

Dear Participants

Welcome to the Autonomous Robotic Greenhouse Workshop.

This is the second in our series of workshops devoted to the determination of research priorities for The Ontario Greenhouse Alliance (TOGA). The first workshop was held March 5, 2005 in London, Ontario. The research requirements of TOGA were identified and the Autonomous Robotic Greenhouse was identified as a long-term research focus that offered tremendous potential to address many of the needs of the greenhouse industry.

As CRESTech could not deal with all of the research priorities, two actions were taken. The first was to fund a roadmap study that would prioritize the research needs of TOGA and the second was to begin the development of the concept of an umbrella program to focus on the requirements of the autonomous robotic greenhouse.

The first step in developing the research agenda for the autonomous robotic greenhouse was the plan for a specific workshop to identify the current level of technology, explore the research requirements and set in motion the development of a program of research projects that would be used to seek additional funding from other agencies interested in the autonomous robotic greenhouse. This workshop, to day, October 15, 2004, is the beginning of that process.

Following the workshop there will be a call for expressions of interest that will be reviewed and prioritized and from that prioritized list there will be a subsequent call for proposals for feasibility studies to begin the development of the umbrella program. This will be the beginning of the research program.

CRESTech would like to thank all the speakers and attendees and hope you have a productive day that will produce the results and connections to further the development of the CRESTech autonomous robotic greenhouse Initiative.

Richard Worsfold