



News Release

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

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

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DARPA to Accept *Grand Challenge 2005* Applications Beginning August 14

Web Registration Now Available for Participants Conference

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) announced today that it will accept applications for next year's *Grand Challenge* field test beginning with the upcoming Participants Conference in Anaheim, Calif., on August 14.

DARPA *Grand Challenge 2005* Program Manager Ron Kurjanowicz said the agency will accept team applications from the August 14 conference date until February 11, 2005. “The Participants Conference is the real starting point for all serious teams,” Kurjanowicz said, noting that attendees at the Participants Conference will learn all the essential requirements, deadlines, and event timetables leading up to the final event on October 8, 2005. “The Participants Conference also provides an excellent forum for networking and team building,” he said.

The Participants Conference will be held at the Anaheim Marriott from 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. DARPA representatives will discuss the *Grand Challenge 2005* selection process, rules, and entry requirements, and describe the broad parameters of the *Grand Challenge* course. There will be ample opportunity for questions and interaction with the event organizers.

- Registration for the Participants Conference is now accessible through the DARPA *Grand Challenge* web site: www.darpa.mil/grandchallenge. Applications and other vital information about *Grand Challenge 2005* also will be accessible via this site.

DARPA *Grand Challenge 2005* is intended to accelerate research and development in autonomous ground vehicle technology that will help save lives on the battlefield. As with the inaugural event held in March 2004, autonomous ground vehicles will attempt to navigate a challenging course of varying terrain. The team that completes the DARPA *Grand Challenge 2005* route in the shortest amount of time within a specified limit will receive a cash prize of \$2 million.

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DARPA is the central research and development organization for the 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. Congress authorized DARPA to award cash prizes as a means of recognizing outstanding achievements in Defense-related research and development.