International Aerial Robotics Competition

Media Inquiries?

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About IARC

The International Aerial Robotics Competition (IARC) is the longest running Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) student competition, which celebrated its quarter century anniversary in 2016. The primary purpose of the IARC is to move the state-of-the-art in aerial robotics forward through the creation of significant and useful mission challenges that are 'impossible' at the time they are proposed.

The IARC has not been a "spectator sport", but rather a "technology sport." Twenty-six years have passed with six successful missions having been accomplished by fully autonomous flying robots since the IARC's inception. Each time a mission was accomplished, some aspect of the state-of-the-art in aerial robotics was advanced beyond that which had previously been demonstrated.

About the Venue Organizer

Stuart Michelson is a member of the research faculty at the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech). As a Senior Research Scientist, he is the Branch Head of the Human Systems Engineering Branch at the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) - the applied research arm of Georgia Tech. In this capacity he leads and participates on research teams engaged in the research, development and application of Human Systems Engineering tools and methods to the design, development, and evaluation of complex defense-oriented systems and warfighter equipment. He has a passion for bringing a Human Systems Integration focus to the unmanned systems industry and has led multiple efforts aimed at quantifying the proper relationship between humans and machines on the battlefield. He serves as an instructor for several Georgia Tech courses including the Professional Masters in Applied Systems Engineering (where his contributions include modules on technical topics such as Human Factors, Training, Survivability, Habitability, User-Centered Design, and Test and Evaluation), and the Georgia Tech Professional Education course An Introduction to Human Systems Integration. He is presently a part of the Applied Systems Laboratory at GTRI.

Michelson brings an enormous amount of event planning and logistics experience to IARC operations as he leverages his extensive background in leadership and volunteer roles in non-profits where he has organized international efforts to support Haitian orphans through Reformation Hope Inc., organized large scale youth events on behalf of Scouting organizations in the United States. Professionally Michelson frequently organizes technical symposiums and end user working groups for military audiences on topics ranging from battlefield technologies, robotics, and Human Factors. Michelson is frequently requested conference speaker and lends his voice to groups such as the Georgia Centers for Innovation for Aerospace working group and other technical forums. To schedule Stuart Michelson, reach out to media@aerialroboticscompetition.org