



For Immediate Release

MEDIA ADVISORY

**Robot Madness: Local Students Demonstrate Engineering Excellence in *FIRST*[®] *STEAMWORKS*SM
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Set to Host New York Tech Valley Regional *FIRST*[®] Robotics Competition**

DATE: March 16-18, 2017

TIME: Three-Day Competition (*See Schedule Below*)

PLACE: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, East Campus Athletic Village

EVENT: We have a great visual education story for you. Next week, high school students, along with hundreds of teachers, industry mentors, parents, and 3,000 pounds of metal, gears, and electronics, will test their skills in a unique competition where math, science, and engineering excellence are celebrated. This year, [Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute](#) will once again host the [New York Tech Valley Regional](#) competition, March 16-18, on the Rensselaer campus in the East Campus Athletic Village.

The New York Tech Valley *FIRST* Robotics Competition combines the excitement of sports with the rigors of science and technology. In its fourth year, the [New York Tech Valley *FIRST*[®]](#) Regional Robotics Competition is the ultimate Sport for the Mind[™] where imagination and innovation come together. Working with adult mentors, students had six weeks to design, build, program, and test their robots to meet the season's engineering challenge. By combining the excitement of sport and beauty of art with the rigors of science and technology, teams of high school students are challenged to design a team "brand," hone teamwork skills, and build and program robots to perform tasks against a field of competitors, according to the organization.

This year, 36 teams of high school students from the Capital Region, New York state, South Carolina, Canada, India, and Turkey will participate in the competition. The 2017 competition, *FIRST STEAMworks*SM, invites two adventure clubs from an era in which technology relied on steam power to prepare their airships for the ultimate long-distance race.

The competition schedule for March 16-18 includes:

- **Thursday, March 16:** Robot Inspections: Students calibrate controls and electronics for optimizing robot performance, 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. Practice matches will take place from noon to 6:00 p.m.
- **Friday, March 17:** Opening ceremony at 8:15 a.m. with brief remarks from several sponsors. Qualifying matches will immediately follow through 5:45 p.m.; Awards ceremony, 5:45 to 6:45 p.m.
- **Saturday, March 18:** Opening ceremony begins at 9 a.m., with remarks from sponsors and state/local elected officials. Qualifying matches will take place until noon. Final rounds, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Awards ceremony and closing sponsors remarks from 4:45 to 6 p.m.

FIRST Robotics Competition New York Tech Valley Regional sponsors and volunteers come from some of the most highly regarded organizations, including Bechtel, GE, National Grid, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, GLOBALFOUNDRIES, ASML, KLA-Tencor, M+W Group, Mattson Technology Inc., Turner Construction Company, AMAT, Lam Research, SCREEN Semiconductor Solutions, Wonik IPS, Edwards Vacuum, Applied Materials, infrastructure, and PDF Solutions. Sponsors provide resources including time and talent from professional mentors, services, equipment, financial contributions, and volunteers. For more information about the New York Tech Valley Regional, visit: <http://techvalleyfirst.org/>

Media Parking: Media may park in the upper level parking, East Campus Athletic Village D lot, provided media credentials are displayed.

About *FIRST*[®]

Accomplished inventor [Dean Kamen](#) founded *FIRST*[®] (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) in 1989 to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people. Based in Manchester, N.H., *FIRST* designs accessible, innovative programs to build self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills while motivating young people to pursue opportunities in science, technology, and engineering. With support from over 200 of the Fortune 500 companies and more than \$30 million in college scholarships, the not-for-profit organization hosts the [FIRST[®] Robotics Competition](#) for students in Grades 9-12; [FIRST[®] Tech Challenge](#) for Grades 7-12; [FIRST[®] LEGO[®] League](#) for Grades 4-8; and [FIRST[®] LEGO[®] League Jr.](#) for Grades K-4. [Gracious Professionalism[®]](#) is a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community. To learn more about *FIRST*, go to www.firstinspires.org

About Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, founded in 1824, is America's first technological research university. For nearly 200 years, Rensselaer has been defining the scientific and technological advances of our world. Rensselaer faculty and alumni represent 85 members of the National Academy of Engineering, 17 members of the National Academy of Sciences, 25 members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 8 members of the National Academy of Medicine, 8 members of the National Academy of Inventors, and 5 members of the National Inventors Hall of Fame, as well as 6 National Medal of Technology winners, 5 National Medal of Science winners, and a Nobel Prize winner in Physics. With 7,000 students and nearly 100,000 living alumni, Rensselaer is addressing the global challenges facing the 21st century—to change lives, to advance society, and to change the world. To learn more, go to www.rpi.edu.

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