Introducing H.E.C.T.O.R

by Juri Munkki

nother two months have passed and you are faced with yet another preview of Avara. This time we'll take a look at what Avara is really all about.

In the not so distant future, biological warfare is raging on terraformed planets of the human sphere. A machine intelligence is out there to wipe out biological life forms and their primary weapon is ananotechnological virus that invades and breaks up the cellular structure of Earth life.

A new kind of remote controlled robot was designed to prevent the loss of human lives.

The Hostile Environment Combat and Tactical Operations Remote does not carry a human operator, so if one is destroyed, a new one can be issued and the same operator can gain from he experience without having been hurt or killed.

In addition to combat, HECTORs can be used to for exploration and repairs in areas that have become deadly to humans. Standing upright, a HECTOR is about 2 meters tall and depending on the model and configuration, the mass ranges from around 150 kg to around 220 kg. The small size allows it to operate in most spaces that have been designed for humans. Being bipedal and relatively light, it can easily climb stairs and jump up to several meters in the air (in standard gravity).

There are three different kinds of payload and weapons modules available. The lightest one

provides very high mobility with the cost of slightly reduced weapons carrying capacity. The largest one is the "bomber" version and it can carry significantly more missiles and grenades than the two others, but the added space makes it heavier even after the weapons have been dispensed, so it is at a disadvantage in situations where high mobility is a requirement.