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Introduction

This Proceedings volume contains technical papers that were presented at the 2009 Automatic Target Recognition XIX conference.

This was the 19th in a series of international meetings dedicated to the science and technologies of automated target recognition. These meetings have been providing a friendly forum for discussing the issues, problems, and solutions associated with the sensors, algorithms, processing hardware, and deployments of ATR.

To better encourage the submittal and presentation of high quality papers, starting last year we initiated, with the generous support of Lockheed Martin Corporation (LMC), the annual Best ATR Paper Awards. During this year's meeting, last years' recipients received their plaques from LMC Chief Technology Officer Dr. Ray Johnson. The award checks have been sent to the winners directly from SPIE.

The success of these meetings over nearly two decades has been due to the dedication of a few individual conference committee members, who with their love for the field and their zeal for its success created an exciting arena in which to participate. One such person was Dr. Richard Sims of the U.S. Army, a good friend, who was among the first founders of our conference and a well known voice in our ATR community. Richard passed away this year at a relatively young age. We will miss him!

Firooz A. Sadjadi
Abhijit Mahalanobis