

CONTACTS

News Release

University Rover Challenge

Kevin Sloan
(814) 574-1211
kfsloan@gmail.com

TASC

Jay McCaffrey
(703) 633-8413
Jay.McCaffrey@TASC.com

Rover Competition Takes Students to New Heights

University Rover Challenge Partners with TASC, Inc. for 2010 Competition

May 27, 2010 — The Mars Society's University Rover Challenge (URC) is pleased to announce that TASC, Inc. (TASC) has joined forces with the student competition as the title sponsor for its 2010 event. Now in its fourth year, the international competition challenges university students to design and build the next generation of Mars rovers, NASA's "robot geologists" that have explored the surface of Mars since 2004. Under an oppressive desert sun, the multidisciplinary teams and their rovers will race to locate a distressed astronaut, perform maintenance on a faulty equipment panel, conduct a survey of several distant targets and return a rock sample that contains evidence of microbial life forms.

"Our goal is to foster a strong interest in exciting careers involving science, technology, engineering and math," says Rich Rosenthal, Chief Technology Officer at TASC. "As a leading advanced technology company, TASC is pleased to partner with the next generation of technology innovators in a competition that stimulates their interest and gives them real-world experience in solving tough challenges."

URC 2010 will be held June 3-5 at the Mars Desert Research Station in southern Utah. Nine teams from North America and Europe are finalizing work on their robotic creations to prove that they're ready to work alongside future astronauts on extended missions. The deep field of teams includes the 2009 champion, York University (Toronto, Ontario, Canada), and the 2008 champion, Oregon State University (Corvallis).

"These teams and their rovers are being pitted against tremendously hard problems," says Kevin Sloan, Director of the University Rover Challenge. "The complexity of these tasks and the expertise required to solve them, pushes the leading edge of research in robotics. The students are demonstrating new and exciting ways of performing collaborative human-robot planetary exploration."

The partnership with TASC is the latest step in URC's overall strategy to connect the most talented and ambitious college students with prominent industry leaders. TASC's commitment to engaging aspiring students in bold, complex projects helps prepare them to solve the hard, real-world problems that, for decades, TASC has solved for its customers.

About URC

The University Rover Challenge (URC) is an annual, international competition for college students to design and build the next generation of astronaut-assisting Mars rovers. URC is held by The Mars Society, and international non-profit organization that conducts research and outreach to further promote the goal of human exploration of Mars. URC, now in its fourth year, has engaged hundreds of students and received wide-reaching international coverage. For more information contact Kevin Sloan or visit www.marssociety.org/urc.

About TASC

TASC is the premier, non-conflicted provider of advanced system engineering, integration and decision-support services across the intelligence community, Department of Defense and civilian agencies of the federal government. Formerly a unit of Northrop Grumman Corporation, TASC became an independent company in December 2009. For more than 40 years, TASC has partnered with our customers toward one goal—the success of their missions. Our broad portfolio of services includes system and policy analysis; program, financial and acquisition management; enterprise engineering and integration; advanced concept and technology development; and test and evaluation. With nearly 5,000 employees, TASC generates more than \$1.6 billion in annual revenue. For more information and career opportunities, visit our website at www.tasc.com.

###