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LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS COMPETE TO QUALIFY FOR FIRST[®] INTERNATIONAL ROBOTICS CHAMPIONSHIP, MARCH 24-26

At 17th Annual San Diego FIRST Robotics Competition, 1500+ High School Students Learn Problem-Solving and Teamwork in Addition to Designing and Building Robots

[San Diego, March 20, 2023] — Over 1,500 high-school students from California, Switzerland, Turkey 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[®] Robotics Competition (www.firstinspires.org). This week at UCSD LionTree Arena, 50 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, FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a robotics community preparing young people for the future. Students will compete at the [17th Annual San Diego FIRST Robotics Competition presented by Qualcomm](#) to earn a spot at the international FIRST[®] Championship to be held April 19-22 at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas.

CHARGED UPSM presented by Haas is part of the 2023 FIRST[®] ENERGIZESM presented by Qualcomm season. In CHARGED UP, teams are inspired to see the potential of energy storage in a new light as they compete to charge up their communities. Using renewable energy can transform our communities, but only if it is effectively stored and delivered to those who need it. The power of engineering can help make a meaningful difference. This year's challenge addresses global challenges related to United Nations Sustainable Development Goal #7 -- focused on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.

Qualcomm Incorporated is excited to return as the title sponsor of the San Diego Regional competition," said Angela Baker, Vice President, Government Affairs, Qualcomm Incorporated. "The next generation of technological progress will require innovative thinkers with a passion for science, engineering, technology and math. Through our support of FIRST, Qualcomm is helping to build the pipeline of STEM leaders who will drive the new Invention Age.

With a limited 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.

The **17th Annual San Diego FIRST Robotics Competition** sponsors and volunteers come from some of the most highly regarded organizations, including Qualcomm, the United States Air Force and Viasat. Sponsors provide resources including time and talent from professional Mentors, services, equipment, financial contributions, and volunteers.

About *FIRST*®

[FIRST](#)® is a robotics community that prepares young people for the future through a suite of inclusive, team-based robotics programs for ages 4-18 (PreK-12) that can be facilitated in school or in structured afterschool programs. Boosted by a global support system of volunteers, educators, and sponsors that include over 200 of the Fortune 500 companies, teams operate under a signature set of [FIRST Core Values](#) to conduct research, fundraise, design, build, and showcase their achievements during annual challenges. An international not-for-profit organization founded by accomplished inventor Dean Kamen in 1989, *FIRST* has a [proven impact](#) on STEM learning, interest, and skill-building well beyond high school. [Alumni](#) of *FIRST* programs gain access to exclusive scholarships, internships, and other opportunities that create connections and open pathways to a wide variety of careers. Learn more at firstinspires.org

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