

2026 Telepresence Competition Official Rules

NO PURCHASE OR PAYMENT IS NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. A PURCHASE WILL NOT IMPROVE YOUR ODDS OF WINNING.

Contest: 2026 Summer School on Telepresence Unified User Interface Design Challenge (the “Contest”)

Sponsor: The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Incorporated, 445 Hoes Lane, Piscataway, New Jersey, USA, 08854

Agreement to Official Rules: By participating in this Contest, Entrants agree to be bound by these Official Rules and all terms and conditions established by the Sponsor. The Sponsor reserves the right to alter any of these Official Rules at any time and for any reason. All decisions made by the Sponsor concerning the Contest including, but not limited to the cancellation of the Contest, shall be final and at its sole discretion.

Eligibility: The Contest is open to IEEE Telepresence Summer School (the “Summer School”) attendees who are residents of the United States of America and other countries, where permitted by local law, who are at least the age of eighteen (18), or the age of majority in their respective country or jurisdiction of permanent residence, whichever is older, as of the time of entry. Employees of Sponsor, its agents, affiliates and their immediate families are not eligible to enter the Contest. Entrants may be subject to rules imposed by their institution or employer relative to their participation in contests and should check with their institution or employer for any relevant policies. If participation in this promotion is in violation of employer policies, the entrant may be disqualified from entering or receiving prizes. The Sponsors reserve the right to verify the eligibility of winners

Contest Period: The Contest will take place during the Summer School, from July 13, 2026, to July 17, 2026. Final interface judging will take place during Unified User Interface (“UI”) presentations on Friday, July 17, 2026.

How To Enter: Teams attending the Summer School will be automatically entered into the Contest.

Selection of Winner: The Contest shall be conducted, and participating teams shall be evaluated, in accordance with the 2026 Summer School on Telerobotics and Cyborg Technologies guidelines, available at: <https://www.ieeesmc.org/telepresence/summerschool/>

The student teams will design and prototype a user-centered interface for monitoring, controlling, and configuring multiple robots for this Multi-Robot Teleoperation UI Design Challenge. The interface should integrate key HCI/UX principles, including user-centered design, Gestalt principles, Nielsen usability heuristics, dark mode considerations, Kaptics integration, robot sensor visualization, live camera feeds, teleoperation controls, and configurable robot parameters. The evaluation framework allocates 100 points across Task Effectiveness, Usability & UX, Robot-

Specific Design, Visual Design, Innovation, and Prototype Quality, with three judges and a Judge Manager responsible for scoring and final calculations. Usability is assessed through SUS and User Pain Points, while other categories evaluate task efficiency, robot-specific functionality, creativity, visual clarity, and the completeness and coherence of the Figma prototype. The winning team(s) shall be selected by a panel of judges based on the evaluation criteria set forth in the guidelines.

Prize: The prize for the Contest is sponsored by IEEE. Each eligible member of the winning team (each, a “Prize Winner”) shall receive one IEEE Telepresence-branded backpack with an approximate retail value of USD \$90 (the “Prize”). No substitution of prize permitted, except that Sponsor reserves the right to substitute a prize or prize component of equal or greater value in its sole discretion for any reason at time of award. Sponsor shall not be responsible for service obligations or warranty (if any) in relation to the Prize. Prize may not be transferred prior to award. All other expenses associated with use of the Prize, including, but not limited to local, state, or federal taxes on the Prize, are the sole responsibility of the Prize Winner. Prize Winner understands that delivery of a prize may be void where prohibited by law and agrees that Sponsor shall have no obligation to substitute an alternate prize when so prohibited.

Notification of Potential Prize Winners: The Prize Winner(s) shall be notified after all team evaluations have concluded, and the Prize(s) shall be distributed before the conclusion of the Summer School. The decisions of Sponsor are final and binding in all respects.

Release, Publicity, and Privacy: By receipt of the Prize and/or, if requested, by signing an affidavit of eligibility and liability/publicity release, the Prize Winner(s) consents to the use of his or her name, likeness, business name and address by Sponsor for advertising and promotional purposes, including but not limited to on Sponsor’s social media pages, without any additional compensation, except where prohibited. No entries will be returned. All entries become the property of Sponsor. The Prize Winner agrees to release and hold harmless Sponsor and its officers, directors, employees, affiliated companies, agents, successors and assigns from and against any claim or cause of action arising out of participation in the Contest.

Sponsor assumes no responsibility for computer system, hardware, software or program malfunctions or other errors, failures, delayed computer transactions or network connections that are human or technical in nature, or for damaged, lost, late, illegible or misdirected entries; technical, hardware, software, electronic or telephone failures of any kind; lost or unavailable network connections; fraudulent, incomplete, garbled or delayed computer transmissions whether caused by Sponsor, the users, or by any of the equipment or programming associated with or utilized in this Contest; or by any technical or human error that may occur in the processing of submissions or downloading, that may limit, delay or prevent an entrant’s ability to participate in the Contest.

Sponsor reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to cancel or suspend this Contest and either award a prize to teams able to compete the Contest before the time of termination or suspension or withhold declaring a winner and defer the prize(s) to a future competition, should virus, bugs or other causes beyond Sponsor’s control, unauthorized human intervention, malfunction, computer problems, phone line or network hardware or software malfunction, which, in the sole opinion of

Sponsor, corrupt, compromise or materially affect the administration, fairness, security or proper play of the contest or proper submission of entries. Sponsor is not liable for any loss, injury or damage caused, whether directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, from downloading data or otherwise participating in this Contest.

