

The Robert A. and Virginia Heinlein Prize Trust

Robert A.Heinlein Flight into the Future Project Contest

Invitation for Participation 2007/8

The Robert A. and Virginia Heinlein Prize Trust is pleased to announce the start of the 2007/8 Robert A.Heinlein Flight into the Future Project Contest. This is a competition to promote innovative scientific works and is being held to commemorate the memory of the famous American writer, and one of the founders of modern science fiction, Robert A. Heinlein. The main goal of the competition is to identify and support talented young researchers and to encourage their innovative activities that will help to bring humanity closer to Heinlein's dream of our future in space. The competition is part of the Heinlein Prize project (<http://www.heinleinprize.com>), 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 the European, African and Middle Eastern countries¹: students, post-graduate students and young professionals who will be under age 30 at the time of the Prize awarding ceremony on July 7th, 2008. The Trust had also made the decision to invite the representatives of India to participate in the contest in 2007/8, and thus, students and young professionals from this country who are age-eligible are welcome as well. The participation is also allowed of the students of the European, African, Middle Eastern and Indian universities irrespective of the citizenship. The decision is made in view of the international nature of today's university community. The options for the visiting researchers' participation will be examined on the individual basis.

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, nor classified information, nor data for internal use only, nor confidential commercial information. Therefore, the authors are totally responsible to make sure that there are no limitations on the information content of their submittals.

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

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 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. It is assumed that any legal relations between the authors who win prizes will be regulated in accordance with their own special agreements. 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 2007/8 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 the 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 web-site and can be sent to the applicants by e-mail.

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 to the Future» and a monetary prize, granted by the Heinlein Prize Trust equal to \$3500. Two second prizes of \$1,500 each, and three third prizes of \$1000 each will also be awarded. Any academic advisors of the teams who had won 1st, 2nd or 3rd prizes, will receive special prizes of \$1500, \$500, \$300 correspondingly. Special prizes awarded by the Organization Committee and additional recognition funds may be distributed among several other participants and their advisors as deemed appropriate. 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 15th of May 2008. 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, invitations will be sent to the top 10 author teams, giving them an opportunity to meet directly with the committee for further discussions and evaluations. The presentation of those projects will take place on the 6th of July and the awarding of the winning teams will take place on the 7th of July 2008, which is the birthday of Robert A. Heinlein. The Organizational Committee may be able to provide limited travel support for a limited number of participants to the final presentation 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 reception 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

Li Furong

Dmitry Poletayev

With any Contest-related questions, please contact:

Dr. Dmitry Payson

Academic Secretary

contest@heinleincontest.info

dpieson@gmail.com

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 providing by the Organization Committee	