



FOR RELEASE: December 10, 2009

Robotics Teams from Saginaw Tournament Advance to FIRST LEGO League State Championship

SAGINAW, Mich. – Nine student teams that competed in the Nov. 21 FIRST LEGO League qualifying tournament sponsored by Nexteer Automotive and Delta College in Saginaw have advanced to the state championship. The event, the culmination of the LEGO League competition, is Saturday, Dec. 12 at Carman Ainsworth Middle School in Flint from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Of the nine teams progressing to the championship, Nexteer mentored four. These teams will join 39 others from seven qualifying tournaments around Michigan. Using research and robotics to solve transportation safety and efficiency issues, students will compete with robots they designed to meet the competition's Smart Move Challenge.

"We're proud that several of our teams have the opportunity to participate in the championship," said David Barnas, executive director of global external affairs at Nexteer Automotive. "Throughout the process they have shown strong character traits and continue to learn technical skills. We're happy to help expose them to the rewards of teamwork, determination and hands-on science."

The following schools advanced from Saginaw's qualifying tournament and will compete on Dec. 12:

- Robodragons: Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy, Saginaw
- Handley Lords & Ladies: Handley Elementary, Saginaw*
- Knights Konnected: Smith Middle School, Troy
- Yellow Jackets: Marist Academy, Pontiac
- Yellow Jackets Too: Marist Academy, Pontiac
- LEGO Bolts: Christ the King Elementary, Sebewaing*
- Retro Robotic Rovers: Woodcrest Elementary/Jefferson Middle, Midland*
- Freeland Frenzy: Freeland Elementary, Freeland*
- OES Rockin' Robots: Oxford Community Schools, Oxford

(* indicates teams mentored by Nexteer engineers.)

The championship is free and open to the public. Top teams from this event could be invited to attend the FIRST LEGO League World Festival in Atlanta next April.

About **FIRST LEGO League**

FIRST LEGO League is an international program created in a partnership between **FIRST** (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) and The LEGO® Group in 1998 based on a common belief that fun and learning go hand-in-hand, and that an inspired mind can accomplish anything. Using LEGO MINDSTORMS® technologies and LEGO play materials, children work alongside adult mentors to design, build and program robots to complete missions based on real-world challenges. After eight weeks, the competition season culminates at high-energy, sports-like tournaments.

Nexteer Automotive

Steering Solutions Services Corp.

3900 Holland Road

Saginaw, MI | 48601-9494 | U.S.A.

Tel: +1-989-757-5000 | Fax: +1-989-757-4022

www.nexteer.com

The competition is judged in four areas: project presentation; robot performance; technical design and programming of the robot; and teamwork. The highest honor will go to the team that best exemplifies the spirit and values of the program. Select teams will also have the opportunity to participate at the *FIRST* LEGO League World Festival, to be held in conjunction with the *FIRST* Championship, April 15-17, 2010 at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, Georgia. www.FIRSTLEGOLeague.org.

About Nexteer Automotive

Nexteer Automotive is a multi-billion dollar global steering and driveline business solely dedicated to electric and hydraulic steering systems, steering columns and driveline products for original equipment manufacturers. Its 6,200 employees serve more than 60 customers in every major region of the world with 15 manufacturing sites, six engineering and 14 customer service centers strategically located in North and South America, Europe and Asia. Nexteer Automotive's customers include GM, Fiat, Ford, Toyota, Chrysler, and PSA Peugeot Citroen, as well as automakers in India, China and South America. www.nexteer.com.

###

For more information, contact:

David Barnas

Executive Director, Global External Affairs

+989/757-6166 (Office Phone)

+248/918-8946 (Mobile Phone)

David.barnas@delphi.com