



News Release

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

“Providing technological innovation for national security for over 40 years.”

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Grand Challenge 2005:

DARPA Schedules Autonomous Robotic Ground Vehicles Event

Essential Informational Meeting Set for August 14 in Anaheim, Calif.

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) of the U.S. Department of Defense announced that it will hold a second Grand Challenge for Autonomous Robotic Ground Vehicles on October 8, 2005.

Grand Challenge 2005 is designed to accelerate research and development in autonomous ground vehicle technology that will help save lives on the battlefield. Anthony J. Tether, DARPA director, noted, “This event is a challenge for American ingenuity. It brings together individuals and organizations from the research and development community, industry, Government, the Armed Services, academia, professional societies, and from the ranks of students, backyard inventors, and automotive enthusiasts.”

- DARPA simultaneously announced that a “Participants’ Conference” will be held August 14, 2004, at the Anaheim Marriott, Anaheim, Calif. This informational conference is for participants, interested sponsors, and groups looking for others to help complete their teams. The conference will begin at 2:00 p.m.

As with the inaugural event held in March 2004, autonomous vehicles will attempt to navigate a challenging course of varying terrain. The team that completes the Grand Challenge 2005 route within a specified time will receive a cash prize of \$2 million, an increase from the \$1 million prize offered at last year’s event.

In the first DARPA Grand Challenge, held on a desert route from California to Nevada, 15 teams from a field of 106 applicants progressed to the final event. DARPA anticipates even greater participation in Grand Challenge 2005.

- **The DARPA Grand Challenge web site – www.darpa.mil/grandchallenge – is the primary resource for data and information about Grand Challenge 2005. In the coming weeks and months, this site will contain news and updates pertaining to the event rules, application procedures, the qualification process, and other significant developments.**

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DARPA is the central research and development organization for the Department of Defense (DoD). The Agency manages and directs basic and applied research and development projects for DoD, and pursues research and technology where the risk and payoff are both very high and where success may provide dramatic advances for traditional military roles and missions. Congress authorized DARPA to award cash prizes as a means of recognizing outstanding achievements in Defense-related research and development.