Top Programmer Winners Announced Today in Global Space Robotics Challenge

*Competition Helped NASA Advance Deep Space Exploration*

Kevin Knoedler, (center) Team Coordinated Robotics was awarded first place in the Space Robotics Challenge receiving $125,000 plus a $50,000 bonus award for accomplishing a perfect run where they completed all of the tasks. (From left) Challenge leadership joined Kevin to honor his first place award: William T. Harris, Space Center Houston’s president and CEO, Angela Herblet, PMP, NineSigma, Inc. strategic programs project manager, Dr. Kimberly Hambuchen, NASA Johnson Space Center’s human robotic systems deputy manager, Monserrate Roman, NASA’s Centennial Challenge, Tracy Lamm, Space Center Houston’s COO and Daniel Newmyer, Space Center Houston’s vice president of education.

Representatives from the Challenge’s top 20 finalist teams, along with robotics thought leaders and innovators, participated in a celebration event that culminated with the announcement of the final four winners of the Space Robotics Challenge at Space Center Houston. For more information about the Space Robotics Challenge, visit [www.spaceroboticschallenge.com](http://www.spaceroboticschallenge.com) and [www.spacecenter.org](http://www.spacecenter.org).

Houston-area students competed against each other in a live hackathon with the help of mentoring programmers from around the world at the Space Robotics Centennial Challenge Celebration. NASA
awarded $300,000 today to four teams of citizen inventors as part of the multi-phase Space Robotics Challenge at Space Center Houston. Representatives from the Challenge’s top 20 finalist teams, along with robotics thought leaders and innovators, participated in a celebration event that culminated with the announcement of the final four winners of the Challenge. For more information about the Space Robotics Challenge, visit www.spaceroboticschallenge.com and www.spacecenter.org.

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Robots traversed an obstacle course in a live hackathon at Space Center Houston directed by Houston-area students with the help of mentoring programmers from around the world at the Space Robotics Centennial Challenge Celebration. NASA awarded $300,000 today to four teams of citizen inventors as part of the multi-phase Space Robotics Challenge at Space Center Houston. Representatives from the Challenge’s top 20 finalist teams, along with robotics thought leaders and innovators, participated in a celebration event that culminated with the announcement of the final four winners of the Challenge. For more information about the Space Robotics Challenge, visit www.spaceroboticschallenge.com and www.spacecenter.org.

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About NineSigma
NineSigma helps organizations in the public, private and nonprofit sectors find new solutions, knowledge and partners to accelerate innovation. The leader in creating 'unexpected connections’, NineSigma has
the largest open global network of solvers and an extensive database of existing solutions spanning numerous industries and technical disciplines. The company helps for-profit and nonprofit organizations address problems of a global magnitude through its Grand Challenge innovation programs. Learn more at www.ninesigma.com.

About Space Center Houston
The Manned Space Flight Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit science and space learning center with extensive educational programs. Space Center Houston is the cornerstone of its mission to inspire all generations through the wonders of space exploration. The center draws more than 1 million visitors annually, was called “The Big Draw” by USA Today and generates a $73 million annual economic impact in the greater Houston area. Space Center Houston is a Smithsonian Affiliate and the Official Visitor Center of NASA Johnson Space Center. More than 200,000 teachers and students from around the world visit the center annually to experience our educational space museum with more than 400 things to see and experience. For more information, go to www.spacecenter.org.

About NASA
The National Aeronautics and Space Administration is an independent government agency responsible for the civilian space program, as well as aeronautics and aerospace research. NASA’s goal is to extend our senses to see the farthest reaches of the universe, while pushing the boundaries of human spaceflight farther from Earth than ever before. The Centennial Challenges program is part of the agency’s Space Technology Mission Directorate. Through public challenges, STMD gathers the best and brightest minds in academia, industry and government to drive innovation and enable solutions in important technology focus areas. Learn more at www.nasa.winit.

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