Freelancer.com Launches NASA Space ROS Sim Summer Sprint Challenge

The new global challenge offers a USD $30,000 prize pool aimed at helping NASA plan future missions

SAN FRANCISCO, California - 18 July 2024 – Freelancer.com (ASX: FLN), the world's largest freelancing and crowdsourcing marketplace by number of users and jobs posted, today announced the launch of the NASA Robot Operating System Sim Summer Sprint Challenge.

Hosted on behalf of NASA, the USD $30,000 global crowdsourcing challenge aims to stimulate involvement in the Space Robot Operating System (Space ROS), an open-source framework for developing flight-quality robotic and autonomous space systems, by developing more advanced demo capabilities and environments. The challenge calls upon freelancers to embrace their creativity and technical prowess to add to the Space ROS repository.

Space ROS recently added a high-fidelity robotic arm like those used on the Curiosity rover and flying aboard the International Space Station to its assets. To make Space ROS more robust and help NASA plan for future missions, new functions and demonstration environments need to be created.

"We're excited to host this upcoming innovation challenge on behalf of NASA to grow the community of open-source contributors to Space ROS. The challenge will give freelancers from all around the world the opportunity to put forward their creative and technical ideas, which could help NASA plan future space missions. We're looking forward to seeing the submissions," said Trisha Epp, program manager for the NASA Open Innovation Services (NOIS2) contract at Freelancer.com.

Participants can solve this challenge by incorporating real-world data to add detail to existing demos or create new demo environments in new simulations. In addition to this, participants could also build new capabilities for diverse use cases, integrate new space or ground robotic assets, or add realistic feedback and space sensor integration.

Challenge participants not only have a shot at shaping the future of space technology but also will compete for a piece of the $30,000 prize purse, with the top spot earning $10,000.

More details surrounding the challenge, including guidelines, timelines, prize allocations, and the criteria for concept proposals can be accessed here:
https://www.freelancer.com/contest/2417552

Challenge Information

Space ROS has recently added a high-fidelity robotic arm like those aboard the Curiosity rover and International Space Station. Expanding these demos to include higher fidelity environments, for example, realistic lighting for the lunar south pole, or higher fidelity robotic capabilities, such as accomplishing a science or resource allocation task, are desired to show concepts and leverage the tools that Space ROS is building upon.

In the challenge, participants are asked to enhance Space ROS, an open-source framework for developing flight-quality robotic and autonomous space systems, by expanding the community and improving the fidelity and capabilities within Space ROS.

Those participating in this one-phase challenge must produce a Space ROS extension demonstration in a way that will add to the Space ROS repository. The proposed concept must meet or exceed the parameters described in the challenge.

This challenge is run in collaboration with Ibility and Matthew Hansen.

Challenge Prizes

1st Place Prize	$10,000
2nd Place Prize	$7,500
3rd Place Prize	$5,000
4th Place Prize	$3,000
5th Place Prize	$2,500
Innovation Awards (up to 4 prizes)	$500
Total Prizes	$30,000

Challenge Schedule

Challenge Launch	July 18, 2024
Webinar	August 6, 2024
Challenge Close	September 11, 2024 5pm ET
Judging Complete	September 30, 2024
Winners Announced	October 7, 2024

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About Freelancer.com

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For more information, contact:

Press Inquiries
press@freelancer.com

Sebastián Siseles
Vice President, International
+1 415 801 2271
sebastian@freelancer.com

Marko Zitko
Sr. Marketing & Communications Manager
+1 (650) 800-6863
+61 404 574 830
marko@freelancer.com