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SIEMENS VDO

Siemens VDO-sponsored FIRST Robotics Teams Are Taking Center Court

Siemens VDO-sponsored FIRST Robotics teams are driving toward the basket and aiming high with this year's FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science Technology) Robotics Competition "AIM HIGH" challenge. As part of the Siemens Generation 21 educational outreach initiative, employees from the company's locations in Auburn Hills and Troy Mich., Newport News, Va., Huntsville, Ala., and Ontario, Canada provide financial support, experienced mentors and access to their facilities to help local high school students to overcome the competition's engineering challenges.

The FIRST Robotics Competition is an exciting program that pairs professionals with high school students to help develop a solution to a prescribed engineering challenge in an intense, competitive game environment. The 2006 nationwide competition will reach more than 28,000 students representing approximately 1,100 teams from almost every state in the United States, as well as Brazil, Canada, United Kingdom, Mexico, Ecuador, Ghana and Israel.

Detroit Area Campus employees celebrate their eighth year as the sponsor of the Rochester Adams High School FIRST Robotics Competition Team. In addition to being the team's primary corporate sponsor, the company's Auburn Hills location also is providing access to its machining and fabrication facilities, as well as employee volunteers from a variety of career paths. Longtime mentor, Paul Slaby dedicates about 500 hours each year

to mentor the FIRST students.

The company's Huntsville location is continuing its support of the program by sponsoring the Rocket City Robotics FIRST Robotics team out of Limestone Technical Career Center in Athens, Ala. Siemens VDO – Huntsville employees Joe Herbon, Grant Reeves, Ed Sparks and Dana Hobbs donate more than 20 hours a week to the team of students who have been meeting since early last September in preparation for the 2006 season.

"Through FIRST, we see how an individual child understands the power he or she alone has to make a positive difference," said Huntsville Transitional Employee Dana Hobbs. "The same child sees the strength of working in a team and has the desire to do wonderful things for our world."

Siemens VDO locations in Ontario, Canada also donate their time and effort to the Windsor, Ontario, Canada-based

Kingsville High School First Robotics Team. In addition to financing the team's entry fee, Paul Howlett of the Windsor facility provides mentor assistance to the 20-25 students participating this year.

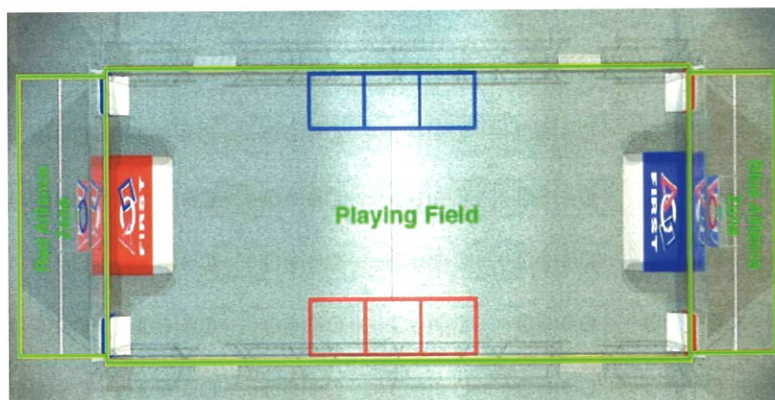
The FIRST Robotics Competition formally kicked off on Jan. 7, 2006 at Southern New Hampshire University in N.H., where teams were shown this year's challenge and playing field, and received a standard kit of components. Teams have a total of six weeks to construct a robot that may compete in any of the 33 regional events being held across United States and Canada.

