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News Release

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

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GRAND CHALLENGE 2005 ALTERNATE SEMIFINALISTS ANNOUNCED

DARPA Selects Nine Teams as Alternates – August Site Visits to Determine Ranking

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) today announced that it selected nine teams as alternates for the DARPA Grand Challenge 2005 autonomous ground vehicle competition. The teams come from nine states and represent varied backgrounds including universities, individuals, and corporations.

The alternates will take the place of any of the 40 semifinalist teams announced last month that are unable to attend the September 2005 National Qualification Event (NQE) at the California Speedway, Fontana, California. During Grand Challenge 2004, three semifinalist teams experienced vehicle problems in the final weeks before the event and were unable to attend. In identifying alternates for the NQE, DARPA is ensuring there will be a full field of competitors at the NQE.

DARPA will use site visits to the alternate teams during the week of August 15, 2005, to determine the rank order of the alternate teams. The team that performs the best during the August site visit will be the first to be offered an invitation to the NQE should any of the semifinalists withdraw prior to the NQE. DARPA will ask the top three alternate teams to plan to attend the NQE and may allow these teams to compete even if all 40 semifinalists show up at the California Speedway.

Grand Challenge Program Manager Ron Kurjanowicz said all nine alternates are enthusiastic about the opportunity to continue working on their vehicles and want the chance to compete at the NQE. "One team leader told me his team will be the come-from-behind story of the century," Kurjanowicz said. "He was extremely confident that they would do great at the NQE and be on the Grand Challenge starting line on October 8 to compete for the \$2 million prize."

DARPA Grand Challenge 2005 is a field test of robotic ground vehicles for the purpose of advancing autonomous vehicle technology. The vehicles must travel approximately 150 miles over rugged desert roads using only onboard sensors and navigation equipment to find and follow the route and avoid obstacles. DARPA will award \$2 million to the team whose

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autonomous vehicle successfully completes the 2005 route the fastest within a 10-hour period. All vehicles are developed without Government funding.

The teams selected as alternates for the Grand Challenge NQE are listed below.

Austin Robot Technology	Austin, TX
Calculated RISC	Fitchburg, WI
Princeton University	Princeton, NJ
Spurrier's Hurriers	Mary Esther, FL
Team CART	Bluefield, WV
Team Underdawg	San Jose, CA
Team White Cougar	Las Vegas, LV
Two Much Trouble (T.M.T.)	North Berwick, ME
University of Washington	Seattle, WA

More information about the DARPA Grand Challenge, including the details on the 40 semifinalist teams and nine alternates, is available at www.darpa.mil/GrandChallenge.