



Press release
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**It's all ready for euRathlon '15 - Grand Challenge!
The international robotics competition will be held in Piombino (Italy)
on 17 - 25 September**

The event, funded by the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), has been presented in Florence by regional and local authorities. The euRathlon consortium has entrusted the NATO Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation the local organisation of the competition.

More than 40 robots, 150 participants and 18 teams will get together in Piombino (Italy) on 17-25 September to compete at the euRathlon '15 Grand Challenge. euRathlon '15 is a 90-hour long robotics competition to be hosted near to the Enel-owned thermal power plant at Torre del Sale, and open to the general public. Ground, marine and aerial robots will work together to survey the scene of a simulated disaster, collect environmental data, identify critical hazards, search for missing workers and dangerous leaks, close valves with mechanical arms, etc., all in a world-class race against the clock. Inspired by the 2011 Fukushima accident, the euRathlon 2015 Grand Challenge is a new outdoor multi-domain (land, air and sea) robotics competition, devoted to robots able to work together during emergency situations: for the first time in the world, teams of university students and industry experts from 21 countries will test the intelligence and autonomy of the robots they have created in realistic mock emergency-response complex scenarios, in front of an international jury.

"This is not the first robotics challenge we organise but this is for sure the most complex and important one", says Gabriele Ferri, Technical Director of euRathlon '15 and CMRE Scientist. "euRathlon '15 will identify not only the best robots but also the best solutions which could be used in case of humanitarian emergency, for example by Search and Rescue teams. This is extremely valuable for the scientific community". "euRathlon is a high level international project which confirms Tor del Sale and Piombino as perfect venues for such events", adds Massimo Giuliani, Piombino Mayor.

euRathlon '15 will also include several world-class side events at Tor del Sale and in Piombino, downtown. The BioRobotics Institute of Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna di Pisa, for example, will show the capabilities of the Robot-Era service robots, real personal assistants. While on 23 September, at Tor del Sale, two humanoid robots, WALK-MAN and DRC-HUBO, who recently participated in the DARPA Robotics Challenge in Los Angeles (USA), will give a demonstration in disaster response scenarios for the first time in Europe. WALK-MAN is the robot developed by the Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia as part of a FP7 EU project along with the Research Centre "E. Piaggio" from Pisa. DRC-HUBO, developed by the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), the winner of the DARPA Robotics Challenge 2015.

euRathlon project is funded by the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement n.601205. The euRathlon consortium, led by the University of the West of England, Bristol, has been awarded funding to create and run

robotics competitions and workshops. In 2013, the competition for land-based robots was held in Berchtesgaden, Germany. In 2014, CMRE hosted the challenge for underwater robots at its premises. The 2015 event in Piombino is organised by CMRE along with the Piombino Municipality and ENEL, and in collaboration with several local associations. euRathlon '15 is also sponsored by IEEE Oceanic Engineering Society (Platinum Sponsor) e ECmanaged, Evologics and Texas Instruments (Silver Sponsors). The aim of euRathlon is to encourage collaboration and research in robotics for emergency response, and to compare robots performances through an open benchmarking process.

For more information about CMRE: www.cmre.nato.int

For more information about euRathlon: www.eurathlon.eu

Photos euRathlon:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/kg4qjct6u5i55ho/AADfYkEHudhiwUzWdmGG3Phea?dl=0>

Media POC

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