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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GROUP SEEKS \$2 MILLION DEMONSTRATING AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE

NO HUMAN OR REMOTE CONTROLS THE AUTNOMOUS SPIRIT

SAN DIEGO, CA, APRIL 06, 2005: A San Diego based laboratory will be demonstrating Spirit, which is a racing vehicle that has no remote control or human driver. Multiple working autonomous sensors and cameras will be shown from 2PM till 5PM on Tuesday, May 2nd, 2005 at the Torrey Pines Gliderport. Press demonstrations and Ride-Alongs begin at 4PM.

Spirit uses final destination points, GPS waypoints, and sensors to travel off-road hundreds of miles up to 67 MPH. Spirit sits five passengers and is a CA DMV street legal 1994 Jeep Grand Cherokee. Gas, brakes, steering, and gears are actuated by a disabled driver system.

TWO MILLION DARPA GRAND CHALLENGE

DARPA pioneered major technology breakthroughs such as the Internet,

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Stealth aircraft, smart bombs, and pilot-less aircraft.

The DARPA Grand Challenge is a congressionally mandated program that expressly authorizes DARPA to conduct contests and award prizes for advancements in vital technologies. In the 2001 Defense Authorization Act, Congress set a goal that one-third of operational ground combat vehicles will be unmanned by 2015.

Spirit was one of seven vehicles, out of 109 entries, to officially qualify for the inaugural DARPA Grand Challenge. The route navigated a 142-mile course through the Mojave Desert.

Although no team completed the course, the excitement encouraged DARPA to plan a second event, scheduled for October 8, 2005. The prize has been doubled from \$1 million to \$2 million for the vehicle that completes the route quickest.

There are 118 teams vying for 40 National Qualification Event (NQE) slots. The DARPA Grand Challenge will begin with the top twenty teams coming out of the Fontana Speedway's late September NQE.

DARPA is reviewing Spirit's capabilities to insure a NQE invitation. Scheduled are dual DARPA required 200m runs and a third open demonstration.

AUTONOMOUS DRIVING

Axion Racing has eight different types of sensors, fused together with artificial intelligence, to allow Spirit to autonomously drive. Sensors include GPS monitoring, RADAR, LADAR, stereo vision, RGB cameras, FLIR technology, path planning, and sound.

Spirit has best of breed for a Pointing Locating Navigating System (PLANS) GPS monitor. PLANS allow Spirit to know where it is even if GPS signals suffer jamming or multi-path errors. Other sensors work holistically looking forward over 330' avoiding any positive and negative obstacles.

AXOIN RACING

Axion Racing's thirty five members have a Westlake Village corporate office and San Diego laboratory. Including the DGC, team consults with NASA on 2013 robotic mission to dark side of the moon, has been invited to participate in the 2006 NFB Blind Driver Challenge, and later this summer will be offering autonomous Ride-Alongs.

Spirit is a working autonomous vehicle capable of many tasks. Riding with Spirit, anyone can experience the excitement of autonomous driving.

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