

ISIF-SPONSORED EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

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7TH CANADIAN TRACKING AND FUSION GROUP (CTFG) WORKSHOP, NOVEMBER 6–7, 2017

The Canadian Tracking and Fusion Group (CTFG) was established in 2010 with the objective of advancing awareness of information fusion and the more recent objective to address real-world problems, as well as to encourage collaboration among government, industry, and academia on problems of common interest related to information fusion.

The seventh annual workshop was held at the Les Suites Hotel in Ottawa, Canada, on November 6–7, 2017. The workshop was well attended, with more than 60 participants from government, industry, and academia. The format of the workshop was a single, oral track, divided into four special talks by invited speakers and 28 regular talks, divided into four tracking sessions and four fusion sessions.

The first invited speaker, Mr. Eric Fournier, Director General S&T Strategic Decision Support, provided information about the Innovation for Defence Excellence and Security Program, which is an augmentative approach to accessing innovation, allowing Canada's military to better tap into extraordinary talent and ingenuity resident in Canada.

Later on that first day, Dr. Llinas, the second invited speaker, talked about the knowledge requirements for the design of distributed multisensor multitarget tracking systems. The first day continued with four tracking-related sessions, on the following topics:

- ▶ Sensor and resource management
- ▶ Detection and tracking
- ▶ Clutter, estimation, and fusion 1 and 2

The first invited speaker of the second day was Dr. Roy Streit who presented analytic combinatorics in tracking and information fusion. The second invited speaker of this day was Mr. Srikanth, associated with the Build in Canada Innovation Program, which is a R&D procurement program aimed at procuring, testing, and evaluating R&D precommercialized goods and services in the late stage development.

The second day of the workshop continued with four fusion-related sessions on the following topics:

- ▶ System design and concepts
- ▶ Optimization and planning
- ▶ High-level fusion 1 and 2



Dr. Hossein Chahrour from Carleton University (photo by Janice Lang).

The presentations and abstracts of all invited and regular talks have been distributed to the participants of the workshop and can be provided, upon request, to all International Society of Information Fusion (ISIF) members. More information about the CTFG Workshop 2017 can be found on the CTFG website at www.ctfg.ca. After six years, the CTFG website was redesigned with a WordPress template. Our Canadian community of tracking and fusion is growing, and we are pleased to note that we continue to have greater exposure year after year.

At the end of the two-day workshop, the following two organizational meetings took place:

1. Planning the organization of CTFG: The CTFG organizing committee members expressed their overall impressions (lessons learned) about the technical program and the new venue that was selected for the first time for CTFG 2017. The committee also nominated the chairs for CTFG 2018. Melita Hadzagic and Steven Horn will fulfill the role of general co-chairs for the organization of CTFG 2018.

2. A meeting of the local organizing committee for FUSION 2019: This was the second meeting of the committee after the CTFG 2016. The committee reviewed the status of each item introduced in 2016, including the technical program, with the plenary speaker selection, the tutorials and the special sessions, the organization, the committee, the venue, and the options for entertainment (the contracts to be signed and the partnership options with IEEE). After the meeting, some of the FUSION 2019 organizers met with the management for the venue of the conference at the Shaw Centre (Ottawa), agreed on conditions, and secured it.

THE 2017 CTFG WORKSHOP ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Elisa Shahbazian (general chair), OODA Technologies

Mihai Florea (general co-chair), Thales Canada

Jack Ding, DRDC Ottawa

Tony Ponsford, consultant

Bhashyam Balaji, DRDC Ottawa

Rami Abielmona, Larus Technologies

Rafael Falcon, Larus Technologies

Anne-Laure Jouselme, NATO Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation

Steven Horn, DRDC CORA

Thia Kirubarajan, McMaster University

Ratnasingham Tharmarasa, McMaster University

Sreeraman Rajan, Carleton University

The great success of this workshop was not possible without the contribution of our amazing organizing committee and of our sponsors (ISIF, IEEE Ottawa Section and its supporting chapters, Thales Canada, Larus Technologies, Trackgen, OODA Technologies, and Ottawa Tourism).



CTFG 2017 participants (photo by Janice Lang).