AUVSIfoundation
ASSOCIATION FOR UNMANNED
VEHICLE SYSTEMS INTERNATIONAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Student-Built Robotic Boats Return to Virginia Beach Competition
7th Annual International RoboBoat Competition
Virginia Beach – July 11-13, 2014

Arlington, VA – July 8, 2014 – Student teams from 13 national and international universities, including Old Dominion University, will compete for up to $20,000 in cash prizes during the 7th Annual International RoboBoat Competition to be held July 11-13 at the Founders Inn and Spa in Virginia Beach, VA.

Hosted by the AUVSI Foundation and the U.S. Office of Naval Research, the competition provides students with an opportunity to demonstrate system engineering skills by designing and building robotic boats capable of navigating an aquatic obstacle course. The event offers students valuable hands-on learning experience outside the classroom and brings together young engineers and the companies developing commercial robotic platforms.

The RoboBoat competition is comprised of two parts; design and performance. In the design portion of the event, teams must demonstrate an innovative system concept, rigorous engineering, and construction of a vehicle to perform the mission. They must also create a team website and present a paper on their design to a panel of judges comprised of leaders in the unmanned systems industry.

In the performance portion of the competition, the RoboBoats must accomplish a variety of tasks autonomously (without any external human inputs). The 2014 Mission consists of two mandatory tasks (weight and thrust measurement and basic navigation) and four mission tasks (obstacle avoidance, automated docking, acoustic beacon positioning, underwater light identification). An optional task (for extra points) includes an automated return to dock.

Daryl Davidson, executive director of the AUVSI Foundation said, "This event is ideal preparation for engineering students entering the workforce. They must assemble a multi-skilled team to design the vehicle, raise funds to build it and pitch the design to experts in the field before the boat ever enters the water. That makes these students hyper-qualified to make an immediate impact for companies working in robotics."

Open to the public and free of charge. The event schedule is:

Friday, July 11	8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.—Practice Runs
Saturday, July 12	8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.—Qualifying Runs
	10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.—SeaPerch (underwater robot) Demonstration
Sunday, July 13	8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.—Qualifying Runs/Last Chance Competition
	10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.—SeaPerch (underwater robot) Demonstration

Wednesday, July 9th and Thursday, July 10th—Team Practice—Open to the media

A live webcast of the competition finals may be viewed online at www.RoboBoat.org on Sunday, July 13 from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. EST. The webcast is hosted by Dr. Zoz Brooks, well known for his role on Discovery Channel's television show *Prototype This!*

Media Open House will take place on **Friday at 10:00 a.m.** at the Founders Inn. If you would like to attend the open house please RSVP to Pamela Smith at smith@auvsifoundation.org.

Team participating in the 2014 RoboBoat Competition include:

Cedarville University (Cedarville, OH)	*University of Central Florida (Orlando, FL)*
Diponegoro University (Semarang, Indonesia)	*University of Florida (Gainesville, FL)*
Embry-Riddle Aeronical University (Daytona Beach, FL)	*University of Texas at Arlington (Arlington, TX)*
Florida Atlantic University (Dania Beach, FL)	*University of Michigan (Ann Arbot, MI)*
Georgia Institute of Technology (Atlanta, GA)	*University of Rhode Island (Narragansett, RI)*
National Cheng Kung University (Tainan, Taiwan)	*Villanova University (Villanove, PA)*
Old Dominion University (Norfolk, VA)	

For more information on the 7th Annual International RoboBoat Competition, please visit www.RoboBoat.org.

AUVSI Foundation

The AUVSI Foundation is a nonprofit, charitable organization that was established to sponsor, promote, and conduct educational and scientific activities to develop the next generation of robotics and unmanned systems professionals through the development of education programs and competitions.

As a 501(c)(3) organization, the Foundation is able to accept tax-deductible donations from individuals, corporations and other nonprofit organizations.

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