

THE 2000 FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION

TEAM UPDATE #10

Date: March 3, 2000

REMINDER:

Be advised that the FIRST staff will be traveling to the events for the next 5 weeks. The staff will be using voice mail if anyone needs to reach them.

SAFETY GLASSES

ALL TEAMS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING THEIR OWN SAFETY GLASSES AT EVERY EVENT. Safety glasses must be worn by all team members in the alliance stations during matches (Robot Operators, Human Players and Coaches). **FIRST WILL NOT PROVIDE SAFETY GLASSES.** Safety glasses must be worn by team members when working on their robot in the pit area. They are also highly recommended if adjacent neighboring team(s) are working on their robot(s).

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT SPARE INNOVATION FIRST PRODUCTS AT REGIONAL AND NATIONAL EVENTS

FIRST is no longer providing replacements for electronic components at events. Teams are now responsible for all spare Innovation First products required at events (Robot Controller, Operator Interfaces, Radios, Victors, and Spikes). To handle emergency circumstances, FIRST will have a minimal amount of "loaner" units available on a first-come first-served basis. These "loaners" must be returned to FIRST at the end of each event. Innovation First personnel will be supporting the regional and national events. Therefore, during the regional and national period, Innovation First will not be answering their technical support line. Innovation First will continue to take online orders, ship products, and answer email. Innovation First will not have units for sale at the events.

FIRST POLICY ON REPLACEMENT OF KIT PARTS

If you experience a failure in any of the items mentioned below, please review the appropriate documentation to insure that the components are correctly configured. If this does not resolve the problem, you will be instructed to follow the steps outlined below. Please note the differences in procedure based on the component that is determined to be inoperative.

- FIRST has a limited quantity of replacement parts available. If, during examination of components, a failure is determined to be due to misuse or miswiring, in general only one additional unit will be supplied, or the original unit will be repaired only once. FIRST reserves the right to refuse to provide replacements to teams which break the same part over and over.
- To receive a replacement part, you must exchange your damaged part at the Spare Parts Booth located in the Pit at each Regional. No replacements will be given without the exchange of the part.

- FIRST does not provide “spare” parts to teams. When possible, FIRST will provide teams with information on who to contact to obtain spare kit parts. However, due to the nature of how the Kit of Parts is assembled, there may be some kit parts for which spares are simply not available. Teams wishing to obtain extra parts for use in robot development or to have on hand as backup should utilize regular retail channels or consult the supplier contact information in Appendix G. If contact information for a part supplier is not listed in the supplier contact information, it is because they are not prepared to supply parts directly to teams. **Please do not contact parts suppliers if they are not listed in the supplier contact information.**

INVITATIONAL EVENT WORKSHOP

Mike Bastoni, founder of “Rumble at the Rock”, will be presenting a workshop on how to start and develop invitational events in the off-season. This workshop will present a template outlining the basics of creating an event and making it thrive. The workshop will be held on Thursday, April 6, 2000 from 4:30 to 6:00 PM at Walt Disney World’s EPCOT. Any teams interested in starting an invitational event should send a representative to this workshop. Seating will be first come, first serve and sign up information will be available at pit administration on morning of the workshop.

PHOTOS

FIRST would like all of our Competition teams to send their best digital photos of upcoming FIRST regional events to sharingFIRST for all to see, and for FIRST to have in one place as a collection for media needs. Tom Gray, Woodie's assistant and master of sharingFIRST, will make a section for digital photos accessible to everyone, no password needed. People can email pictures in JPG form to tomgray@mit.edu.

AWARD’S INFORMATION

The name of the award known as the Delphi Power to Simplify Award has been changed to DEPLHI “DRIVING TOMORROW’S TECHNOLOGY’ AWARD. Please make a note of this.

TIME TO TAKE BEST ADVANTAGE OF WAYS TO CELEBRATE THE CONTRIBUTION YOUNG WOMEN MAKE TO YOUR TEAM!

March 15, 2000 is the deadline for you to nominate a young woman as an exceptional contributor to your FIRST Team's success. The Autodesk "Design Your Future" Award recognizes that contribution with an internship at Autodesk and a cash award to the nominating high school. Guidelines for the Award are included in your Competition Manual and are posted on the FIRST Web site. You can submit your entry in hard copy or as a WORD attachment to an email to Laura London <laura.london@autodesk.com>. To give you an understanding of what's at the heart of the award, we invite you all to read the following letter sent to us from Colleen Shaver, the recipient of the 1999 Design Your Future Award. Please look at this letter at <http://www.usfirst.org/2000comp/Autodesk/letter.pdf>.

CATCH A SNEAK PREVIEW OF THE AUTODESK AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE 2000, ON-SITE AT EPCOT!

Make time, if you can, to catch a "Sneak Preview" of the competition for The Autodesk Award 2000, on-site at Walt Disney World's EPCOT April 6 and 7. This is a pre-Awards Ceremony to get a look at a sampling of entries for this year's award competition. Something to generate some excitement, share some learning, and build out celebration of all the cool animation work done this year. Open to one and all, there will be two different preview evenings: Thursday April 6, from 7PM - 8PM on the Einstein Stage and Friday April 7, from 6PM - 7PM, also on Einstein. And because we're thinking the competition for this award is pretty sophisticated, we are bringing in a sophisticated MAX guru to M.C. the evening preview events. Ted Boardman is recognized in professional, educational, and (definitely) FIRST communities as a design/visualization and animation expert, a gracious professional, and a totally cool guy. In addition to being on hand to host the evening hours, Ted and Autodesk representatives will be available throughout the National Championship to answer questions, help you evaluate this year's efforts, help you plan for 2001, or just swap stories over a soda. A great opportunity and we hope some fun. A chance for Autodesk to recognize great student work and thank you all for competing for the Award. Of course, the actual winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony on Saturday night. But beginning Thursday, there'll be a buzz...we hope you can be there.

HOMETOWN MEDIA INFORMATION REQUESTED FOR NATIONAL

The FIRST Media Coordinator is asking all teams that have registered to compete at the National Championship to please send a mailing address, telephone and fax numbers, and at least one contact name for your hometown newspapers, TV news departments, and radio stations, so that they may be contacted with news about your performance from Walt Disney World's EPCOT. Please email this information to sandra@usfirst.org. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.