



Harnessing American Ingenuity

News Release

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

3701 North Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22203-1714

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 14, 2005

Contact: Thomas G. Goodwin
703/560-7875
tom@steponecommunications.com

Don Shipley
202/289-2001
dshipley@stratacomm.net

PRIMM, NEVADA, IS BASE OF OPERATIONS FOR DARPA GRAND CHALLENGE

Dramatic Progress Expected for Robotic Ground Vehicle Prize Event

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) today announced that Primm, Nevada, will serve as the base of operations for the DARPA Grand Challenge 2005 autonomous ground vehicle competition set for Saturday, October 8. Primm was the location of the finish area for the 2004 DARPA Grand Challenge. The agency also said that the competition will be intense and that dramatic progress over the past eighteen months in robotic ground vehicles technology will be demonstrated.

Although DARPA has announced the Primm location so that event attendees can make travel plans, the exact 140- to 175-mile Grand Challenge route will not be disclosed until two hours before the event begins. DARPA encourages members of the media and spectators to reserve rooms soon, as the hotels are likely to sell out quickly.

The Grand Challenge event itself will be preceded by a semi-final competition called the National Qualification Event (NQE), at California Speedway in Fontana, Calif., from Wednesday, September 28, through Wednesday, October 5. At the conclusion of the NQE, the final field of 20 teams will be announced to compete in the Grand Challenge event on October 8 for a cash prize of \$2 million. The field now is comprised of 43 semi-finalists selected from an original field of 195 applicants.

DARPA Director Anthony Tether said: "Without question, the teams participating in the NQE this year are as good as or better than the teams fielded in Grand Challenge 2004. All have an excellent chance – we will be held in suspense all day waiting to see whether there will be a winner."

DARPA recently announced that advance registration for media credentials is available for members of the media planning to cover the NQE and/or the GCE. The application is available on the Media Resources section of the Grand Challenge website.

For more information about the DARPA Grand Challenge, the official website is www.darpa.mil/GrandChallenge.

-END-

DARPA is the central research and development organization for the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). The agency manages research and development projects for the DoD and pursues research in technology areas where the risk can be very high, but success provides dramatic capability advances for the DoD.