Spring 2015 Newsletter

Message From the Chair


The focus of the RRSD is to provide our membership with relevant robotics and remote systems information and a means of collaboration through technical conferences. RRSD also has a mission to stir and support student interest in robotics from elementary school through graduate school. This newsletter is one way we keep our membership informed of RRSD activities and goals. This is our second newsletter of the 2014 – 2015 season. The Fall 2014 newsletter, an introductory newsletter with much more information on division goals and business, is available on our division website (http://rrsd.ans.org/).

Plans are under way for a joint topical with DES for 2016 in Pittsburgh, PA. We hope to engage the Carnegie-Mellon Robotics Institute and the IEEE R&A for this meeting. Please consider participating! A first call for papers is included with this newsletter.

We would like to change the way our officer succession plan works. Currently officers are elected for one-year terms; however we never have more than one candidate on the election form for officers. An officer starts out as Treasurer and moves up a ladder successively to Secretary, Vice Chair, Chair, and then Ex-Officio in one year increments. Some of us have become concerned that we move to the next position about the time we have finally learned the ropes in the current position. This hinders operating efficiency of the division. We suggest breaking the “ladder”—change the Vice Chair and Chair positions to two-year terms, Vice Chair succeeds Chair at the end of the two-year term, and the Chair moves to Ex-officio. Every other year a new Vice Chair needs to be elected. The two-year term for these offices will require a change to our rules. Ex-officio is meant as an advisory role while the new chair learns their duties.

Secretary and Treasurer will remain one-year positions and will need to be elected annually. These officers are eligible for reelection in the same position for three one-year terms. It appears that the “ladder” succession scheme has been tradition and not a requirement as the process does not seem to be documented anywhere. This means that it can be changed without any rule revision. Executive committee member elections will remain the same. Three new members are solicited each year for a three-year term.
This change has been approved by the RRSD executive committee. If it passes the ANS review boards, it would become active at the end of the June 2016 ANS conference. If any division members have any comments or concerns either way, the executive committee would be willing to hear your opinion. Please contact any of us at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Noakes, PhD, PE
Chair, ANS Robotics and Remote Systems Division

**RRSD 2014 – 2015 Executive Committee Members**

2014 Jim Tulenko (Ex-Officio)
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Instructions for Authors
Contributors are invited to submit summaries on the conference topics list. Full technical papers are not being requested. The Technical Program Committee will decide whether the summary will be presented at a technical session or as a poster.

Format
Authors are now REQUIRED to use the ANS Template and “Guidelines for TRANSACTIONS Summary Preparation” provided on the ANS Web site at http://www.ans.org/pubs/transactions. Submit summaries electronically to the ANS Electronic Paper Submission and Review System at http://epsr.ans.org/ in Adobe Acrobat (PDF) or Microsoft Word format. Summaries not based on the ANS Template will be REJECTED.

Length
Text – 5 pages maximum, English only
Figures and tables – three figures and/or tables maximum, included in page count.

Content
1. Introduction: State the purpose of the work.
2. Description of the actual work: Must be NEW and SIGNIFICANT.
3. Results: Discuss their significance.
4. Appendices: If any, must be called out in the text. Equations, figures, and tables are listed with letters corresponding to each respective appendix.
5. References: If any, must be closely related published works. Minimize the number of references.
6. Do not present a bibliographical listing

Please submit summaries describing work that is NEW, SIGNIFICANT, and RELEVANT to the nuclear decommissioning and remote systems industries. ANS will publish all accepted summaries in the Topical Meeting Proceedings for the meeting. Papers are presented either orally or via a poster at the meeting.

Presenters are expected to register for the meeting.

Author’s Organizational Approval
1. All internal reviews and organizational approvals must be completed prior to submittal of the final extended summary.
2. It is the responsibility of the author to protect proprietary and classified information.

Where to Submit a Summary for Review
Submit summaries via the ANS website (http://desd.ans.org) in Microsoft Word or PDF format. Click on the “Electronic Paper Submission and Review” link under Resources and Tools. If you experience problems submitting your abstract via the web, please notify Ellen Leitschuh (Tel: 708-579-8253 or eleitschuh@ans.org).

Final Summary Preparation for Publication in Conference Proceedings
After the Technical Program Committee reviews the submissions, authors of accepted summaries will receive instructions for preparation of final summaries. Summaries will be included on the proceedings CD, which will be distributed at the beginning of the meeting.

Important Dates:
- AUTHOR NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE: By February 25, 2016
- REVISED SUMMARIES DUE: March 11, 2016
**Anticipated Technical Sessions for 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decommissioning &amp; Environmental Science (DES)</th>
<th>Robotics &amp; Remote Systems (RRS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• International Decommissioning Projects</td>
<td>• Advanced Manufacturing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• US Commercial Decommissioning Projects</td>
<td>• Chernobyl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• DOE Decommissioning Projects</td>
<td>• Construction Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reactor Accident Clean-up and Recovery</td>
<td>• Education and Robotics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fast Reactor Decommissioning Projects</td>
<td>• Emergency and Explosive Disposal Robotics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Project Infrastructure &amp; Regulatory Criteria</td>
<td>• Fukushima - Remote Applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Waste Management Technology Developments</td>
<td>• Human Factors Applied to Telerobotics and Teleoperators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Decommissioning and Decontamination Technology Developments</td>
<td>• Humanoid Robotics for Hazardous Environments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Final Status Survey &amp; Radiation Measurement Technology Developments</td>
<td>• Intelligent and Autonomous Robotics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Groundwater Monitoring and Control</td>
<td>• International Standards for Telerobotics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Mine Reclamation</td>
<td>• Mathematics Related to Robotics and Teleoperators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reutilization of Former Sites</td>
<td>• Medical, Rehabilitative, and Assistive Robotics</td>
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<tr>
<td>• DOE Legacy Management</td>
<td>• Micro/Nano Robotics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• SAFSTOR, Entombment and Spent Fuel Storage</td>
<td>• Radiation Detection Platforms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Capturing Best Practices and Other Lessons Learned</td>
<td>• Remote Handling &amp; Sampling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Environmental Aspects affecting Decommissioning</td>
<td>• Remote Sensing and Robotic Platforms</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Remote Tools and Processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Robot and Teleoperator Dynamics and Control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Robotic and Automation Research Topics</td>
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<td>• Robotic D &amp; D</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Robotics and Remote Operations in Hazardous Facilities</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Safeguards and Security Topics</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Surveillance Systems</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Telerobotics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Underwater Remote Systems</td>
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<td>• Unmanned Aerial Vehicles</td>
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<td>• Vision Systems</td>
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