

“Robot Competitions: What did we learn?”

Organisers: Jorge Dias, Kaspar Althoefer, Pedro Lima

Objectives

This workshop aims to bring together experts active in areas of applied robotics to review past robot competitions and to find out what can be learnt from such competitions and to what extent these competitions underpin and further robot research. As an outcome, the workshop will attempt to create guidelines for future robot competitions and how those can be improved so that tangible results useful for future research and technological development can be extracted. The workshop will explore the synergies that will arise from robotic competitions for education, for the advance of modern robots and robotic technologies and/or to promote practical applications, such as rehabilitation, medical robotics, care of the elderly, search and rescue, factories of the future, etc.

This workshop intends to be a forum that will run half-day before starting the IROS 2015 Competitions and provide a review of the major current approach to robotic competitions, sharing common practices and explore possible new approaches on the design and execution of such competitions.

The workshop will address the following questions:

- What is the impact of robot competitions on Robotics research?
- Is there evidence that robot competitions accelerate robot technology an innovation ?
- Are robot competitions useful tools to train early-career roboticists?
- Are robot competitions successful in bringing younger people to the field of Engineering and Robotics?
- Are robot competitions a good tool in promoting robotics to lay people / the public?
Can more be done to improve on the current state?

Presentations and round table discussions will focus on obstacles and challenges and the future direction of robot competitions. The workshop will also act as a platform for wider discussions and aims at establishing guidelines/recommendations for future robot competitions.

Topics of interest

- Robotic Competitions Towards Research Excellence
- Robotic Competitions Towards Technology Innovation
- Robotic Competitions and Education
- Robotic Competitions and Training Early-Career Roboticists
- Robotic Competitions as Hub for Economical Development

Organisers

Jorge Dias (**contact**)

Institute for Systems and Robotics, University of Coimbra,
& Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi

jorge@deec.uc.pt / Jorge.dias@kustar.ac.ae

Kaspar Althoefer

Centre for Robotics Research (CoRe)

Kings College of London

Strand Campus

k.althoefer@kcl.ac.uk

Pedro Lima

Institute for Systems and Robotics,
Instituto Superior Técnico – U. Lisboa,
Lisbon

pal@isr.ist.utl.pt