



# News Release

## Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

*“Providing technological innovation for national security for over 40 years.”*

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Competitors’ Conference Set for Autonomous Robotic Ground Vehicle Race**

#### **Organizers of \$1 Million DARPA Grand Challenge to Brief Interested Contestants, Facilitate Team-Building at February 22, 2003, Meeting in Los Angeles**

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), the central research and development organization for the U.S. Department of Defense, announces it will hold a competitors’ conference on February 22, 2003, in Los Angeles for organizations interested in competing in the race of autonomous robotic ground vehicles it will hold in 2004.

This DARPA Grand Challenge is currently scheduled for early 2004, and will run from near Los Angeles to near Las Vegas. The race is intended to spur the accelerated development of autonomous robotic vehicle technologies for military applications, and offers contestants a unique opportunity to help shape this promising new dimension of our national defense. DARPA will award a \$1 million cash prize to the team that most quickly completes the course in less than the prescribed time.

The competitors’ conference will allow organizations and individuals who are interested in competing in the Grand Challenge to find out how they can get involved, meet other contestants, and explore teaming opportunities. DARPA officials will brief attendees on all aspects of race rules and participation in a one-day agenda of sessions.

The competitors’ conference is open to all organizations and individuals who register in advance using the phone, email or web site information listed below. The race web site – [www.darpa.mil/grandchallenge](http://www.darpa.mil/grandchallenge) – also includes the latest information on race rules and eligibility requirements.

Who: Advertisers and corporate sponsors, auto manufacturers and suppliers, defense contractors, futurists, inventors, journalists, off-road racers, robotics engineers, science writers, software designers, technology companies, universities, trailblazers

What: DARPA Grand Challenge Competitors’ Conference

(more)

When: Saturday, February 22, 9:00-4:00 PST

Where: Petersen Automotive Museum  
6060 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036

Information/ grandchallenge@darpa.mil  
Registration: www.darpa.mil/grandchallenge  
866/DARPA-GC (866/327-7242)

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