



Press Release
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The 2015 euRathlon Grand Challenge will be hosted in Piombino, Tuscany (Italy) on 17- 25 September

The euRathlon consortium has entrusted the NATO Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation (CMRE), based in La Spezia (Italy), the organization of the 2015 event. Dates and venue of the competition were announced on 21 January during a press conference by CMRE, Municipality and ENEL representatives.

Ground, marine and aerial robots work together to survey the scene of a simulated disaster, collect environmental data, and identify critical hazards, 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 robotics competition, final part of a wider European Project started three years ago. It will take place on 17-25 September in Piombino (Italy), near to Enel-owned thermal power plant at Torre del Sale. For the first time in the world, teams of university students and industry experts will test the intelligence and autonomy of their robots in realistic mock emergency-response scenarios in front of the general public.

“As part of the euRathlon consortium, we are proud to organize the final event of the Project” says Jean-Guy Fontaine, scientist at CMRE. “We will take to Piombino our expertise in organizing world-class competitions, such as the SAUC-Europe, the challenge between student-built unmanned underwater vehicles held annually at our Centre.” The international relevance of the event is expected not only to serve as a major meeting point for dozens of experts in the field of robotics, but also to draw the attention of a wider specialized and non-specialized audience. “The Torre del Sale thermal power station proves once more to be a well-integrated installation which not only has been serving the country in producing electrical energy but it is also available to host innovative events, beneficial to the local community”, adds Antongiulio Bertoni, ENEL representative. “This contributes to attract to Piombino high level, international events, such as euRathlon which is unique in the world.”

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 aim of euRathlon is to encourage collaboration and studies in robotics applications, and to compare robots performances through a benchmarking open process.

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

For more information about euRathlon: www.eurathlon.eu

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

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