

MEDIA ADVISORY



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For Immediate Release

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#1102

University of Michigan World Champion Robotics Team to Receive \$750,000 at Sunday's Basketball Game vs. Iowa

U-M robots to take part in presentation, explore court

ANN ARBOR, Mich. – The University of Michigan's "Team Michigan" – winners of an inaugural worldwide robotics competition in Australia – will receive their first-place check of \$750,000 during this Sunday's (Jan. 30) Michigan men's basketball game vs. Iowa.

Team Michigan – which deployed 14 robots controlled by only two operators – bested teams from around the world in a complicated mapping exercise during the Multi Autonomous Ground-robotic International Challenge (MAGIC 2010).

A joint initiative of Australia's Defence Science and Technology Organisation and the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center, MAGIC 2010 spanned more than two years with a stated goal of furthering the development of robotic teams that could operate autonomously in dangerous situations, keeping Soldiers out of harm's way.

TARDEC's Jim Overholt, Army Senior Research Scientist – Robotics, will present the ceremonial, five-foot check to Team Michigan and partner SoarTech (Ann Arbor, Mich.) on behalf of both countries during a stoppage in play. Team Michigan robots will take part in the presentation and explore the court.

ABOUT MAGIC 2010

Earning second place in MAGIC 2010 and a \$250,000 grant was the team from the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia). Team Reconnaissance and Autonomy for Small Robots – RASR – (Gaithersburg, Md.) earned \$100,000 for third place.

Rounding out the top five teams that competed in the Grand Challenge at the Royal Showgrounds in Adelaide, South Australia, were Cappadocia (Ankara, Turkey) and MAGICian (Perth, Australia).

MAGIC 2010 featured some of the world's most ground-breaking robotics technologies as the teams deployed 43 robots to navigate a 250,000-square-meter indoor and outdoor course over three-and-a-half hours. Teams were judged on a number of factors including the maps they produced and the time they took to complete three increasingly complex challenge phases. Teams were penalized for the amount of time they manipulated their robots manually.

A MAGIC video is available here: <http://on.fb.me/eipv0P>

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ABOUT TARDEC

Headquartered at the U.S. Army Detroit Arsenal in Warren, MI, TARDEC is the Nation's laboratory for advanced military automotive technology and serves as the Ground Systems Integrator for all Department of Defense (DOD) manned and unmanned ground vehicle systems. With roots dating back to the World War II era, TARDEC is a full life-cycle, systems engineering support provider-of-first-choice for all DOD ground combat and combat support weapons, equipment and vehicle systems. TARDEC develops and integrates the right technology solutions to improve Current Force effectiveness and provides superior capabilities for Future Force integration. TARDEC's technical, scientific and engineering staff lead cutting-edge research and development in Ground Systems Survivability; Power and Mobility; Ground Vehicle Robotics; Force Projection; and Vehicle Electronics and Architecture. TARDEC is a major research, development and engineering center for Research, Development and Engineering Command and an enterprise partner in the TACOM Life Cycle Management Command.

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