

ROBOT ADDED TO LENDING POOL



*The Matilda Robot
-- Mesa Robotics, Inc.*



*Training on the Matilda
Robot
-- SPAWAR Joint
Robotics Pool*

“The SPAWAR Joint Robotics Pool is a valuable, unbiased way for us to learn how to best meet the needs of various first responders using our technology, while providing a service to the defense and emergency community.”

***Don Jones
Vice President
Mesa Robotics, Inc.***

The Robotics Systems Pool of the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) Systems Center in San Diego, CA has seen increased activity in the loan of its robotic platforms and payloads from civilian first responder groups across the country. Under a new agreement with Mesa Robotics, Inc., SPAWAR will have new robots in its pool to support this increased demand.

Under a cooperative research and development agreement established with the support of FirstLink, Mesa will add their robotic platforms to the Joint Robotics Pool. Major John Andrews of SPAWAR explains, “The new and used military systems in this pool are available nationwide to federal and local first responder agencies for the purpose of testing and evaluation of a variety of applications.”

Robots offer the opportunity to reduce safety risks, save costs, and perform functions that may be difficult to execute directly. There is increasing interest in apply robotics for mine communications and rescue operations. These and other uses lead to the integration of different payloads to address functions such as communications, navigation, visual surveillance, and air quality.

Lending a wide variety of robot types for test and evaluation aids the Navy in collecting valuable feedback on the devices’ performance and how they may be applied to potential military applications that share common challenges. The experiences help to promote product design advances, and can spur the adoption of new technology among first responders and the military. This helps to create a safer environment for all, and especially for our nation’s professionals, whom must perform in the face of known and unknown dangers.

The SPAWAR Joint Robotics Pool lends robotic platforms to Federal and local first responder agencies. The program places heavy emphasis on user and developer interaction to ensure requirements are accurately identified and developer efforts are aligned to satisfy those needs.

FirstLink is the Department of Defense’s National Center of Excellence for First Responder Technology Transfer, supporting emergency and security needs through the development of commercial pathways between Department of Defense Science & Technology, private industry and universities.

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