



National Tooling & Machining Association

N.W. PA Chapter – P.O. Box 3748, Erie PA, 16508

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November 16, 2007

Dear Friends,

I'm thrilled to be writing you again this year as we kick off the fundraising campaign for our Second Annual RoboBOTS program. I hope you'll recall the success and buzz surrounding our first event this past spring at Meadville High School. In May approximately 120 high school students, 15 teachers and nearly 1000 spectators descended on the high school gymnasium to compete in the NTMA's Bot Challenge. Fifteen teams of high school students designed, built, tested and competed with 15-pound robots. The educational, industry, student and parent response was fantastic and there's no question that this combat robot program did, and will continue to make a direct and immediate impact on our local youth's interest and pursuit of careers in manufacturing.

It's common knowledge that the metalworking and manufacturing companies in our region are experiencing a shortage of skilled workers. We know that many local organizations, including the workforce investment boards, universities and tech schools such as PMI have been working hard to help us address this problem. In addition, many of us have been providing curriculum support, serving as school advisors and providing tours to any group of students who express interest in manufacturing careers. Despite our efforts, however, our need remains critical.

While there are good programs at the secondary, post-secondary and apprenticeship level to enroll motivated youth, I believe we can do more to interest and recruit bright young students to technology and manufacturing career paths. Continuing our RoboBOT program is the surest way to make an impact.

With the success of our pilot program last year (Previously called BattleBOTS IQ) we're naturally working hard to set this program on a path of perpetuity. The NTMA has launched the second year of the program which will include 14 schools, 20 teams and approximately 150 local students. The teachers and administrators have embraced our efforts wholeheartedly, but the program needs our financial help. The NTMA has obtained grant money from both the Regional Center for Workforce Excellence and State Senator Bob Robbins. And several NTMA member companies have already committed to financially supporting RoboBOTS locally. Unlike other programs in the schools, this one was initiated by industry to benefit our youth and to provide us with critically needed skilled workers in the near future. In addition, its costs require a level of funding that companies like ours can afford.

We're especially proud that volunteers from government, industry, education and intermediary organizations are coordinating this effort together. Your company's dollars will be used to support:

- RoboBOTS teacher training – scheduled for December 3rd, 4th & 5th at Edinboro University.
- Construction and tooling purchases for our portable arena for local competitions
- Support of local teams at the high school, vo-tech, and/or post-secondary level (Robots are currently being built at 14 area schools. We should have 20 or more teams)
- Support of our local RoboBOTS school team competition – April 5th, 2008 at Meadville High School
- Support of manufacturing awareness and promotion through RoboBOTS
- Potential future support of team(s) to represent the Northwest Pennsylvania region at the regional and national RoboBOTS competitions
- Funds to sustain and expand the program in coming years.

Please join us by selecting the level of support that you can provide on the detachable coupon. If you have a particular interest in sponsorship of one of the participating schools, enter the school's name on the coupon. (A portion of the sponsor dollars will be shared with the school for their Bot material purchases)

Your financial support will be acknowledged appropriately through a variety of methods such as printed programs, promotional media pieces, team t-shirts, robot decals, banners and arena signage.

We're targeting completion of fund raising by **January 15, 2008** in order for us to utilize the funds appropriately and provide proper recognition to participating sponsors.

Please contact Brian Deane at NuTec Tooling Systems, Inc. (email to bdeane@nutec-inc.com or call 814-724-6336) for more information. Or simply send a check payable to:

**N.W. PA National Tooling & Machining Association
Attention: RoboBOTS Project
P.O. Box 3748
Erie, PA 16508**

For more information about our RoboBOTS program and results from last year's competition, visit our website at www.metalsinmotion.org/robobots.php. We'll be adding more info to the site as we move closer to the competition.

Thank you in advance for joining us in working toward a bright future for manufacturing in Northwestern Pennsylvania.

Brian Deane
NTMA RoboBOTS Coordinator
NuTec Tooling Systems, Inc.



Participating Schools:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Maplewood High School | Saegertown High School | Cambridge Springs High School |
| Meadville High School | Titusville High School | Conneaut Valley High School |
| Conneaut Lake High School | General McLane High School | Cochranton High School |
| Mercer County Career Center | Precision Manufacturing Institute | Linesville High School |
| Venango Regional Technical School | Crawford County Vocational Technical School | |

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Detach here and include with your check made payable to "NW PA Chapter NTMA, RoboBOTS Project"

I want to support the NTMA's Northwestern PA RoboBOTS initiative at the following level of support: (Check one)

- ___ \$500 Gladiator Level - Team Sponsor
- ___ \$1,000 Coliseum Level - Competition Sponsor
- ___ \$3000 Emperor Level - BBIQ Program Partner
- ___ Other _____

My company has a particular interest in the sponsorship of:

_____ (Enter the name of a participating school)

Company Representative's Name

Company Name