

Precarn Announces Winners of the 20th Anniversary Research Excellence and Commercialization Success Awards

Windsor, Ontario - May 29, 2008 - The **Precarn Incorporated** is proud to announce the awarding of the **Precarn 20th Anniversary Research Excellence and Commercialization Success Awards** at the Awards Banquet during the Intelligent Systems Collaborative – the 2008 AI/GI/CRV/IS Conference. The Precarn 20th Anniversary Research Excellence Award winner is **Dr. Septimiu (Tim) Salcudean**. The Precarn 20th Anniversary Commercialization Success Award winner is **Point Grey Research** for the Triclops stereo vision system.

“Precarn is celebrating its 20 years of success by recognizing excellence in research and successful commercialization of robotic and intelligent systems. The two winners are examples of this excellence, and a critical demonstration of the power of the Precarn collaborative R&D and commercialization model.” explains Paul Johnston, President & CEO of Precarn.

Precarn 20th Anniversary Research Excellence Awards

The Precarn 20th Anniversary Research Excellence Award celebrates the research excellence of an individual in the field of intelligent systems who has participated in the IRIS-Precarn research and development network. The nomination criteria for this award are:

1. The candidate's field of research must be in Intelligent Systems & Robotics.
2. Any industrial, academic, or government researcher that has participated in the past or is currently participating in the IRIS or Precarn network is eligible for nomination, including but not restricted to: Professor, Post Doctoral Fellow, Scientist, Engineer, or Research Assistant.
3. The nominee's research has had significant scientific, societal, and/or industrial impact.
4. The nominee is recognized by his peers in the IS community as demonstrated by other awards and/or anecdotal descriptions of recognition.

The Precarn 20th Anniversary Research Excellence Award winner, Dr. Septimiu (Tim) Salcudean, has been one of the founders of the field of haptics. He was one of the early contributors to major directions in haptics, having invented a force-feedback mouse (patents purchased by Immersion), the optimal design of haptic devices based on parallel actuation (some licensed to Quanser), the rendering of virtual environment primitives such as friction and stiff walls, and many teleoperation control algorithms based on a variety of techniques. As well, he was one of the early contributors to medical robotics. He developed the first tele-ultrasound system with ultrasound image-servoing, a system for steering a robot automatically to a target in soft tissue based on real-time segmentation. He also developed the methodology for the simulation of needle insertion into tissue.

Dr. Septimiu (Tim) Salcudean was an IRIS Researcher and Project Leader in the Hi-VEC and IT-MED projects and has won many awards and prizes. Among them, an IEEE Fellowship, a UBC Killam Research Prize, and even an IRIS/Precarn best technology demo award. He is a Fellow, BC Advanced Systems Institute, and a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering.

Precarn 20th Anniversary Commercialization Award

The Precarn 20th Anniversary Commercialization Awards recognizes an IRIS or Precarn developed technology that has led to a significant commercial success. The nomination criteria for this award are:

1. The nominated technology must be in the area of Intelligent Systems & Robotics.
2. Any IRIS/Precarn developed innovation that has led to significant commercial success is eligible for nomination.
3. The technology must have commercial success as measured in terms of sales, growth, revenue, international growth, market share, product migration (from original technology) market impact, or commercial longevity.

The Precarn 20th Anniversary Commercialization Success Award winner is Point Grey Research for the Triclops stereo vision system. Under IRIS funding, Dr. Jim Little and his team of researchers from UBC studied the development of stereo vision systems for motion tracking. Their research led to two seminal publications that were instrumental to the founding of Point Grey Research. Starting with IRIS project funding and then building on that with T-GAP support, Dr. Little led a project to commercialize the UBC-developed stereo vision technology into an inexpensive PC-based product. The key challenge was to determine how to connect a standard PC with a pair of analogue video cameras using a frame grabber to feed real-time stereo images to the computational engine. The result was the stereo system known as “Triclops” – the very first Point Grey product. Since then, the company has grown to over 70 employees and last year sold over 25,000 cameras from various product lines. This year they expect to sell their 100,000th camera. They can boast that their cameras have been sold in every continent except Antarctica. The entrepreneurial people who took their idea from UBC and formed Point Grey include: Don Murray, Vladimir Tucakov, Rod Barman, Stewart Kingdon, and of course there was the leadership of Dr. Jim Little.

About Precarn

Precarn Incorporated is an independent not-for-profit company that supports the pre-commercial development of leading edge technologies. Precarn works with Canadian companies who are seeking to commercialize their new ideas to get an edge in the global market. Unlike other research funding programs, Precarn uses a collaborative model that includes a developer, a customer and an academic research partner in every project. This collaboration accelerates development, reduces risk and shares the cost of innovation. Precarn provides access to an extensive national network of world-class researchers, innovative companies and sources of funding.

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