

The Robert A. and Virginia Heinlein Prize Trust

Robert A. Heinlein Flight into the Future Project Contest

Invitation for Participation 2010/11

The Robert A. and Virginia Heinlein Prize Trust is pleased to announce the start of the 2010/2011 Robert A. Heinlein Flight into the Future Project Contest. It is being held to commemorate the memory of the famous American writer, one of the founders of modern science fiction, Robert A. Heinlein, and is devoted to the 50th anniversary of the flight of Yuri Gagarin, which made humankind much closer to Heinlein's dream of our future in space. The main goal of the competition is to identify and support talented young researchers and to encourage their innovative activities related to space exploration. The competition is part of the Heinlein Prize project, created to encourage commercial activity in space.

The content and form of the contest works

The works for the contest may be submitted by citizens of Russia, Europe, Africa, Middle Eastern countries and India¹: students, post-graduate students and young professionals who will be under age 30 by the time of the Prize awarding ceremony on July 7, 2011. The participation is also allowed of the students of the Russian, European, African, Middle Eastern and Indian universities irrespective of their citizenship. The decision is made in view of the international nature of today's university community.

The participants should describe their prospective project in the field of space exploration, its peaceful use, and its potential for significant economic benefit.

The submitted works should include scientific, technical and economic substantiation (business plan) of the proposed project proving its potential for practical realization and its expected economic and social benefit.

The works submitted may be produced by either individual participants, or by teams of up to three authors. Academic advisers may be associated with the development of the contest works.

The content and structure of the submitted contest works should meet generally accepted quality standards for similar professional works in the same technical field.

The works, when accepted, will be considered open and will not contain any information of a limited distribution, or classified information, or data for internal use only, or confidential commercial information. Therefore, the authors are totally responsible to make sure that there are no limitations on the information content of their submittals.

All copyrights associated with material in the submittals belong to the authors of the submitted works. The Organization Committee will abide by confidentiality in the process of considering the contest works and

¹ There will be other Trust's projects available for the rest of the world.

require the same from experts participating in the evaluation process. Nevertheless, the authors are notified that the contents of their works could be disclosed to the public. Authors should add an "Annotation" chapter into their works, containing a brief description of the project, in such a manner as the authors consider to be appropriate for publication by the Organization Committee on behalf of them regardless of whether the project will be awarded the Prize or not. The Organization Committee will consider the possibility of drawing attention of representatives of industry and business structures to the works of the contest participants.

There are two work languages of 2010/11 Robert A. Heinlein Flight into the Future Project Contest, English and Russian. The works sent to the contest should be in either of these two languages, by e-mail in .rtf (Rich Text Format) or .doc MS Word. Archived .zip files are eligible. The size of the contest works should not exceed 80 pages of printed text. All works should be submitted with the attributed individual motto consisting of single or several words that will be used by the Organization Committee to manage the anonymous expert review. If the mottos are not provided by the authors, the Organization Committee will do that.

The comments of an academic advisor (if one is part of the project) along with one review of his or her relationship to the project, along with information about the individual author/authors and scientific chief are to be sent in a separate file, attached to e-mail, under the same motto. In the case of a collective work, the authors in the list should be listed according to their personal scientific contributions.

Additional information on the requirements to the works can be found on the contest web-site <http://www.heinleincontest.info>.

Assessment and awarding

Contest works will be evaluated by the Expert Committee according to the following criteria:

1. Novelty and originality of the proposal
2. Economical and social benefit
3. Technological substantiation and profoundness of research
4. Veracity and investment attractiveness of the proposed technical and economical substantiation (business plan)

Each winner will be awarded with an honorable diploma of the Trust. According to the results of the contest, the authors' team who had won first place will be awarded with the prize «Flight into the Future» and a monetary prize, granted by the Heinlein Prize Trust equal to \$ 10,000. Two second prizes of \$ 2,000 each, three third prizes of \$ 1000 each and four incentive prizes of \$ 500 each. Organizational prize of \$ 500 will be awarded to one person from each region for the best support in participants' involvement.

All monetary prizes will be shared equally between the authors with the exception for cases where it has been stipulated otherwise by any special agreements executed between members of the author's team and submitted to the Organization Committee.

The procedure of the contest implementation

Contest works should be sent to the address of the Organization Committee by e-mail at contest@heinleincontest.info before May 15, 2011. The date of the submittal will be established by the date of the «Sent» field. The same applies to the detailed information of the participants of the project and their academic advisor that is to be submitted as the separate file. Based upon the merits of the submittals, top 10 projects will be defined by the expert committee. Authors of these projects shall receive invitations to take part in the final, where they will have an opportunity to present their projects to the expert committee. These presentations shall take place on the first week of July and awarding of the winning teams will take place on July 7, 2011, which is the birthday of Robert A. Heinlein. The Organizational Committee is able to provide limited travel support for a limited number of participants to the final presentation and awarding ceremony location that will take place in one of the European centers for space research and industry.

The Committee recommends that those who intend to take part in the contest, to register beforehand. The completed registration forms for contest participants should be sent to the committee's e-mail address: contest@heinleincontest.info. The Committee plans to send various informational and related materials to the registered participants.

The Committee will confirm receipt of all correspondence from the contest participants.

The base internet page for the Contest-related activities and information is: <http://www.heinleincontest.info>.

Heinlein Prize Trust Advisers:

Arthur M. Dula
Buckner Hightower

With any Contest-related questions, please contact:

Dmitry Perepelkin
Program manager
contest@heinleincontest.info
perepelkind@yandex.ru

Attachment 1: Registration form

The obligatory fields are marked with an asterisk (*). The authors will be able to change their provided data by the moment of the actual submission of their project.

1	Project motto (e.g. 'Per Aspera ad Astra', 'South-Western Express', 'Andromeda')(*)	
2	Short annotation of the project (up to 30 words)	
3	The project lead author data (name, affiliation)(*)	
4	The other project authors' data (names, affiliations)	
5	Science advisor data (name, affiliation, degree)	
6	Lead author's e-mail address (*)	
7	Suggestions for the additional information to be provided by the Organization Committee	