MORS Call for Entries – David Rist Prize, 86th MORS Symposium

We invite you to consider a submission for the coveted David Rist Prize. Please read below for more details about the prize process.

About the MORS David Rist Prize

The Rist Prize recognizes the practical benefit sound operations research can have on “real life” decision-making and seeks the best implemented military operations research study from those submitted in response to this 2017 Rist Prize Call for Entries. This call solicits abstracts with letters of endorsement for implemented recommendations from studies or other operations research-based efforts, e.g., analyses, methodology improvements, that influenced major decisions or practices. Entries for individuals or teams submitted in response to this call will be eligible for consideration for the Rist Prize.

Cash Awards

There are two cash prizes that may be awarded: $3,000 for first place (i.e. Rist Prize winner) and $1,500 split amongst the honorable mentions. Both awards are announced during the opening plenary session at the 86th MORS Symposium, 19-22 June 2018 the Naval Post Graduate School, Monterey CA.

Submission Requirements and Process

To be considered:

- An unclassified abstract and letter of endorsement for the implemented operations research-based recommendations from the study must be submitted to the MORS office and postmarked no later than Friday, 17 November 2017.
- The abstract cannot be longer than 3 pages (8.5” by 11”, single sided, 10 point type minimum, .75” margins all around minimum.)
- The letter of endorsement must be signed by an official at a Flag/General officer, Government SES, or company VP level (or equivalent) from the organization using the results of the analysis. The letter of endorsement must address as a minimum:
  - The importance of the problem
  - The contribution of the insight or solution
  - The impact of the result of the analysis

Please send the unclassified abstracts, letter(s) of endorsement, and a MORS Abstract Disclosure Form 109 A/B to rist@mors.org. A judging panel reviews the submitted abstracts and selects 3-5 finalists who will be notified on or about Tuesday, 16 January 2018. A MORS Fellow of the Society will be identified to assist the finalists in their preparations for the presentations. The fellows are distinguished members of the society with experience judging Rist presentations. Finalists must submit an annotated presentation brief and MORS Disclosure Form to the MORS Office no later than Friday, 20 April 2018 to give the senior judging panel
(usually MORS Fellows and Sponsors) ample time to read the presentation and form their questions. While all abstracts must be unclassified the final presentation may be classified up to SECRET and those presentations may be sent to: Robert.l.henson12.civ@mail.smil.mil. The finalists give their presentations at a session on the Monday prior to the MORS Symposium, 18 June 2018. The senior judging panel is able to question the presenters then make their decision that evening so that the presentation of the prize can be made at the plenary session the next day.

**Annotated Presentations will be judged on the following criteria:**

**Professional Quality**

- Problem definition
- Citation of related work
- Description of approach
- Statement of assumptions
- Explanation of methodology
- Analysis of data and sources
- Sensitivity of analyses (where appropriate)
- Logical development of analysis and conclusions
- Summary of presentation and results

**Contribution to Military Operations Research and Major Decisions**

- Importance of problem
- Contribution to insight or solution of the problem
- Power of generality of the result
- Originality and innovation
- Contribution of the study to the decision

All questions can be directed to the MORS Prize & Awards Committee Chair, Mr. Robert (SpaceBob) Henson, at Robert.l.henson12.civ@mail.mil or (571) 256-2059 or alternately at rhenson3@cox.net or (703) 314-1368.

Best of luck to each of you and we look forward to your submissions.

Very respectfully,

Robert (SpaceBob) Henson
MORS Prize & Awards Committee Chair
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