

RoboCup 2016 – Newsletter #1

1 Welcome and Invitation

Dear RoboCup Community, dear RoboCuppers!

The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) of RoboCup 2016 hopes that you all had a good start into the Year 2016 and that you all are already busily planning and preparing your participation. RoboCup will celebrate its 20th anniversary at RoboCup 2016 with innovative developments in the leagues and exciting activities for this occasion. We hope to see you all in Leipzig!

This newsletter is giving you first information on the event that will help you in planning your participation in RoboCup 2016.

2 Save the Dates

Please save the following 2016 dates in your calendar:

- March 1: Start of early registration for Major and Junior
- **March 30**: End of regular registration for Major
- **May 30**: End of regular registration; start of late registration for Major and Junior
- June 28 – 29: Setup days for teams in Major Leagues
- June 29: Setup days for teams in Junior Leagues
- June 30 – July 4: Competitions in Major and Junior leagues
- July 4: RoboCup Symposium Day

3 Leipzig - Host of RoboCup 2016

Leipzig is a vibrant metropolis with a 1,000-year-long history in trade and exhibitions. The city is centrally located in the East of Germany and the heart of Europe. It is excellently connected and easily reachable via several international airports. It is an important traffic and transportation hub in Germany and has one of the most modern exhibition centers in Europe.

Leipzig achieved world fame in 1989 as the “city of heroes” with the peaceful revolution, which started in Leipzig and paved the way for the reunification of Germany and the unification of Europe. The city is rich in history and culture. Great composers like Bach, Mendelssohn, and Wagner, and writers like Goethe and Schiller lived and worked here.

Today, Leipzig is experiencing a boom in culture, arts and lifestyle and is considered the “new Berlin.” Leipzig is nowadays the most livable city in Germany and ranked in the Top 3 European cities with the highest living quality.

For more information on the location of RoboCup 2016 visit

<http://www.robocup2016.org/en/location/>

More detailed information on the City of Leipzig is provided at the following link:

<http://www.robocup2016.org/en/location/city-of-leipzig/>

For information on “Leipziger Messe”, the fairgrounds and convention center hosting RoboCup 2016, visit

<http://www.robocup2016.org/en/location/leipzig-trade-fair/>

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4 Event Highlights

RoboCup 2016 will feature several innovative events and activities:

- The RoboCup Federation has launched a Call for Proposals for standard platforms for a RoboCup@Home-SPL league. The Call has seen a lot of interest and many proposals for sophisticated platforms for domestic service robots have been submitted. The Federation has invited the best proposals to showcase and demonstrate their robots or prototypes at RoboCup 2016, after which a selection committee will make its choice for a standard @Home platform.
- Amazon Robotics decided to embed and co-locate their Amazon Picking Challenge (APC) with RoboCup 2016 in Leipzig. <http://www.robocup2016.org/press-releases/amazon-picking-challenge-perfect-merchandise-logistics/384752>
- The International Federation for Automation and Control (IFAC) decided to co-locate its 2016 Intelligent Autonomous Vehicles (IAV) conference with RoboCup 2016. <http://iav2016.inf.h-brs.de>
- With RoboCamp 2016, an event formerly known as RoboParty, an interactive event for children and parents will be organized during RoboCup 2016 and allow strong engagement of the general public in our activities.

More events and activities are still in planning stage and will be announced in due time.

5 Participation

There are three ways to participate in RoboCup:

1. in a Major league team
2. in a Junior league team
3. in the RoboCup Symposium

Major League teams must successfully pass a league-specific qualification process, which is already underway for some time. Most leagues have recently closed or are about to close their qualification process. Please check the leagues' web sites.

Junior League teams must qualify through regional competitions. The qualification process is handled by the Junior national or regional representatives.

The **RoboCup Symposium** has published its Call for Papers, which has been distributed over all RoboCup and other robotics mailing lists. The due date for submitting full papers is **March 11, 2016**. Papers must be submitted electronically through the symposium website <https://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf=robocupsymposium2016>

For more information on participation, please visit the websites of the respective leagues and join the respective mailing lists.

<http://www.robocup2016.org/en/participants/>

<http://www.robocup2016.org/en/about/organization/>

The calls for participation for the leagues have been published on the mailing list of the leagues. Any question about qualification should be directed to the respective league's technical committee members and/or the league's mailing list. **Please watch the announcements of the respective league's mailing list carefully.**

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6 Preliminary Accommodation Information

Leipzig is friendly and safe. For a pleasant and enjoyable trip to Leipzig, we recommend to book accommodation early. Leipzig offers a wealth of low- to medium-priced accommodations in all categories.

<http://www.robocup2016.org/en/location/arrival-and-accommodation/book-accommodation/>

Further information will be provided in upcoming newsletters.

7 Preliminary Visa Information

Participants from the following countries will **NOT** require a visa:

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea (ROK, South Korea), Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, United Kingdom, United States of America

Participants from the following countries **WILL** require a visa:

China (POC), Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Philippines, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey

For all other countries, information about visa requirements for traveling to Germany can be found at the following link:

http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/EinreiseUndAufenthalt/StaatenlisteVisumpflicht_node.html

Due to regulatory restrictions, invitation letters for visa applications can be issued by the hosting organization **only after** participants **have registered and fully paid** their registration fees. This implies, of course, successful qualification for participation in RoboCup 2016 as described in Section 5 above, because only qualified teams and members of qualified teams will be able to register for RoboCup 2016.

8 Contact and Information

Further general information on RoboCup 2016 is provided on the following web site:

<http://www.robocup2016.org/en/>

The main page contains a nice 3-minute teaser movie you just have to see!
Our thanks go to the team of HTWK Leipzig for their contributions to the movie!

If you have particular requests for information on non-league-specific questions, you can contact us at the following email address:

info@robocup2016.org

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9 Closing

We wish you and your team successful preparations for RoboCup 2016, and we hope to see and welcome you all in Leipzig for an exciting and unique 20th RoboCup!

Best regards and best wishes!

On behalf of the RoboCup 2016 Local Organizing Committee:

Gerhard Kraetzschmar, General Chair

Oskar von Stryk, Associate Chair

Ansgar Bredenfeld, Associate Chair

Kati Fritzsche, Project Director