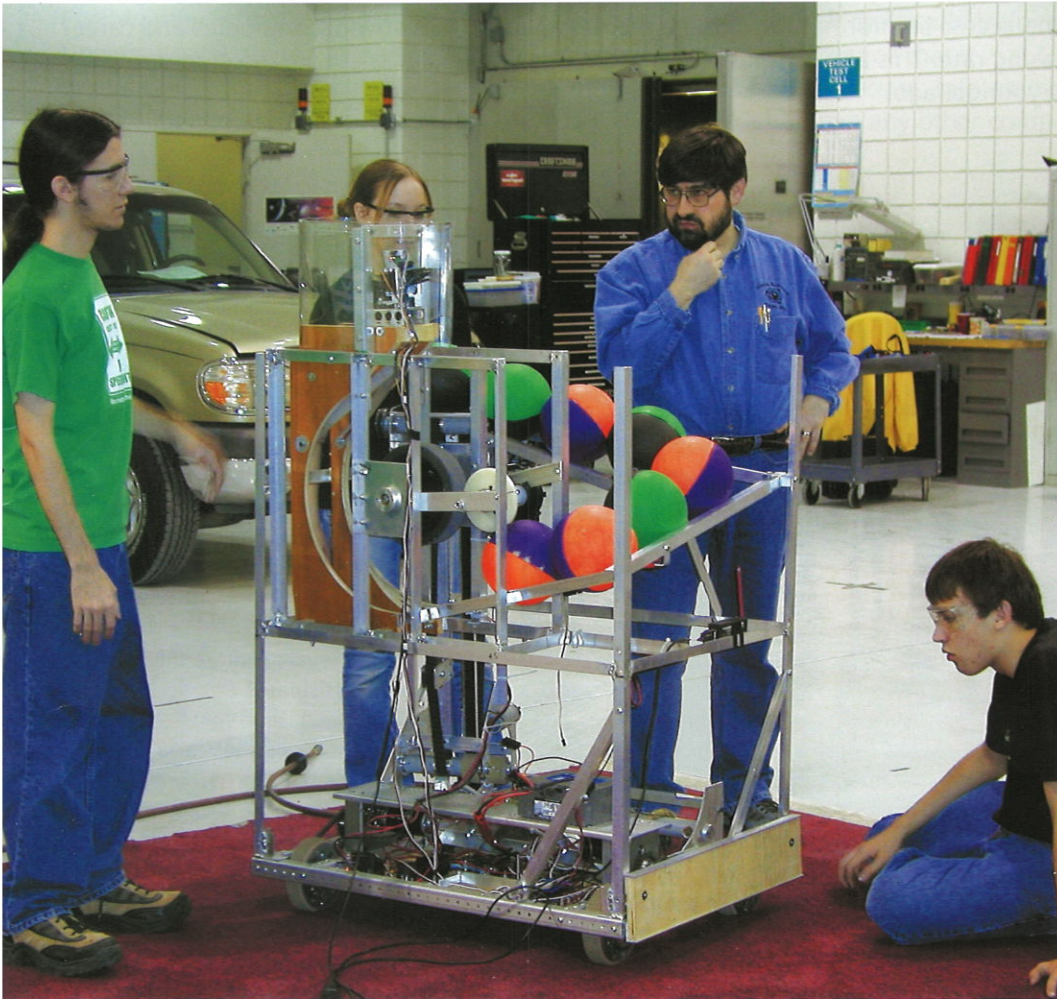
The 2006 Challenge

This year's 2006 FIRST Robotics Competition "AIM HIGH" challenge is a three-on-three alliance competition, with three-on-two offense and defense periods, where the goal is to design and construct a robot to launch balls and push balls into goals and baskets. Much like a basketball game, each match will consist of four

The 2006 FIRST Robotics Competition playing field...

The Playing Field is a rectangular area in which the robots compete. The Red and Blue Alliance Stations are rectangular areas, each consisting of three team stations, which are located outside of the ends of the playing field. The three teams that make up each alliance play the game from these stations.





The Rochester Adams High School FIRST Robotics team members fine tune the robot's launching mechanism before shipping it to FIRST headquarters where it has to meet the organization's strict qualifications before competing in regional events.

periods. During the first period, the robots start from mid-field positions and are required to operate autonomously for 10 seconds where they may pick up additional points. The alliance with the highest score at the end of autonomous period play will receive a 10-point bonus and be on defense in the next period.

During the second and third periods, one alliance is on offense and is able to score goals, while the other is on defense and cannot score goals. During these offense/

defense periods, the defensive alliance must maintain a "BackBot," which remains on its offensive side of the field either gathering balls or setting-up shots, but not interfering with the offensive alliance. In the third period, the scoring opportunity and the BackBot requirement switch and in the final period both alliances are able to score goals and/or play defense. Before the end of the match, alliance robots must speed back to their end zones and climb the ramp to their prospective finish lines.

The 2006 regional events take place in various cities across the U.S. and Canada during the entire month of March. The championship event is scheduled April 29, 2005 in the Georgia Dome in Atlanta. Additional information on the 2006 FIRST Robotics Competition program can be found on the Internet at www.usfirst.org.