

Press Release



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For Immediate Release

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U.S. Army's 2010 Robotics Rodeo Powers Down, Plans Being Made for Rodeo III

U.S. ARMY DETROIT ARSENAL, MI & FORT BENNING, GA – The 2010 U.S. Army Robotics Rodeo has concluded and, as prominent robotics technologists from across the country return home, lessons learned from the second-ever event are being assessed and plans for the next Rodeo are being developed.

For 2010 at Fort Benning, 50 exhibitors displayed their most forward-looking technologies and demonstrated how those unmanned systems can support current and future military operations, disaster relief and humanitarian support efforts. In total, 65 technologies were demonstrated and more than 1,000 people – including local students and Soldiers – took part. The event was organized by the Army's focal point for ground robotics, the Warren, MI-based Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC).

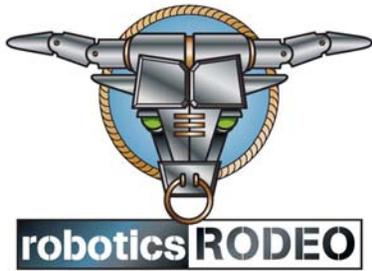
"This Robotics Rodeo was a great success for the Army and for the local community," explained Dr. Jim Overholt, the Army's chief research scientist for robotics. "We had the opportunity to see some of the latest and best robotics systems, especially in the areas of unmanned air vehicle and unmanned ground vehicle collaboration, common controllers and state-of-the-art vision and mobility systems."

The event, which concluded Oct. 15, challenged technology innovators to participate in both task-based events and open robotics demonstrations with stated goals of motivating the industry, educating developers and observing the current state of ground robotics technology and artificial intelligence.

The 2010 Rodeo follows the success of the Army's inaugural Robotics Rodeo held in Sept. 2009 at Fort Hood, TX, co-hosted by III Corps and TARDEC.

TARDEC co-hosted the 2010 Robotics Rodeo at Fort Benning with the Army's Maneuver Center of Excellence. Fort Benning and The Maneuver Center provide trained, adaptive and ready Soldiers and leaders for an Army at war. Further, they develop future requirements for the individual Soldier and maneuver force. More information is available at: <https://www.benning.army.mil>.

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According to Overholt, planning has begun for the next Robotics Rodeo, although no time frame has been set. More information will be available at www.tardec.info/roboticsrodeo/.

ABOUT TARDEC

Headquartered at the 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; Intelligent Ground Systems; 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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NOTE: A full complement of photos (<http://on.fb.me/ayBBdc>) and videos (<http://on.fb.me/9oRyNN>) from Robotics Rodeo 2010 are available.

For more information about TARDEC, visit us at www.tardec.army.mil. You can also follow us on Twitter at http://twitter.com/TARDEC_PAO.