

NEWS RELEASE:

DRAFT: 08/04/05

Contact: Barbara Gaston
SME Public Relations
(313) 425-3065
Email: communications@sme.org

FIRST ROBOTICS TEAMS TO DEMO AT 2005 MIDWEST APEX STUDENT SUMMIT

DEARBORN, Mich., xxxxxx xx xxxx — The Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) will host Michigan high school students from a six-county area and feature Michigan's hottest FIRST robotic teams – professionals and high school students, for exciting demonstrations of their award-winning robotic inventions. The SME Student Summit is being held on **Thursday**, September 15 from 8 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the newly-built Rock Financial Showplace in Novi, Mich. alongside the MIDWEST APEX 2005 "Manufacturing Excellence through Collaboration" Conference and Exposition on September 13-15, 2005.

The Student Summit focuses on the latest developments in manufacturing technology with special student sessions on robotics, design, and engineering careers and is being supported by Ford Motor Company, General Motors Corporation, Delphi, and Fanuc Robotics. Students who are in the 11th and 12th grade this fall will have an opportunity to interact with industry leaders in engineering and manufacturing technology, view displays of the latest manufacturing production and design software products and see first-hand demonstrations of the most modern machinery and robotics. SME Student Summits began in 1993 and have attracted more than 10,000 high school student participants with more than 1,800 coming from the Metro Detroit area.

The involvement of FIRST Robotics at the Student Summit showcases the exciting world of manufacturing engineering as a career and is designed to encourage students to become involved in a FIRST team, learn how something goes from idea to a drawing to a part, and an engineer's role at various stages of the manufacturing process. The Student Summit with the FIRST Robotics demonstrations are sponsored by the HAAS Factory Outlet Division of Gerotech Inc., which has offices in Grand Rapids, and Flat Rock, **MI. HFO/Gerotech Inc. also has five Haas Technical Education Centers in Michigan located in Auburn Hills, Lansing, Warren, Dearborn and Kalamazoo.**

Attending students will find a career in manufacturing engineering hard to resist when they see robotic teams such as "The Hot," (Milford's Huron Valley Schools), "Frog Force," (Novi High School), or "Thunderchickens," (Utica/Sterling Heights). Other local award-winning teams include: "TNT," (Monroe, Mich.), "1602," (Consortium College Prep, Detroit, Mich.), "Chief Delphi," (Pontiac Northern), "Adams," (Adams High School, Rochester, Mich.), and "Killer Bees," (Oakland University, Rochester, Mich.).

Metro Detroit attending high schools include:

Sponsorship Opportunities:

Sponsorship packages are available at very affordable prices for companies interested in gaining visibility, both on-site and with the hundreds of MIDWEST APEX 2005 attendees, and through communications programs directed at thousands of manufacturers around the world. For more information, click on "Sponsorship Opportunities" under www.sme.org/midwest, or contact Anne Chapman at (313) 425-3072.

MIDWEST APEX 2005 is co-sponsored by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, www.sme.org, The Association for Manufacturing Technology (AMT) www.amtonline.org, and The American Machine Tool Distributors' Association (AMTDA) www.amtda.org.

Additional Information:

For more information about the MIDWEST APEX 2005 Conference and Exposition, visit the MIDWEST Web site at www.sme.org/midwest, or call the SME Resource Center at (800) 733-4763, or (outside the U.S. and Canada) at (313) 425-4500, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday-Friday, ET, or Fax to (313) 425-3401.

SME: Technical Community Network (TCN):

The SME Technical Communities help manufacturing professionals gain in-depth exposure to other professional and technical resources in specific manufacturing disciplines. Visit www.sme.org/communities.

About FIRST Robotics:

The FIRST Robotics Competition is an exciting, multinational competition that teams professionals and young people to solve an engineering design problem in an intense and competitive way. The program is fun, life-changing and a career-molding experience. In 2005, the competition will reach close to 25,000 high school age students on close to 1,000 teams in 30 competitions. FIRST teams come from Brazil, Canada, Ecuador, Israel, Mexico, the U.K., and almost every U.S. state. The competitions are high-tech spectator sporting events, the result of lots of focused brainstorming, real-world teamwork, dedicated mentoring, project timelines and deadlines.

