



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Rebecca Berggren

FIRST Robotics

outreach@sandiegoregional.com / 619.838.4860

LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS COMPETE TO QUALIFY FOR FIRST[®] INTERNATIONAL ROBOTICS CHAMPIONSHIP, MARCH 7-9

*Over 1,500 High School Students Learn Problem-Solving and Teamwork in Addition to
Designing and Building Robots by Working with Professional Mentors*

[San Diego, Calif., March 5, 2019] — Over 1500 high-school students from San Diego, California, Hawaii, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, the Netherlands and Chinese Taipei will have the opportunity to showcase their hard work after an intense six weeks of designing and building an original robot in the FIRST[®] (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition (www.firstinspires.org). This week at the [Del Mar Arena](#), 47 teams of students and engineering and technical Mentors will demonstrate their skill for science, mathematics, and technology. They will compete for honors and recognition that reward design excellence, competitive play, sportsmanship, and high-impact partnerships between schools, businesses, and communities.

Founded by inventor Dean Kamen, who introduced the Slingshot™ water purification system and the “Luke” robotic prosthetic arm, FIRST was created to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people, their schools, and their communities. The FIRST Robotics Competition anticipates 3,940 teams in the U.S. and more than 30 other countries worldwide to compete in 62 Regional Events, 100 District Events, and 11 District Championships.

More than 1,500 students will compete at the [13th Annual San Diego Regional presented by Qualcomm](#) to earn a spot at the international FIRST[®] Championship to be held April 17th-20th at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas.

DESTINATION: DEEP SPACE presented by Boeing, the 2019 FIRST Robotics Competition game, finds teams collecting samples on Planet Primus. Two competing alliances will combat unpredictable terrain and weather patterns, making remote robot operation essential to their

mission on the planet. With only two minutes and thirty seconds until liftoff, the alliances must gather as many cargo pods as possible and prepare their spaceships for departure before the next sandstorm arrives.

Qualcomm is excited to return as the title sponsor of the San Diego Regional competition,” said Angela Baker, Director of Corporate Responsibility, Qualcomm Incorporated. “As a global company that’s spearheading the Invention Age, the time without barriers to invention, we believe that helping to support the world’s next generation of innovators and increasing access to STEM is critical. That’s why we invest in programs like FIRST, to help inspire these young minds who will someday help invent the technology the world loves and needs.”

This season, participating *FIRST* students are eligible to apply for more than \$80 million in scholarships being made available by nearly 200 scholarship providers.

Over a six-week timeframe, students work with professional engineering Mentors to design a robot that solves a problem using a Kit of Parts and a standard set of rules. Once these young inventors create the robot, their teams participate in regional competitions that measure the effectiveness of each robot, the power of collaboration, and the determination of students.

13th Annual San Diego Regional sponsors and volunteers come from some of the most highly regarded organizations, including Qualcomm Incorporated, Marathon, ViaSat, General Atomics Sciences Education Foundation, Leidos, Hewlett Packard, Booz Allen Hamilton and Solar Turbines. Sponsors provide resources including time and talent from professional Mentors, services, equipment, financial contributions, and Volunteers.

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 \$50 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

###