



Queensland University of Technology

Science and Engineering Faculty

2 George Street GPO Box 2434

Brisbane Qld 4001 Australia

Phone +61 7 3138 8822 Fax +61 7 3138 2703

Email sef@qut.edu.au

www.qut.edu.au

8 July 2018

To whom it may concern,

The International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA) is the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society's flagship annual conference, and the premier international forum for robotics researchers to present their work. I served as Program Chair for the ICRA 2018 event held in Brisbane during May of this year and we were absolutely thrilled to have attracted over 3,000 delegates – an ICRA record.

It gives me great pleasure to provide this written reference for ICMS Australasia. A key factor in this outcome was the strong industry knowledge and assistance provided by our Professional Conference Organisers. This was a true partnership, beyond simply meeting the terms and conditions of our service agreement. ICMSA worked alongside us to ensure that our conference journey was enjoyable and the outcomes exceptional.

All conferences are complex but ICRA 2018 had some unique complexities and ICMSA helped with all of these. Firstly, they worked closely and effectively with our local organising committee, as well as the chairs of over 20 sub-committees who are located all around the world. ICMSA organized regular meetings, kept detailed minutes and managed actions lists – essential to cooperatively achieving a great Conference.

Secondly, ICMSA supported us in a novel approach to technical paper presentation -- the interactive pods. These were conceptualised by the Conference Program Chair to give presenters the ability to display two posters, including a whiteboard for discussions and a shelf that holds a laptop for video display. The concept was innovative and a first for the ICRA Conference, and perhaps a first for any event of this size and complexity. ICMSA took the original concept, refined it, ensured it was delivered and built, and finessed it during the meeting.

Kate Stevens, Director *Conferences* for ICMSA, and her team were highly professional and constructive, yet realistic, in helping us to refine our ideas. Kate's team were a delight to work with, and highly responsive to the volume and diversity of requests we had of them. The team's experience provided us with guidance and advice at key points to help ensure the Conference was a success. The Sponsorship & Exhibition team, led by their Director, Fallon Beatty, netted sponsorship revenue in excess of \$720K -- a massive lift on our initial budget of \$345K. This level of financial comfort helped to make the whole process far less stressful for us and able to provide significant value adds to the delegates.

The members of the Organising Committee and ICMSA were committed to ensuring that the information exchange was at the forefront of the Conference. The decision to invest heavily into programming, technology and access resulted in the most successful ICRA Conference to date, by way of attendance, outreach and financial results

I, and the rest of the ICRA organizing team, would highly recommend the team at ICMSA to any other organisations seeking to hold a Conference.

Yours sincerely

Professor Peter Corke
Program Chair