

**MINUTES OF THE  
SATELLITE DIVISION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
(September 25, 2009)**

Subject to the approval of the ION Satellite Division Executive Committee the following minutes are submitted. The Satellite Division Executive Committee Meeting was called to order on 25 September 2009 at The Westin Hotel, Savannah, GA at 6:30pm. Those present were:

VOTING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Pratap Misra	Chair
Patricia Doherty	Treasurer & ION GNSS 2010 Program Chair
Demoz Gebre-Egziabher	Secretary
A.J. Van Dierendonck	Immediate Past Chair
Christian Tiberius	European Rep.
Andrew Dempster	Asian Rep.
Mikel Miller	ION President

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

GNSS 2009 Program Committee:  
Naser El-Sheimy, Program Chair  
Allison Kealy, Technical Chair  
Tim Murphy, Technical Chair  
Hermann Ebner, Technical Chair  
Larry Hothem, Plenary Session Chair  
Jacob Campbell, Robotic Lawn Mower Competition  
Lisa Beaty, Director Operations  
Carl Andren, Technical Director

**AGENDA**

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|--|--------------|
| 1. Approve Minutes from September 2008                           | P. Misra     |
| 2. Lessons Learned 2009 & Recommendations for 2010               | N. El-Sheimy |
| 3. Approval of GNSS 2010 Program Chair                           | P. Misra     |
| 4. Ratify Motion to Fund Recording of GNSS Panel Discussions     | L. Beaty     |
| 5. Outreach Activities Status, Autonomous Lawn Mower Competition | J. Campbell  |
| 6. Outreach Proposal, Autonomous Snow Blower Competition         | S. Sheikh    |
| 7. Approval GNSS Meeting Location September 2012 & 2013          | P.           |
| Misra  |              |
| 8. Funding Discussions   | P. Misra     |

Approve Minutes from September '08

**Motion:** Approve September '08 Satellite Division minutes as circulated. Motion made by Pat Doherty, seconded by A.J. Van Dierendonck and passed by the committee.

## Lessons Learned 2009 & Recommendations for 2010

Naser El-Sheimy reviewed a prepared report.

See Attached File: [GNSS09 Program Feedback.pptx](#)

The following was discussed/actions taken:

1. It was noted that the panel discussion sessions continued to be the most popular. Concern was expressed that some of the technical sessions were poorly attended, especially when competing with a panel discussion. Lisa Beaty took the action to ensure the conference program clearly advertises that panel discussions are being video taped for later viewing. Beaty also accepted the action to send an e-mail to GNSS 2009 attendees once the video's from the 2009 panel discussions were posted on the web site.
2. Lisa Beaty will ensure the technical session rooms are down-sized for next year.
3. It was agreed that the plenary session should last no more than two hours.
4. Lisa agreed to adjust the technical program calendar for 2010 to give the Program Chair a full week with the abstracts to rebalance the abstracts based on submissions and sort them into tracks.
5. It was suggested that a session of GNSS in Agriculture and Environmental Research be added in 2010.
6. Topics for 2010 panel discussions that were suggested included: GNSS in Agriculture & Environmental Research; Location Security & Privacy; and GNSS Extensions to Deep Indoor Navigation.

### Approve GNSS 2009 Program Chair

**Motion:** Patricia Doherty is appointed and approved as the GNSS 2010 Program Chair. Motion made by Pratap Misra, seconded by AJ Van Dierendonck and passed by the committee.

### Ratify Motion to Fund Recording of GNSS Panel Discussions

**Motion:** The Satellite Division Executive Committee approves \$15,000 for the professional video and audio recording of ION GNSS 2009 panel discussions. Motion approved via e-mail vote June 2009 and ratified at this meeting with motion made by Pat Doherty, seconded by Demoz Gebre and passed by the committee.

**Motion:** The Satellite Division Executive Committee approves \$15,000 for the professional video and audio recording of ION GNSS 2010 panel

**discussions.** Motion made by AJ Van Dierendonck, seconded by Pat Doherty and passed by the committee.

#### Outreach Status Activities Robotic Lawn Mower Competition

Jacob Campbell, Robotic Lawn Mower Co-Chair, reported that the competition had been held in June 2009 in conjunction with the ION's Mini Urban Challenge. There were a total of only six schools participating as several schools had withdrawn at the last minute. It was reported that efforts were being made to better market the 2010 competition to both professors as well as to potential financial sponsors.

Campbell reported that in 2008 the Satellite Division Executive Committee had approved funding through 2010 so no additional funding was currently needed at this time.

