



Media Advisory

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

Harnessing American Ingenuity

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DARPA to Hold Participants Conference for Third Grand Challenge Media Briefing to Open Proceedings

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) will hold a participants conference and media briefing on Saturday, May 20 in Reston, Va., for the third DARPA Grand Challenge. DARPA recently announced plans to hold its third Grand Challenge competition, the Urban Challenge, on November 3, 2007. The event will feature autonomous robotic ground vehicles executing military supply missions safely and effectively in a mock urban area.

DARPA will hold the Urban Challenge Participants Conference to review all aspects of the program, including application and proposal processes, the schedule, rules and technical goals. Conference proceedings will open with a press briefing, where event organizers will provide an overview of plans for the event and answer questions from reporters. Conference information and details on the planned conference webcast are available at www.darpa.mil/grandchallenge.

Who: DARPA Director Dr. Tony Tether
DARPA Chief of Staff Ron Kurjanowicz
DARPA Urban Challenge Program Manager Dr. Norm Whitaker
Leaders of potential Urban Challenge contestants and teams from previous Grand Challenges

What: Networking opportunities
Press briefing
Presentations on plans for the Urban Challenge (open to media)

When: Saturday, May 20, 2006
9:30 a.m. – Registration and networking begin
11:00 a.m. – Media briefing
11:30 a.m. – Formal presentations
2:30 p.m. – Program wrap-up

Where: Hyatt Regency, 1800 Presidents Street, Reston Town Center, Reston, Va. 20190, 703-709-1234
Lake Anne Room – media briefing
Regency Ballroom – Participants Conference

Why: The first two Grand Challenges attracted worldwide, high-profile media coverage, and the new Urban Challenge format promises to take the competition to a new level of complexity, with robotic vehicles competing in an urban environment. The participants conference may be the only time until the competition begins that so many teams will be gathered in one place and available to the media in-person.

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