



For Immediate Release
September 5, 2013

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NATIONAL ROBOTICS LEAGUE FINALS COME HOME TO CLEVELAND

2014 Championships Scheduled for May 16-17

A new site has been selected for this year's spark-flying, metal grinding, destruction-driven robot warrior competition. The 2014 National Robotics League (NRL) Championships will be held in Cleveland, OH at the Harrison-Dillard Track inside the Lou Higgins Center on May 16-17, 2014.

Cleveland is also the national headquarters of the National Tooling and Machining Association (NTMA), the founding organization behind the annual robotic competition. The new venue offers ample space for up to 100 teams and hundreds more spectators, as well as exhibit space for sponsors to interact with students and spectators. By holding the event in Cleveland, teams from some of the most active areas can access the event more quickly and economically.

"After three successful years in Indianapolis, the NRL Finals is coming home to Cleveland," said Maureen Carruthers, NRL Program Manager. "We can't wait for another year of high-tech, action packed competition. The NRL provides a great education for the students who participate while helping build a foundation for the future of our industry. It also happens to be a ton of fun, whether you're competing or just watching the robotic carnage."

The NTMA founded the NRL to help change misperceptions about manufacturing and attract students to high-paying technical careers. The program partners teams of middle school, high school, and post-secondary school students from around the country with manufacturers in their local areas. Students and manufacturers work together to build complex, sophisticated machines designed to face off against one another inside a Plexiglas arena. The result is a fun and exciting event that offers a rare, first-hand opportunity for students to put their engineering skills to work.

"The NRL is a great way to spark student interest in manufacturing careers," said Steve Tamasi, NRL Commissioner and CEO of Boston Centerless. "Some of the most active participants from past competitions now serve manufacturers in scientific and technical roles. In addition to introducing students to careers in our industry, manufacturers that participate get the chance to

build valuable relationships with schools in their area that have the potential to develop into successful internship programs and other partnerships.”

For more information about the National Robotics League event, including ways to get involved as a volunteer or sponsor, contact Maureen Carruthers at mcarruthers@ntma.org.

Visit the NRL website at www.gonrl.org.

For additional information on NTMA, visit www.ntma.org.

About NTMA: NTMA's 1,400 member companies design and manufacture special tools, dies, jigs, fixtures, gages, special machines and precision-machined parts. Some firms specialize in experimental research and development work as well as rapid prototyping. Many NTMA members are privately owned small businesses, yet the industry generates sales in excess of \$40 billion a year. NTMA's mission is to help members of the U.S. precision custom manufacturing industry achieve business success in a global economy through advocacy, advice, networking, information, programs and services.