

PRESS RELEASE

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WHO: Students battling custom-built robots
WHAT: Go head-to-head in a "Bang-Up Bots Bash"
WHEN & WHERE: **Century III Mall - Center Court, West Mifflin, PA**
Friday, April 16 & Saturday, April 17, 2010

Pittsburgh, PA (January 13, 2010) — It's been half a decade since the Pittsburgh Chapter National Tooling & Machining Association (NTMA) and a committed group of manufacturers and educators brought BotsIQ to southwestern PA. It's a battle to the finish of student-made, remote-controlled robots and this year you can expect one exciting "Bang-Up Bots Bash". It will be "survival-of-the-toughest" fight to the finish at Century III Mall on Friday, April 16 & Saturday April 17, 2010.

It will be all of the crunching-metal, spark-flying, smoke-billowing competition you've come to expect from BotsIQ, but this year, with 5 years of experience behind them, the teams will be deploying more sophisticated bots and employing battle-tested strategies sure to amp up the excitement. With 30 returning schools and 6 newbies joining the fray, organizers hope the adrenaline-pumping "Smart Sport" will draw an even larger crowd than past years as every team brings their "A" game.

The NTMA was instrumental in bringing BotsIQ to southwestern Pennsylvania in 2006. Students love BotsIQ because it makes education fun—drawing on their knowledge of math, science, engineering and even public speaking. Educators love BotsIQ because of the enthusiasm it sparks in their students and the resources it provides to their classroom. But, it's the manufacturing industry that is standing behind this "smart sport" because of the potential impact it has on business. Young people who are interested in how things are made are the future of the high-tech manufacturing workforce.

BotsIQ teams and organizers invite the public to join them for a front row seat to see what the hype is all about.

Competing in 2010: Admiral Peary AVTS, Beaver County CTC, Belle Vernon Area HS, Central Valley HS, Central Westmoreland CTC, Clairton HS, Connellsville Area HS, Derry Area HS, Eastern Westmoreland CTC, Fayette County AVTS, Forbes Road CTC, Greater Latrobe Senior HS, Hempfield Area HS, Highlands HS, Kiski Area HS, Lenape Tech, Montour HS, Northern Westmoreland CTC, Norwin HS, Penn Hills HS, Plum HS, Propel Andrew Street HS, Punxsutawney Area HS, Riverview Jr/Sr HS, Schenley/Peabody HS, Serra Catholic HS, Shaler Area HS, Somerset County Technology Center, South Park HS, Springdale Jr/Sr HS, Steel Center AVTS, Sto-Rox HS, United Jr/Sr HS, West Mifflin Area HS, Western PA School for the Deaf

****Due to copyright and mall regulations, anyone taking photos or video taping must have an escort inside the mall. For easier access, please contact Terri Campbell prior to the event to make arrangements. There will also be a media liaison available to coordinate escorts the day of the event, simply call: (724) 575-2420.***

For more information, contact Terri Campbell at (724) 552-0174 or (724) 575-2420 or check out BotsIQ on the web at: www.BotsIQpa.org

**** photos available upon request**