

April 11, 2014

Sanford Fleming Foundation
Grants Committee
University of Waterloo

Dear Committee Member,

I would like to strongly endorse the UW Robotics Team's request for travel funding to participate in the NASA Sample Return Challenge competition in Worcester, MA, USA from June 9-14, 2014 as well as the Intelligent Ground Vehicle Competition in Rochester, MI, USA from June 6-9, 2014. The NASA Sample Return Challenge competition will garner international recognition with its \$1.5 million prize (for which we, as Canadians, are not eligible) and is a spectacular event that is pushing the frontiers of autonomous robot operation. I am happy to report that UWRT is making very strong progress towards their goal of winning both these competitions, and is currently a 25 active members' team, with impressive development efforts on every aspect of these robotic challenges.

I have reviewed the proposal submitted, and feel the team is doing everything they can to save on expenditures and spend what they hope to raise in the most economical and effective way. Hence, I hope the team is considered for financial support from SFF to enable them to participate in the above mentioned competitions.

Sincerely,

William W. Melek, PhD, PEng, SMIEEE
Associate Professor, Faculty Advisor – University of Waterloo Robotics Team
Director of Mechatronics Engineering
Director of the Laboratory of Computational Intelligence and Automation
Department of Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering
University of Waterloo
Tel: (519) 888-4567 (ext. 37820)
Fax: (519) 888-6197