Entrant acknowledges and agrees that Sponsor may collect, store, share, and otherwise use personally identifiable information provided during the registration and application process and the Contest, including, but not limited to, name, mailing address, phone number, and email address. Sponsor will use this information in accordance with its Privacy Policy (https://www.ieee.org/security_privacy.html), including for administering the Contest and verifying Entrant's identity, postal address, and telephone number in the event an entry qualifies for a prize. Entrant's information may also be transferred to countries outside the country of Entrant's residence, including the United States. Such other countries may not have privacy laws and regulations similar to those of the country of Entrant's residence. If an Entrant does not provide the mandatory data required at registration, Sponsor reserves the right to disqualify the entry.

Right to Use Entries: By entering the Contest, Entrants grant Sponsor a non-exclusive, irrevocable, royalty-free, perpetual, worldwide right and license to reproduce, publish, display, edit and otherwise use the submitted Entries, and entrant's full name and city and state/province/country of residence, photograph, likeness, voice and institutional affiliation, in print or any offline or online and other media for purposes of editorials, exhibition, advertising, publicity and promotion without additional compensation or permission, unless prohibited by law.

Representations and Warranties Regarding Entries: By submitting an Entry, you represent and warrant that your Entry does not and shall not comprise, contain, or describe, as determined in Sponsor's sole discretion: (A) false statements or any misrepresentations of your affiliation with a person or entity; (B) personally identifying information about you or any other person; (C) statements or other content that is false, deceptive, misleading, scandalous, indecent, obscene, unlawful, defamatory, libelous, fraudulent, tortious, threatening, harassing, hateful, degrading, intimidating, or racially or ethnically offensive; (D) conduct that could be considered a criminal offense, could give rise to criminal or civil liability, or could violate any law; (E) any advertising, promotion or other solicitation, or any third party brand name or trademark; or (F) any virus, worm, Trojan horse, or other harmful code or component. By submitting an Entry, you represent and warrant that you own the full rights to the Entry and have obtained any and all necessary consents, permissions, approvals and licenses to submit the Entry and comply with all of these Official Rules, and that the submitted Entry is your sole original work, has not been previously published, released or distributed, and does not infringe any third-party rights or violate any laws or regulations.

Limitations of Liability/Reserved Rights: Neither Sponsor, its parent, subsidiary or affiliated companies, nor its advertising or promotional agencies shall have any obligation, liability or responsibility with regard to (i) entries that contain incorrect or inaccurate information or do not comply with these Official Rules, (ii) entries, prize claims or notifications that are lost, late, incomplete, illegible, unintelligible, damaged or otherwise not received by the intended recipient, in whole or in part, due to computer, technical or other error of any kind, (iii) telephone, electronic, hardware, software, network, Internet or computer malfunctions, failures or difficulties of any

kind, (iv) any condition caused by events beyond the control of Sponsor that may cause the Contest to be disrupted or delayed, (v) any printing or typographical errors in these Official Rules or any other materials associated with the Contest, or (vi) any damages or losses of any kind caused by any prize or resulting from participation in the Contest, accessing, uploading or downloading data in connection with the Contest, or acceptance, possession or use of any prize. Sponsor, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to disqualify any entrant tampering with or abusing the entry process or the operation of the Contest or otherwise violating these Official Rules. Sponsor, in its sole discretion, further reserves the right to cancel, terminate, suspend or modify the Contest if the Contest cannot be completed as planned because of infection by computer virus, bugs, tampering, unauthorized intervention or technical failures of any sort and to select a winner from among eligible entries unaffected by such event, if any.

Disputes: EACH ENTRANT AGREES THAT: (1) ANY AND ALL DISPUTES, CLAIMS, AND CAUSES OF ACTION ARISING OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS CONTEST, OR ANY PRIZES AWARDED, SHALL BE RESOLVED INDIVIDUALLY, WITHOUT RESORTING TO ANY FORM OF CLASS ACTION, PURSUANT TO ARBITRATION CONDUCTED UNDER THE COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION RULES OF THE AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSOCIATION THEN IN EFFECT, (2) ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, JUDGMENTS AND AWARDS SHALL BE LIMITED TO ACTUAL OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS INCURRED, INCLUDING COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH ENTERING THIS CONTEST, BUT IN NO EVENT ATTORNEYS' FEES; AND (3) UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL ANY ENTRANT BE PERMITTED TO OBTAIN AWARDS FOR, AND ENTRANT HEREBY WAIVES ALL RIGHTS TO CLAIM, PUNITIVE, INCIDENTAL, AND CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, AND ANY OTHER DAMAGES, OTHER THAN FOR ACTUAL OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES, AND ANY AND ALL RIGHTS TO HAVE DAMAGES MULTIPLIED OR OTHERWISE INCREASED. ALL ISSUES AND QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE CONSTRUCTION, VALIDITY, INTERPRETATION AND ENFORCEABILITY OF THESE OFFICIAL RULES, OR THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF ENTRANT AND SPONSOR IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONTEST, SHALL BE GOVERNED BY, AND CONSTRUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH, THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, WITHOUT GIVING EFFECT TO ANY CHOICE OF LAW OR CONFLICT OF LAW, RULES OR PROVISIONS (WHETHER OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY OR ANY OTHER JURISDICTION) THAT WOULD CAUSE THE APPLICATION OF THE LAWS OF ANY JURISDICTION OTHER THAN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY. SPONSOR IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY TYPOGRAPHICAL OR OTHER ERROR IN THE PRINTING OF THE OFFER OR ADMINISTRATION OF THE CONTEST OR IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PRIZES.

Contest Results and Official Rules: To obtain the identity of the Prize Winner and/or a copy of these Official Rules, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Attention: Dave Magnoni, The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Incorporated ("IEEE"), 445 Hoes Lane, Piscataway, New Jersey, USA, 08854.