



Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sixteenth Annual
AAAI Mobile Robot Competition & Exhibition

July 23-26, 2007 Hyatt Regency Vancouver, B.C.
In conjunction with AAAI-07

Menlo Park, CA - July 22, 2007. The Sixteenth Annual AAI Mobile Robot Competition & Exhibition continues to push the state-of-the-art of autonomous mobile robotics. From its inception, this competition has challenged top roboticists to develop and integrate new capabilities.

The Exhibition continues to attract highly innovative robots that intrigue conference attendees and media representatives. This year, for instance, Virginia Tech will exhibit DARwin, a humanoid bipedal robot research platform to study dynamic gaits and locomotion. It is also the first and only U.S. entry into the humanoid division of the international autonomous soccer competition, RoboCup.

The Robot Competition and Exhibition will take place July 23 to 26 in Balmoral at the Hyatt Regency in Vancouver, B.C.

Semantic Robot Vision Challenge

This year's Competition is a new event that honors the tradition of pushing the envelope of what robots attempt. This year's "Semantic Robot Vision Challenge" puts an entirely new twist on the challenge. Robots will be given a listing of objects that they must locate and recognize. In and of itself, this is a task that has been the basis of several past events such as picking up tennis balls, and searching for human bodies in the simulated rubble of a collapsed building.

What makes this year unique is that for the first time, the robots will be given an opportunity to search the Web for images of the objects in their list before starting their physical search. This competition will push the state-of-the-art of semantic image understanding by requiring that robots make use of the wealth of unstructured image data that exists on the Internet today.

In the past, no two competing teams have entered the same type of robot, which is part of the fascination of the event. While most have rolled along the ground, for instance, some have flown through the air.

Participating Teams

Among the teams participating in this year's Robot Competition & Exhibition are:

Brown University (Exhibition)
Carnegie Mellon University (2 teams) / Intel (Exhibition)
Duke University (Exhibition)
Harvey Mudd College (Exhibition)
Kansas State University (Competition)
Microsoft Research, Georgia Tech, and Bryn Mawr College (Exhibition)
MIT Media Lab (Exhibition)
Princeton University/University of Illinois and Urbana-Champaign
(Competition & Exhibition)
Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville (Exhibition)
Spelman College (Exhibition)
Stanford University (Exhibition)
University of British Columbia (Competition)
University of Maryland (Exhibition)
University of Manitoba (Exhibition)
University of Washington (Competition & Exhibition)
Virginia Tech (Exhibition)

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About AAI

Founded in 1979, the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (formerly 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 the annual AAI/IAAI conferences, highly regarded in the AI field, since 1980 and 1989 respectively.