

Chris Urmson, Ph.D.
Assistant Research Professor
Robotics Institute, Carnegie Mellon University

Topic: The Urban Challenge and Autonomous Vehicles

Chris Urmson is an Assistant Research Professor at Carnegie Mellon University. He was the Director of Technology for Tartan Racing which won the 2007 DARPA Urban Challenge. Chris has developed several robotic navigation architectures and software systems currently in use by Carnegie Mellon University, NASA JPL and NASA Ames. He has made significant contributions to the development of over a half dozen robots, with an emphasis towards software development and system integration. He earned his PhD in 2005 from Carnegie Mellon and his B.Sc. in Computer Engineering from the University of Manitoba in 1998. Chris has earned a variety of corporate and academic awards including being named a Siebel Scholar, and receiving technology innovation awards from Boeing Phantom Works and SAIC.

Bakhtiar Litkouhi, Ph.D.
Manager, Vehicle Control Systems & Manager, Autonomous Driving
Electrical & Controls Integration Lab
General Motors R & D Center

Topic: Towards Autonomous Driving – Forging a New Revolution

Dr Litkouhi joined GM in 1985. Since 2004, he has been the Manager of Vehicle Control Systems Group. From August 2006 to March 2007, he was also the Acting Director of Electrical & Controls Integration Lab at GMR&D. In addition to his current responsibilities, he is the Program Manager for Autonomous Driving at GM R&D Center. Prior to joining GM, he was an assistant professor at Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan. He holds a B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering, M.Sc. in Applied Mathematics and Ph.D. in Systems Science, specializing in Controls. Dr. Litkouhi has served as the Program Manager for several large scale projects in Intelligent Vehicle Systems, Advanced Chassis Control, Human Machine Interface, Systems Engineering and Control Integration, where he has made numerous contributions through publications and presentations. Among his accomplishments is the development and demonstration of the first vision-based automatic steering system driven at highway speed. He is an expert in impaired driver detection area covering theory, practice and potential product implementation. Dr. Litkouhi owns several patents and record of inventions in different areas of his activities.

Michael Fetsko
Vice President, Automated People Movers
&
James Spakauskas
Director of Sales & Business Development

Bombardier's Systems Division

Topic: Bombardier – Fully Automated Transportation Systems

Michael Fetsko is the Vice President of Automated People Movers (APM) for Bombardier's Systems Division, with full operational responsibility for this global business. He leads the marketing, design and project implementation of fully automated people mover transportation projects, including add-ons to existing systems, turnkey DBOMs, and large-scale concession projects. During his 9 ½ years at Bombardier prior to his current role, he has held the positions of Program Manager, Director Product Design, Director Vehicle and Infrastructure Technology, and Vice President Project Management.

As Program Manager, he completed the Orlando International Airport Airside 2 automated people mover (APM) system project, led the on-site project management and construction efforts to retrofit the Newark International Airport monorail system guideway, and managed the Tampa International Airport Airside E APM System.

As Director Product Design and Director Vehicle and Infrastructure Technology, he was responsible for product engineering designs related to civil, electrical, and mechanical design/build, and wayside components of APM, monorail, and steel-wheeled systems. Michael was then instrumental in leading the design and development efforts for a new side-guidance APM vehicle for the Neihu project in Taipei, Taiwan.

Prior to joining Bombardier, he worked for two civil and environmental engineering / consulting firms as both a Project Manager and Project Engineer. His responsibilities focused on project and construction management for turnkey design/build programs (civil, environmental, and remediation construction), engineering and systems design, and leading regulatory agency negotiations for customers.

Jim Spakauskas is the Director of Sales and Business Development for Bombardier's System Division. In this capacity, he is responsible for the worldwide marketing and sales of fully automated people mover transportation systems, including design-build turnkey systems, add-ons and rehabilitations to existing systems, and operation & maintenance of those systems.

Jim has worked in the transportation industry for the past 25 years. He has held a variety of positions in program management, after-market sales, and marketing. Over the last 18 years, he has focused on the marketing of automated people mover systems, and has been directly involved in the sales of systems to Singapore's Bukit Panjang LRT, Spain's Madrid Barajas Airport, Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, Heathrow International Airport's new Terminal 5 and Beijing Capital International Airport's new Terminal 3.

Jim has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Masters Degree in Business Administration, both from the University of Pittsburgh.