



## OVER \$9.6 MILLION IN FIRST SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

**T**HIS YEAR, high-school students participating on FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) teams can take advantage of nearly 500 individual scholarship opportunities, with a combined value of over \$9.6 million. Students on FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) teams are eligible to apply for nearly 360 of these scholarship opportunities

(72 percent of them) totaling over \$7 million. Over 26 new scholarship providers have joined the program this year, growing the number of organizations providing scholarships to over 100, spread throughout the U.S. and Canada. While the majority of scholarship opportunities are awarded by colleges or universities for enrollment at their campus, a few are provided by corporations and professional associations for use at any

college. The scholarships range in value from \$500 up to \$130,000 (full tuition for four years). Some scholarships may be used for any course of study; others are specifically awarded for undergraduate degrees in engineering, science, math, art and technology. Most of these scholarships are merit-based and are offered to high-school seniors, although there are a handful of scholarships for which juniors can apply.

### “QUAD QUANDARY” SUPPORTS GROWTH FOR FIRST TECH CHALLENGE

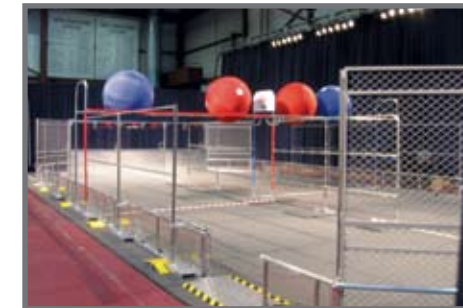


The FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) 2007 season is going strong! The program is expected to grow more than 40 percent this year, with over 675 teams from Canada and the U.S. already signed up, and a total of 30 Championship Tournaments, including new events in Tennessee, Illinois, Nevada, Ohio and Maryland.

This year's game challenge, Quad Quandary, involves moveable goals, rings and a whole lot of action! Teams push the moveable goals into their alliance's quadrant to rack up points. The real challenge is picking up and placing rings on posts of the moveable goals as the frenzy begins. By the end of the match, the alliance's strategy is key to ensuring success.

FIRST Tech Challenge staff members have been touring events and have been impressed by the level of professionalism and enthusiasm in the teams. Over 8,000 students are participating in this year's event.

### FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION KICKS INTO “OVERDRIVE”



It was standing room only in the gymnasium at Southern New Hampshire University on Saturday, January 5, 2008 as the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) opened its seventeenth season with the unveiling of the 2008 engineering challenge.

Students and mentors packed the room, sharing in the excitement and anticipation. Still more teams across four continents gathered at 49 local Kick-offs, tuning in to the NASA TV broadcast and webcast. Immediately following the Kick-off broadcast, the clock started ticking for six intense weeks of brainstorming, designing, building and programming. Built from a common kit of parts that includes motors, batteries, a control system and a mix of automation components, students' robots will race around an oval track knocking down 40" inflated Trackballs and

moving them around the track, passing them either over or under a 6'6" overpass. Extra points are scored by robots positioning the Trackballs back on the overpass before the end of the two-minute and fifteen-second match.

The largest-ever FRC season will involve over 1,500 teams in Brazil, Canada, Chile, Israel, Mexico, The Netherlands, the U.K. and every state in the U.S. New events in Honolulu, Minneapolis, Oklahoma City and Seattle bring the total number of 2008 Regional events to 41.

### DEAN KAMEN RECEIVES 2007 ASME MEDAL

After years of supporting the FIRST organization with mentors, scholarships and passionate volunteers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) has awarded FIRST founder Dean Kamen with the prestigious Gold Award in 2007. The ASME Medal, established in 1929, is the highest award that the Society can bestow and is to recognize “eminently distinguished engineering achievement.” Only one ASME Medal may be awarded annually. The 2007 Award honored Kamen “For distinguished technology management achievements, and for service to society and the community.”