About SME:

The Society of Manufacturing Engineers is the world's leading professional society supporting manufacturing education. Through its member programs, publications, expositions and professional development resources, SME promotes an increased awareness of manufacturing engineering and helps keep manufacturing professionals up-to-date on leading trends and technologies. Headquartered in Michigan, SME influences more than half a million manufacturing engineers and executives annually. The Society has members in 70 countries and is supported by a network of hundreds of chapters worldwide.

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SME Student Summit at Midwest APEX Thursday, September 15, 2005

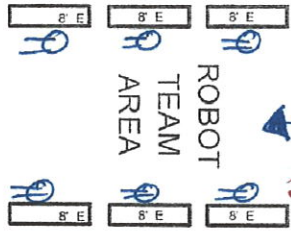
DRAFT AGENDA:

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| 8:00 am | Registration & FIRST Demo's |
| 9:00 am | Program General Assembly – MC Dave Verbrugge, General Motors Proving Grounds Overview of Event and Scavenger Hunt |
| 9:10 am | Bob Skodzinsky, HAAS Factory Outlet Division of Gerotech Inc. Topic: "Mfg for the Future" |
| 9:20 am | John Vukovich, Ford Motor "Art to Part" FIRST Robotics |
| 9:40 am | Craig Rigby, Ford Motor Topic: "Engineers Role in the Escape Hybrid" |
| 10:15 am | Dave Verbrugge, General Motors Proving Grounds Overview of FIRST Robotics Include Student Testimonial |
| 10:45am | Tour Exposition Hall, Scavenger Hunt, & FIRST Robotics, Lunch |
| 1:15pm | General Assembly |
| 1:30pm | Departure |

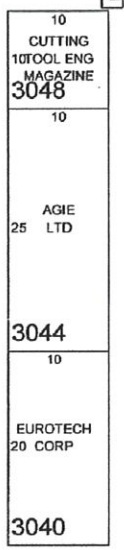
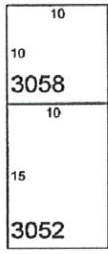
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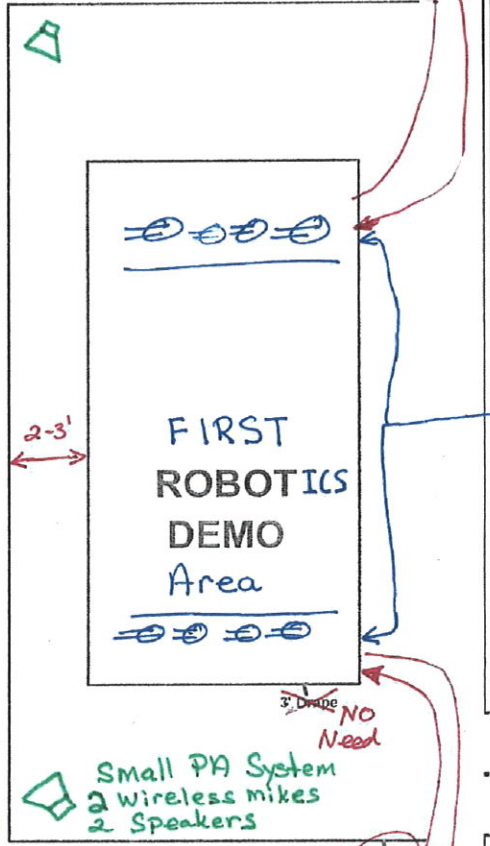
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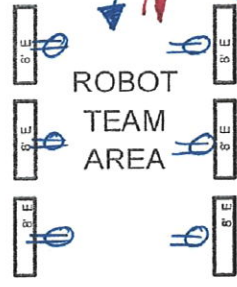
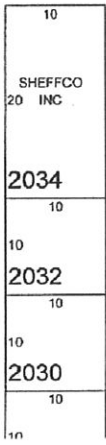
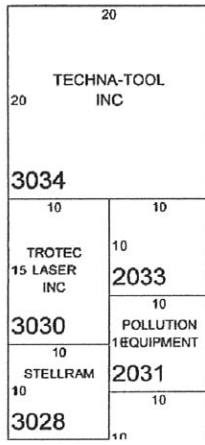
1 30 Amp branch feeding 6 duplex outlets (Teams will bring powerstrips to plug in multiple battery chargers)



Viewers



1 30 Amp branch feeding 8 duplex outlets, four on each side of playing field



1 30 amp branch feeding 6 duplex outlets. Teams will bring a power strip