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Austrian Research Team again to proof world leadership in robo(at)sailing

The 'ASV Roboat' once more managed to outcompete the other participants in the international competition of autonomous sailing boats. The team got their chance to proof world-leadership in the 'Microtransat' competition taking place in the open sea out of Aberystwyth in Wales from Sept 3 to Sept 6, 2007.

'A pretty rough sea, unfriendly terrain with rocks and up to 6 beaufort were a challenge to our system. Eventually we got the proof we had set up the system ideally. We are especially proud about the precise navigation of our 4 meter long, 300 kg vessel', says Roland Stelzer, the president of the innovative 'InnoC' organisation.

In the competition the boat had to participate in two races, the first of which was a 3 km race to demonstrate proper sailing ability. In the second and race the boat had to sail autonomously for 24 hours. Although the gap to other participants - University of Aberystwyth (UK), die Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Ingénieurs de Constructions Aéronautiques aus Toulouse (France), and Queen's University, Ontario (Canada) - has become smaller since the competition last year, the 'ASV Roboat' was the only boat to technically withstand the challenge of tough 24 hours out in the sea.

'Now we got the proof we are on a good track for the big goal of an autonomous crossing of the atlantic ocean. Partners from various fields of engineering are more than welcome to join', Roland Stelzer added.

The only human input the „ASV roboat" required is the desired target of a trip, normally as GPS-coordinates. Based on sensor data as wind and drift (measured onboard), the boat then calculates the ideal route. Any changes of the these parameters will instantly be considered in the real-time calculations, that continously adapt the settings of sail and rudder. Any required manoeuvres like tack an jibe are also carried out automatically directly on board.

Photos and older press releases available at:

<http://www.roboat.at/en/pressecenter/aktuelle-presseinformation/article/>

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