

**For Immediate Release  
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## **Autonomous Vehicle Systems Announces Intent to Enter the 2005 DARPA Grand Challenge**

*Construction begins on driverless vehicle for Department of Defense contest*

SAN DIEGO, CA (September 4, 2004) – Autonomous Vehicle Systems LLC today unveiled its entry for the upcoming Grand Challenge for autonomous robotic vehicles planned by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) of the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD).

Scheduled for October 2005, the DARPA Grand Challenge for autonomous robotic ground vehicles will cover a course of approximately 175 miles across the desert between Los Angeles and Las Vegas. The vehicle that most quickly completes the route in less than 10 hours will receive a cash award of \$2 million. This challenge is intended to spur the accelerated development of autonomous robotic ground vehicle technology for military applications, and is the second in a series of Grand Challenges planned by DARPA.

“We are excited to be a part of this historic event,” said Dr. Michael Vest, President of Autonomous Vehicle Systems. “Vehicles developed for the Grand Challenge will push the capabilities of sensors based navigation for ground vehicles. The breakthroughs developed through this competition will someday save lives on the battlefield as well as on the roads at home.”

Autonomous Vehicle Systems’ entry, *Flying Fox*, is based on a 1987 USMC HMMWV. The platform has been the workhorse for the US Armed Forces for many years. By adapting a driverless system for the HMMWV, Autonomous Vehicle Systems plans to develop a cost effective approach to enhance existing military vehicles. The technologies can also be used in the automotive industry for collision avoidance, pedestrian detection, parking assistance, sleepy driver systems, and advanced transportation systems.

Autonomous Vehicle Systems maintains industry expertise in advanced sensor development, UAV development, autonomous navigation and control, software development, automated machine control, and high performance vehicle modifications. Strategic corporate partners have also joined in the areas of rugged military grade computer systems, navigation sensors, and high speed vision processing.

“This is one of the most experienced and enthusiastic group of individuals and corporate partners I’ve ever had the pleasure to work with,” says Vest.

### **About Autonomous Vehicle Systems**

Autonomous Vehicle Systems LLC brings together industry professionals and research scientists to advance breakthroughs and products in driverless vehicle technology. Based in San Diego, CA, Autonomous Vehicle Systems maintains a vehicle integration center in Fullerton, CA with an international team of highly skilled individuals, corporate partners, and academic institutions. More information is available at [www.autonvs.com](http://www.autonvs.com). Media contact: Dan Komaromi, Vice President. [media@autonvs.com](mailto:media@autonvs.com).

**About DARPA**

DARPA is the central research and development organization for the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). The Agency manages and directs basic and applied research and development projects for DoD, and pursues research and technology where the risk and payoff are both very high and where success may provide dramatic advances for traditional military roles and missions.

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