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***FIRST*[®] Selects the City of St. Louis as Site of
Annual Robotics Championship from 2011 Through 2013**

*Dean Kamen Announces City to Celebrate Organization's 20th Anniversary Event
Showcasing Innovation and Technology for Students K-12*

MANCHESTER, N.H., October 7, 2009 -- [FIRST](#)[®] (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) announced today that it has selected St. Louis to host the worldwide robotics Championship beginning in 2011 and continuing through 2013, including the 20th Anniversary year of the organization's inaugural competition. [Dean Kamen](#), *FIRST* founder, noted inventor and president of DEKA Research and Development, announced the choice at the [Saint Louis Science Center's SciFest 09](#).

St. Louis, with a 66,000 seat arena capacity, was selected from among three finalist cities to host the expanding *FIRST* programs which are projected to reach over 200,000 young people in 50 countries worldwide in its 2010 season.

"St. Louis consistently demonstrates that they truly understand the mission of *FIRST* and the city shares our viewpoint on the importance of helping young people reap the rewards and excitement of education and careers in science and technology," noted Kamen.

The city of St. Louis has held a *FIRST* Regional Competition for eight years and has hundreds of volunteers involved in all four programs at *FIRST* including: Junior *FIRST*[®] LEGO[®] League; *FIRST*[®] LEGO[®] League; *FIRST*[®] Tech Challenge; and *FIRST*[®] Robotics Competition. The local community, spearheaded by the Saint Louis Science Center, assists all of the state's robotics teams with mentors, venues and financial support.

"*FIRST* is confident that the city of St. Louis and its partners will enable us to provide a high-quality experience for our organization's 20th Anniversary year and beyond," said [Paul R. Gudonis](#), president of *FIRST*. "We are pleased and excited to bring 'the super bowl of smarts' to a city which has been such a solid supporter of the mission of *FIRST* for so many years."

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"We were highly impressed by St. Louis' facilities, infrastructure, widespread community support, financial plan and their experience in hosting large-scale sports and cultural events," said Ron Falcone, *FIRST* Championship Site Committee Chairperson. "The excellent quality of the finalist city bids from Atlanta, Georgia; Indianapolis, Indiana and St. Louis, Missouri attest to the enormous amount of time, effort and research from the three finalists and *FIRST* thanks each city for their cooperation."

The *FIRST* Championship games for 2011 – 2013 will be housed at the [America's Center Convention Complex](#) in St. Louis with a total of 502,000 contiguous square feet of exhibit space in six halls, 83 meeting rooms, the 1,411 fixed-seat Ferrara Theatre, the St. Louis Executive Conference Center and The Edward Jones Dome. A total of 21 area hotels will provide rooms for the participants.

The dates for the *FIRST* Championships in St. Louis, Missouri are: April 28-30, 2011; April 26-28, 2012 and April 25-27, 2013.

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About *FIRST*[®]

Accomplished inventor [Dean Kamen](#) founded *FIRST* (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) in 1989 to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people. Based in Manchester, New Hampshire, *FIRST* designs accessible, innovative programs to build self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills while motivating young people to pursue opportunities in science, technology, and engineering. With the support of many of the world's most well-known companies, the not-for-profit organization hosts the [FIRST[®] Robotics Competition](#) and [FIRST[®] Tech Challenge](#) for high-school students, [FIRST[®] LEGO[®] League](#) for children 9-14 years old, and [Junior FIRST[®] LEGO[®] League](#) for 6 to 9 year-olds. To learn more about *FIRST*, go to www.usfirst.org.

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