



Press release

euRathlon 2014 sea robotics challenge

La Spezia, May 2014 – the euRathlon 2014 sea robotics competition aims to advance the state-of-the-art in Autonomous Underwater/Surface Vehicles by challenging multi-disciplinary teams of students and engineers, to perform autonomous missions in the marine environment in scenarios inspired by the 2011 Fukushima accident.

The euRathlon 2014 sea robotics competition will be held at the Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation (CMRE) in **La Spezia, Italy, from the 29th September - 3rd October 2014**. The competition will take place in the sheltered harbour at the CMRE waterfront and will give participants the opportunity to face real life conditions such as limited visibility and salty water.

Competition scenarios for euRathlon 2014 have been designed to lead up to the euRathlon 2015 Grand Challenge, in which ground, marine and aerial robots will have to work together. Five different marine scenarios have been proposed for 2014: “Long range autonomous underwater navigation”, “Environmental survey of the accident area”, “Leak localisation and structure inspection”, “Interaction with underwater structures” and a “Combined scenario”.

Teams and their robot vehicles may compete in one or more scenarios. All scenario tasks can be undertaken by a single Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV). However, in some scenarios a team can compete using only an Unmanned Surface Vehicle (USV), or a combination of USV and AUV. The participation of tele-operated Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) is limited to the manipulation scenario.

The euRathlon 2014 organisers will provide teams with access to dedicated practice areas and the possibility to interact with some objects used during the Student Autonomous Underwater Vehicle Challenge – Europe (SAUC-E) (<http://www.sauc-europe.org/>). SAUC-E and euRathlon are two separate events but will be organized back-to-back in 2014.

Teams participating in euRathlon may comprise any combination of students, engineers, faculty, industrial partners or government partners with a maximum of 10 people per team. Students may be undergraduate and/or postgraduate.

Full information on the mission scenarios for the euRathlon 2014 sea robotics challenge can be found on the euRathlon website (www.eurathlon.eu) and the related euRathlon forum (<http://www.eurathlon.eu/phpbb/>).



About euRathlon

euRathlon is organizing outdoor multi-domain robotic competitions which invite teams to test the intelligence and autonomy of their robots in realistic mock emergency-response scenarios inspired by the 2011 Fukushima accident. euRathlon will require a team of ground, marine and aerial robots to work together to survey the scene, collect environmental data, and identify critical hazards. Leading up to this challenge in 2015, are directly related land and underwater robot competitions in 2013 and 2014, respectively. The euRathlon competitions are supported by annual workshops and an open process of developing benchmarks to allow comparison of different robots. The project is funded by the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement n° 601205.

About SAUC-E

Held since 2006, SAUC-E challenges the next generation of engineers to design and build an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) capable of performing realistic missions. The event is designed to encourage students to think about underwater technology and related applications while fostering innovation and technology. It also aims at getting young engineers and scientists to consider careers in the field. Participating teams must consist of 75% student members and have a faculty advisor. From 2010 SAUC-E has been held in La Spezia (Italy) at the NATO Undersea Research Centre (NURC), now the Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation (CMRE).

For more information on euRathlon please visit www.eurathlon.eu or contact:

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Captions

euRathlon 2014 sea robotics challenge



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euRathlon 2014 participants will have the possibility to deal with real life conditions such as limited visibility and salty water.

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02_COMP14.jpg

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03_COMP14.jpg

Teams testing their Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs) in a pool.

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