

News Release

MonsterMoto Productions

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AUSTIN RACER'S ROBOT SELECTED AS DARPA SEMIFINALIST MonsterMoto's "JackBot" Advances to Next Round in Quest for \$2 Million

Cedar Park, Texas (June 6, 2005) – MonsterMoto Productions today announced that its desert racing robot, named "JackBot", was selected by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) as a semifinalist in the DARPA Grand Challenge 2005 autonomous ground vehicle competition.

Team MonsterMoto, led by amateur off-road racer and computer engineer Phillip Yeager, is one of 40 teams selected from the original field of 195 entrants. The 40 teams come from 16 states and Canada and represent varied backgrounds including universities, individuals and corporations.

"I'm thrilled that JackBot was selected to continue in the DARPA program. We've worked hard to develop a useful, reliable and affordable automated vehicle to save our soldiers' lives." said MonsterMoto's Phillip Yeager.

MonsterMoto's Jackbot will compete head-to-head with the other semifinalists in the National Qualification Event (NQE) at the California Speedway in Fontana, September 27 to October 5, 2005 where 20 of the 40 teams will be selected to compete for the \$2 million prize in the Grand Challenge event, scheduled for October 8, 2005.

DARPA selected the semifinalists using results from on-site visits conducted by DARPA technical staff last month. During the site visits, DARPA thoroughly evaluated the capability of each team's vehicle to autonomously navigate a narrow 200-meter course that contained turns and randomly placed obstacles.

"The high quality of vehicle performance that we witnessed during the site visits is truly impressive," said DARPA Director Dr. Anthony Tether. "We are thrilled with the sheer excitement about developing autonomous ground vehicles that the Grand Challenge has sparked among people from all walks of life. It was difficult to winnow the field down to only 40 – the competition was tough."

“DARPA’s selection of JackBot validates that a couple of hard-working guys in a garage can produce competitive and innovative results, but we have a lot of work to do before October,” added Yeager.

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

For more information about MonsterMoto’s JackBot, please visit the website at www.monstermoto.com/jackbot .

For more information about the DARPA Grand Challenge, including DARPA’s official press release, please visit www.darpa.mil/grandchallenge .