



DEFENSE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY

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ARLINGTON, VA 22203-1714

Team Overbot  
Attn: John Nagle  
2682 Middlefield Rd, Unit N  
Redwood City, CA 94063

NOV 05 2003

Dear Mr. Nagle:

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) received comments from some Grand Challenge entrants questioning the site visit requirement announced in our letter of October 28, 2003. The comments essentially said the site visit requirement would be a burden, and represented a "change" to the Grand Challenge rules.

In light of these comments, I have decided to return to the original plan, with a voluntary option described below.

First, I think it important to explain why DARPA wanted to conduct the site visits.

As explained in the October 28 letter, important constraints limit the number of vehicles that can participate in the Grand Challenge event to 20 vehicles, and participation in the Qualification, Inspection, and Demonstration (QID) event to 25.

DARPA received 106 vehicle entries for the Grand Challenge. Here are the results of the technical paper evaluations:

- Twenty entrants were immediately eliminated from consideration because they did not submit a technical paper by the deadline.
- Forty-one entrants were deemed "Not Acceptable" because they submitted technical papers that did not satisfy the technical evaluation criteria.
- Twenty-six entrants submitted technical papers that were evaluated as "Possibly Acceptable," largely because the papers contained imprecise or incomplete information.
- Nineteen entrants submitted technical papers that were evaluated as "Completely Acceptable" to participate in the QID

When DARPA decided to add site surveys as part of the technical paper evaluation process, the focus was on the 26 entrants whose technical papers were evaluated as "Possibly Acceptable." DARPA believed these entrants could possibly qualify for the QID, and that the

Upon reflection on entrants' comments, I realize the site visit requirement is unfair to these 19 entrants. Therefore, I have decided to return to the original plan.

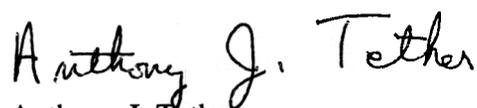
DARPA will immediately invite to the QID the 19 entrants whose technical papers were evaluated as "Completely Acceptable." These entrants will receive the Government-furnished equipment and coordinate with DARPA to sign the bailment agreement.

To determine the remaining six entrants to invite to the QID, DARPA offers the 26 entrants whose technical papers were evaluated as "Possibly Acceptable" the option of a site visit at their location. *The site visit is a voluntary option.*

The site visits must occur during the first 2 weeks in December. The entrants that accept DARPA's offer to conduct a site visit at their location must send written notification of their acceptance to DARPA no later than 5:00 PM, Eastern Standard Time, November 14, 2003. By November 22, 2003, DARPA will notify the entrants that want the site visit of the planned visit dates.

Thank you for your continued interest to participate in the Grand Challenge.

Sincerely,

  
Anthony J. Tether  
Director