

A.I. Motorvators Prepare for Another Grand Challenge

U.S. Department of Defense to Hold Autonomous Robotic Ground Vehicle Event in 2005; A.I. Motorvators announce Plans to Compete for \$2 Million Prize.

Los Angeles, CA (<u>PRWEB</u>) August 4, 2004 -- The A.I. Motorvators team (<u>www.aimotorvators.com</u>) will be back to compete in the 2005 Grand Challenge for autonomous robotic vehicles planned by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) of the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), team leader CJ Pedersen has announced.

DARPA has revealed the next race to be held October 8, 2005 will have a \$2 million dollar prize. Details for the 2005 Grand Challenge will be released on August 14, 2004 at a competitors' conference located in Anaheim, CA. Last year the course stretched some 150 miles from Barstow, CA to Primm, NV.

The A.I. Motorvators are a team of racers and hot-rodders turning automotive race know-how and programming savvy into advanced vehicle technology. "We are pleased to be part of this historic event, and look forward to helping develop this crucial technology" said team leader CJ Pedersen. "We were one of the top 20 teams last year, and based on what we learned, we expect to be extremely competitive. We're definitely one of the teams to watch."

Since competing in the 2004 Grand Challenge, A.I. Motorvators have been hard at work on their futuristic, visually striking, V-8 powered robot named "IT...Came from the garage." Although the name speaks volumes about the small, self-funded team's grass roots effort, the machine fully meets DARPA's requirements to travel on its own with no human assistance over the course's rugged terrain. As part of its vehicle development efforts for the 2005 Grand Challenge, A.I. Motorvators seek support from sponsors interested in the widespread media attention that the event continues to attract.

Current sponsors include: Digital Globe, Radarsat International, Bendy Music, Trimble Agricultural Division, Omnistar, and AutoIntelligent Systems, Inc.

DARPA is the central research and development organization for the U.S. 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.

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