Invitation to White House Office of Science and Technology Policy/NRI Planning Workshop on Safety Robotics for Ebola Workers

held concurrently with the Texas A&M Workshop on Robotic, Automation and Cyber Physical Systems for Medical Response to Disasters

Nov. 7-8, 2014 College Station, Texas

Please join us for Nov. 7-8, 2014 in College Station, Texas; reply to Kimberley@cse.tamu.edu Attendance is limited and by invitation only.

Objectives

With growing occurrences and concern for Ebola in the US, the Texas A&M University System is prepared to respond to the call for medical and humanitarian solutions. On Friday, November 7, 2014, The White House’s Office of Science and Technology Policy/National Robotics Initiative will hold concurrent planning sessions on “Safety Robotics for Ebola Workers,” co-hosted by Texas A&M, University of California, Berkeley, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute. The planning workshop is a subset of the larger Texas A&M Workshop on Robotic, Automation and Cyber Physical Systems for Medical Response to Disasters which covers Nov. 7-9.

Agenda

The November 7 activities at Texas A&M aim to identify and rank opportunities for robotics and work with medical and humanitarian responders to elicit operational details critical for successful technology transfer, leveraging our expertise in deployment of disaster robotics and hosting response robotics test and evaluation exercises. The concurrent portion of the workshop will feature simulcast talks by international experts in all aspects of medical response and brainstorming sessions and outbriefs to better inform OSTP and the National Robotics Initiative. The Texas-only portion will feature additional medical and humanitarian relief experts, a poster session, and reception featuring Dr. Andrew Natsios, Director of the Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs and Executive Professor at Texas A&M, and former administrator of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) from 2001-2006. The activities will be held from 8:30AM-8PM at the National Center for Therapeutic Manufacturing on the Texas A&M main campus.

The November 8 activities aim to support technology transfer by providing a day of hands-on medical response designed to help

• Determine associated gaps based on Nov. 7 requirements
• Prioritize development needs to become mission ready technologies
• Understand and develop the testing and evaluation criteria
• Familiarize and enhance awareness of training on technologies
• Prioritize and target funding to bridge technology gaps, testing & evaluations, and training

Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) will host round robin demonstrations of the current state of the practice in field hospitals, hazmat suits and decontamination processes, an existing robotics foam sprayer, and use of robots for disaster mortuary operations. TEEX trains over 240,000 fire rescue, law enforcement, emergency managers, and medical responders from all 50 states and ~40 countries each year. Texas A&M faculty and TEEX was tapped to form the Texas Ebola Task Force and train health professionals in Dallas. The day will conclude with a discussion of funding opportunities and opportunity to extend or create partnerships. The demonstrations and panels will be held from 9:00AM to 3:00PM at the Emergency Operations Training Center and Disaster City.

There will be a poster contest with cash prizes for 1st ($500), 2nd ($300) and 3rd ($100) place winners in the following categories:
• Best Exposition of Medical Needs
• Most Promising Robotic, Automation, or CPS Technology

There will not be public demonstrations of robotics technologies, so posters will be helpful in sharing your needs and potential solutions.

Registration, directions, parking, and hotels: Contact Kimberly@cse.tamu.edu or (979) 845-8737.

We look forward to your participation and contributions to enabling robots, automation, and CPS to be immediately deployed and to identifying gaps requiring further R&D.

Professor Robin R. Murphy
Director, Center for Robot-Assisted Search and Rescue