

Los Altos Academy of Engineering

Building a cleaner, more fuel efficient tomorrow

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact:

Lydia Wei

Telephone: 626-369-9824

Facsimile: 626-961-2153

Email: laae.pr@gmail.com

TOYOTA DONATES SCION xB TO HIGH SCHOOL ENGINEERING PROGRAM

HACIENDA HEIGHTS, CA – January 19, 2008 –Toyota Motor Corporation made Los Altos Academy of Engineering (LAAE)'s dream of competing in the DARPA Urban Challenge a reality. LAAE had been contacting several different corporations for a Scion xB donation for over a year. Six months ago, LAAE found a solid contact and has been in constant communication with a Scion representative, Steve Hatanaka. Finally, after months of persistent phone calls and e-mails, Toyota Motor Corporation agreed to sponsor LAAE with a \$16,000 Scion xB for the DARPA Urban Challenge. With the help of Mike Acuna, also a Scion representative, the Scion xB was delivered to LAAE on January 15, 2008.

DARPA, The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency is the central development organization for the Department of Defense. The DARPA Urban Challenge is an annual autonomous vehicle competition where the car actually drives itself. The objective of this past year's competition was for an autonomous vehicle to safely execute missions in a complex urban environment with moving traffic.

The Los Altos Academy of Engineering has been building a test platform of the autonomous vehicle, using the dimensions of Scion xB in hopes of competing in this event. Toyota Scion's generous donation has allowed LAAE to take a step further in accomplishing this feat. LAAE hopes to be in the competition as one of the few high school teams to participate.

Now that LAAE has the Scion xB car for *Project Zeus*, the team has some work to do before it will be able to contend. Students will have to design new actuators for the car and be able to control the acceleration and braking, which is scheduled to be completed by June. Changing the gear to fit the car may be another modification that has to be made. Once these tasks have been finished, sensors must be mounted onto the car and then an intense stage of programming will begin. LAAE has a ways to go before actually participating in the DARPA Urban Challenge. However, Toyota Motor Corporation's car donation is a major stepping stone in the journey of achieving one of the most prestigious challenges this program has ever taken on.

15325 E. Los Robles Ave. • Hacienda Heights, CA 91745 • Phone: (626) 330-1096 • Fax: (626) 961-2153 •

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The Los Altos Academy of Engineering was founded in 1989 and has a great legacy of building electric and solar vehicles. The Academy is an integral part the Los Altos High School, part of the Hacienda La Puente Unified School District. The mission of LAAE is to establish opportunities in mathematics, science, computer science, and engineering for students who demonstrate an early interest in these career fields. Composed of 5 teams, Design, Mechanical, Composites, Electrical, and Public Relations, students are able to apply critical thinking, troubleshooting, problem solving, and hands on learning at the Academy. For more information, please visit the District's website www.lasv.org.

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If you would like more information about Project Zeus, the Los Altos Academy of Engineering, or would like to schedule a visit, please call Lydia Wei at 626-330-1096 or email Lydia at laae.pr@gmail.com