

CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2015

Robotics & Automation (R&A) Technologies have the potential to transform and improve the lives of humanity by addressing the world's toughest challenges. The IEEE Robotics and Automation Society - Special Interest Group on Humanitarian Technology (RAS-SIGHT) is engaging the academic and non-academic community to propose viable solutions in R&A to address relevant world problems through several initiatives that include challenges in robotics conferences, funding projects, establishment of collaboration networks with academia, industry, and governments.

RAS-SIGHT is the first and only IEEE Society to have a SIGHT! The mission of RAS-SIGHT is the application of robotics and automation technologies for promoting humanitarian causes around the globe, and to leverage existing and emerging technologies for the benefit of humanity and towards increasing the quality of life in under-served, under-developed areas in collaboration with existing global communities and organizations. As an example of initiative, this year RAS-SIGHT organized the first edition of the Humanitarian Robotics and Automation Technology Challenge (HRATC) which was held in Hong Kong during IEEE ICRA. See <http://ieeesightblog.wordpress.com/2014/06/11/pioneering-the-humanitarian-robotics-and-automation-technology-challenge-hratic/> and an article in the IEEE Robotics and Automation Magazine, Issue 3, Sept. 2014 for additional details.

RAS-SIGHT envisions HRATC as an unprecedented opportunity for technologists from around the world to collaborate using their skills and education to benefit humanity. The problems (challenges) are framed with the environmental, cultural, structural, political, socio-economic, and resource constraints so that solutions can be developed, deployed, and sustained. In this vein, RAS-SIGHT is soliciting proposals that when implemented would improve the quality of life for the beneficiaries. Some important points worth noting:

- The problem that you propose to solve should utilize robotics and automation technologies;
- It is strongly encouraged that the solution be developed and deployed with active involvement from the community or the end-users that it is intended to benefit;
- Sustainability beyond the completion of the project will be a key consideration.

If you are Interested, please submit a *4 page (max.) proposal* in the standard IEEE format outlining

- the problem;
- the solution;
- related work, similar initiatives, and how the proposed project will achieve new results than what is currently available;
- proposed partnerships with existing initiatives;
- number of people who would be impacted;
- previous experiences, both in terms of research and deployment;
- project development timeline;
- a breakdown of anticipated costs, and how the funds would be used to support the project, and;
- short biographies of project members (with URLs of your website).

We intend to fund 3-4 proposals in the US\$1500-\$2000 range.

Important dates

Deadline: October 15, 2014

Acceptance notification: November 15, 2014

All submissions and questions should be sent to Raj Madhavan, Chair, RAS-SIGHT via email at raj.madhavan@ieee.org

"Help us to promote humanitarian causes around the globe for the benefit of humanity and increase the quality of life in underserved, underdeveloped areas"