It was also reported that Don Venable at AFRL would be taking over as the competition chair this next year.

#### Outreach Proposal, Autonomous Snow Blower Competition

Demoz Gebre-Egziabher presented a report on behalf of the North Star Section seeking endorsement by the Satellite Division for a newly proposed Autonomous Snow Blower competition.

See Attached File: [Autonomous Snow Blower 25 Sept 2009.pdf](#)

Concerns discussed included whether or not the proposed Snow Blower Competition too closely resembled the Robotic Lawn Mower Competition. There was also concern that organizers seeking funding from existing ION corporate member companies would dilute overall contributions to the ION's other existing student programs.

It was suggested the section rename the competition from the Autonomous Snow Blower Competition to the Robotic Snow Blower Competition.

**Motion:** The Satellite Division shall sponsor the North Star Section's Robotic Snow Blower Competition for one year with their static display in January 2010 and contribute up to \$1,000 for the same under the following conditions: 1) that the competition policies be amended to state that students must be participating on all teams; and 2) the North Star Section shall provide a follow-up report in September 2010. Motion made by AJ Van Dierendonck, seconded by Pat Doherty and passed by the committee.

#### Approval GNSS Meeting Location September 2012 & 2013

Lisa Beaty reported that 2012 and 2013 presented challenges as to date availability in September as September 2012 had one week with Labor Day and two additional weeks with Jewish holidays. It was reported that Lisa had checked availability in 13 different cities and had the following two choices available from which the Division could select for 2012 and 2013:

1. Phoenix, AZ: Had available dates in 2012 and 2013 free of all Jewish holidays but concern was expressed over availability of nightlife, restaurants and commercial establishments within walking distance of the convention center. Beaty reported that the city was currently constructing retail areas but they had not yet been completed or leased. Concern was expressed as to whether or not these areas would be occupied and vibrant in 2012.
2. Nashville, TN: Had available dates in 2013 but in 2012 ION would need to book over Rosh Hashanah (sundown on Monday through sundown on Tuesday). It was reported that perspective attendees observant of Rosh Hashanah would not be able to travel until Tuesday evening and would likely miss the plenary session of the conference. Beaty reported that while the number attending the conference expecting to be observant of Rosh Hashanah was very small, she was concerned over the public perception of being insensitive to this holiday.

Dates aside, Beaty reported that financial cost considerations for both cities were comparable. Beaty's recommendation was to book ION GNSS 2012 and 2013 in Nashville due to the configuration of facilities, vibrant downtown nightlife and ease of travel for Europeans with the note that she would re-consider Phoenix for 2014 & 2015.

Beaty requested the committee approve the following motion:

**Motion:** The Satellite Division approves Nashville, TN as site for September 18-21, 2012 and September 17-20, 2013 pending Beaty's ability to execute acceptable contractual terms with the city and the required hotel(s). If necessary, Beaty is authorized to book 2012 & 2013 in Phoenix as an alternate location. Motion made by Pat Doherty, seconded by Demoz Gebre and passed by the committee.

### Funding Motions

#### **International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Navigation in Africa:**

Pat Doherty reported that the international partnership for sustainable development in navigation and science technology in Africa held in March 2009 had been a huge success and plans were under way to support this activity again in 2010. She reported that many of the instructors that taught classes for the symposium last year were Satellite Division officers and members and requested that the Satellite Division fund instructor travel and the LEGO MINDSTORMS workshop again in 2010 at a total cost not to exceed \$30,000.

**Motion:** The Satellite Division approves \$30,000 in funding for instructor travel and the LEGO MINDSTORMS workshop in 2010 for sustainable development in navigation and science technology in Africa to be held in Italy. Motion made by Pratap Misra, seconded by AJ Van Dierendonck and passed by the committee.

**Funding of the ION GNSS Sponsored Student Program:**

Pratap Misra reported that the Division had sponsored 26 students to attend ION GNSS this year, all of whom were from outside the U.S. at a total cost of \$52,000. It was reported that other than catering the student competition was the single largest expense of the conference and the student sponsorship was becoming proportionately a very large expense.

There were several ideas that were discussed on methods of controlling student expenses including reducing the total number of students sponsored, reducing the sponsorship allowance, and/or limiting the number of sponsored students per school. Pro's and con's for each were reviewed.

**Action:** Pratap Misra will work with John Raquet and Lisa Beaty and propose a revised sponsored student program for 2010 which would be circulated to the Satellite Division Executive Committee for discussion and vote within the next number of weeks.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.