



400 Collins Road NE  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52498

## News Release

### **Rockwell Collins commits \$1.3 million to *FIRST* programs for young people**

**CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (Aug. 17, 2007)** – In an effort to bolster student interest in science, technology, math and engineering, Rockwell Collins is teaming with *FIRST* (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) to dramatically increase *FIRST* LEGO League and *FIRST* Tech Challenge teams throughout Iowa and across the nation. Rockwell Collins will contribute \$1.3 million over the first two years to launch the program, building the ongoing commitment to *FIRST* to \$1 million annually.

Rockwell Collins Chairman, President and CEO Clay Jones and *FIRST* founder Dean Kamen made the announcement Friday at Rockwell Collins' annual K-12 Partnership Kickoff Breakfast in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

"The United States has fallen behind the rest of the world when inspiring our young people to become technologically proficient," said Jones. "We're confident that by teaming with *FIRST*, we can make a significant impact on young people. By motivating our students to take an interest in programs that put science and math to work, we can help regain our competitive edge."

"Rockwell Collins is a model for corporate involvement in creating the workforce of tomorrow," said Kamen. "Rockwell Collins recognizes the value and power that *FIRST* has in inspiring students to pursue science and technology careers. With this significant increase in support of *FIRST* programs, the company is taking a leadership role in the education of the next generation of innovators."

Based on research conducted by Brandeis University, *FIRST* participants are twice as likely to attend college, three times as likely to major specifically in engineering, and nine times as likely to have an internship with a company while in college. For women and minorities, the results are equally dramatic. Young women are four times more likely to go on to studies in science and engineering, while minority members of *FIRST* teams are more than twice as likely to enter these fields.

Rockwell Collins' initial investment is aimed at creating 100 *FIRST* LEGO League teams in Iowa and 60 teams near Rockwell Collins' locations throughout the country. In addition to financial support, Rockwell Collins employees will be active volunteers in the program, and teachers serving as team coaches will receive financial support.

*FIRST* created the *FIRST* LEGO League to encourage 9 to 14 year-olds to explore Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) concepts through an annual real-world Challenge, which engages them in authentic scientific research and hands-on robotics design. Teams of up to 10 players compete in sports-like atmosphere with a focus on team building, problem solving, creativity and analytical thinking.

Rockwell Collins and *FIRST* are also teaming up to support *FIRST*'s newest high school robotics program, *FIRST* Tech Challenge. This program expansion will allow high school students to grow their interest in science and technology as they get older. Rockwell Collins will initially establish 100 *FIRST* Tech Challenge teams in Iowa high schools with the goal of making the program available to all 358 high schools in the state by 2010.

"The high school programs will provide a continuum for students to sharpen their skills as they prepare for college," said Jones. "We envision LEGO League and FIRST Tech Challenge as a feeder program that will help fill the pipeline for technology professionals for years to come."

Jones says the *FIRST* and Rockwell Collins' Engineering Experiences programs are taking learning out of the textbooks and into the hands of students, providing experiences young people need to be involved with if the U.S. is going to compete in a global marketplace. Rockwell Collins' Engineering Experiences, in which *FIRST* is a major component, is the umbrella program for a multitude of opportunities for students to work hands-on with real world applications of math and science.

Regarding the need to bolster STEM education in the U.S., Jones cited an alarming report, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm," by the National Academy of Sciences, which presents evidence that math and science must become a priority in our schools. For example, China, India and countries that were part of the Soviet Union are aggressively preparing their students with the technology skills needed for tomorrow's workforce. Most of those countries have the competitive advantage of a low wage structure.

#### **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, N.H., *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, the *FIRST* LEGO League for children 9-14 years old, and the Junior *FIRST* LEGO League for 6 to 9 year-olds. To learn more about *FIRST*, go to [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org).

#### **About Rockwell Collins**

Rockwell Collins (NYSE: COL) is a pioneer in the development and deployment of innovative communication and aviation electronics solutions for both commercial and government applications. Our expertise in flight deck avionics, cabin electronics, mission communications, information management and simulation and training is delivered by 20,000 employees, and a global service and support network that crosses 27 countries. To find out more, please visit [www.rockwellcollins.com](http://www.rockwellcollins.com).

Media Contact:

Pam Tvrdy

319.295.0591

[pjtvrdy@rockwellcollins.com](mailto:pjtvrdy@rockwellcollins.com)

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