

2008 Ground Robotics Capabilities Conference

Survey Comments

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- Workgroups – must be more prepared in presenting requirements and needs – be specific
- Excellent kudos to organizing/support staff
- Support small business technology brief
- A ‘real’ warfighters panel has E-6 and Master Sgts who use these robots on a daily basis
- Need more military program managers
- MC of morning sessions was refreshingly formal and smooth
- Many useful discussions by people ‘on the ground’, users and those who want to be users, military and law enforcement. You should invite Darron Lee and his colleagues to speak again next year. They are potential users for robots in caves and tunnels – make this a focus topic.

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- From the military standpoint, make briefs more applicable. It was about a 60-40 split of commercial-military content. What military content was discussed was great. Especially COL Reinhard's brief. Spot on!
- Inquire if people are staying for dinner, plan awards presentation at a slightly longer luncheon, not dinner
- It is very unprofessional to speakers to take more time than planned.
- Not enough 'meat.' Industry wants opportunities and direction from the government. Providing overview of current needs as well as a preview of upcoming SBIRs/BAAs, etc would make it more worthwhile.
- Provide out briefs of break out sessions as input to next year's break out sessions
- Better lecturers, more in-depth presentations. Breakout sessions were too long to be helpful.

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- Move to Detroit where the Army/Marine Corps has its Ground Robotics effort. Move it to April/May. (**Two comments**)
- Keep operational focus – having a commander just back from Iraq was tremendous!
- More on content, less on government processes
- Cut the general sessions, spread the workshops out so they are not concurrent
- Technical breakout sessions should be stronger
- Uniform should be business casual
- Wider user involvement
- Keep to a schedule – one speaker had a 20 min. slot and took 50 minutes
- Need better planning/preparation of the panel sessions
- Scheduling breakouts – all/most of DoD sessions were all on the same block of time

2009 Conference Planning

- InterContinental Hotel – Dallas (24-27 Mar 09)
- Optimum milestones for a successful conference:

6/27/08	Develop proposed program
7/27/08	Identify proposed speakers
10/25/08	Confirm Speakers / Save-The-Date
12/24/08	Mail Brochure