman, Associate Professor of Genetics and Medicine, Stanford University Medical Center

The Sixteenth **Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Conference** (IAAI-04) continues a long, highly regarded tradition of presenting new and emerging applications of AI technology. This year 24 papers were accepted for the Conference, including 4 fully deployed applications and 20 emerging applications. This year's papers cover a vast range of topics, such as AI being applied to counter-terrorism, health impairment assistance, urban combat training, and automatic generation of Chinese calligraphy.

The 120 accepted technical papers for the **AAAI-04 Technical Program** cover a broad array of research topics. A full list of papers can be found at aaai.org/Conferences/National/2004/aaai04.html. .

Information about the various components of the conference and registration information can be found at http://aaai.org/Conferences/conferences.html. For individuals interested in admittance to the exhibit hall only, an exhibits only registration is available at onsite registration**.** Exhibit hall programs include the Robot Competition and Exhibition, vendor exhibits, and Intelligent Systems Demonstrations. Exhibit passes for Tuesday and Wednesday, July 27-28 are $5.00 for Students (ages 12-18), and $10.00 for Adults. Children under 12 will be admitted without fee, but must be accompanied by an adult conference registrant.

About AAAI

Founded in 1979, the American Association for Artificial Intelligence (www.aaai.org) is a nonprofit scientific membership society devoted to advancing the science and practice of AI. Its mission is to: (1) advance the scientific understanding of the mechanisms underlying intelligent thought and behavior, (2) facilitate their embodiment in machines, (3) serve as an information resource for research planners and the general public concerning trends in AI, and (4) offer training for the current and coming generations of AI researchers and practitioners. The Association has sponsored an annual conference, regarded as the premier gathering in the field, since 1980.

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