



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VISION ROBOTICS CORPORATION RECEIVES GRANT FROM WASHINGTON TREE FRUIT RESEARCH COMMISSION

SAN DIEGO, SEPTEMBER 5, 2006 – Vision Robotics Corporation (VRC) today announced that the Washington Tree Fruit Research Commission has selected VRC as its source for robotic agricultural equipment.

Through a Washington Tree Fruit Research Commission grant, VRC will begin developing a robotic system for the harvesting and care of tree fruit, such as apples and pears. VRC's patent-pending idea of scouting and pre-planning the various robots' actions is essential to making automation cost-effective. In this system, an advance Scout uses stereovision to "see" and examine the tree and plans the motions for the harvesting robots. In addition to gathering data for the pickers, pruners, sprayers and other function-specific robots, the Scout's information can be used for precision farming and to estimate yields or determine the picking schedule to maximize a crop's total value.

For this grant, VRC will prove the Scout's technical feasibility by demonstrating a prototype system scouting in a variety of apple orchards. The proof-of-concept prototype will scan sections of fruiting walls and output the number, size and location of each piece of fruit in the scouted area.

"We are delighted to partner with the Washington Tree Fruit Research Commission," said Derek Morikawa, chief executive officer, Vision Robotics Corporation. "The team there understands the critical role robotics will play in automating field work, and they are leading the industry in exploring technology that will revolutionize the harvesting component of agriculture."

Two factors are driving the mechanization of fresh tree fruit: powerful and affordable technology components and VRC's proprietary two-robot approach, which enables the robots to work quickly. Aiding the robots' speed is their ability to "see." VRC's robots come equipped with cameras, which are extremely rich sensors as well as robust and low cost. Vision is the only viable means for working within orchards, and thus cameras are the only viable sensors for use with tree fruit. No other sensor can gather enough information about the fruit and tree. The Scout uses many pairs of stereo-cameras to map the trees.

Upon completion of this year's demonstration, VRC anticipates developing a full prototype Scout within a year and commencing production within two years. Work on functional robots, picking, pruning and spraying, will occur concurrent with the advanced Scout development.

Vision Robotics has worked with the California Citrus Research Board for the past three years developing similar technology for use with fresh citrus.

ABOUT VISION ROBOTICS CORPORATION

Since 1999, Vision Robotics Corporation (VRC) has developed advanced vision-based navigation and object recognition systems for autonomous robots. VRC currently is working with military, agriculture and consumer electronics partners to produce robots ranging from an advanced consumer-floor care product to a tree-fruit harvester to military robots. Vision Robotics, based in San Diego, is privately held. For more information on VRC's robotic systems, visit www.visionrobotics.com.

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