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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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FIRST Chesapeake Robotics District Alexandria VA Event in Partnership with U.S. Department of Energy- EERE at Hayfield School, March 18-19

Forty of the best and brightest high school robotics teams from the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia will compete in the ***FIRST*** Chesapeake District Alexandria VA Event in Partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy- EERE at Hayfield School March 18-19, 2023.

The event is free and open to the public.

FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) is recognized as the premier international high school engineering challenge. Working closely with teachers and volunteer mentors, student teams have a short period of time to conceptualize, design, build, program, modify and test remote-controlled robots to participate in a competition that changes each year. Teams work with a common core set of parts but determine on their own how to accomplish tasks. Thus, no two robots are exactly alike.

This year's game, CHARGED UP Presented by Haas, inspires teams to see the potential of energy storage in a new light as they compete in alliances to charge up their communities. Teams earn points by piloting their remote-controlled robots to create sustainability links in their grid and to engage with their power station.

Approximately 112 FRC teams in DC/MD/VA vie throughout March in qualifying matches to earn spots at the ***FIRST*** Chesapeake District Championship Sponsored by Booz Allen Hamilton at the George Mason University EagleBank Arena, April 6-8. Top performers at

the District event will go on to compete at the 2023 ***FIRST*** World Championship presented by Qualcomm, in Houston, TX, April 19- 22.

"We're so proud of what these students accomplish", said Scott Turnbull, ***FIRST*** Chesapeake Executive Director. "Not only do they gain technical and engineering skills, but they are also learning critically important life skills such as teamwork and problem solving. With the support of our nearly 3,000 volunteers, we are helping to build tomorrow's technology leaders."

Participants in ***FIRST*** programs also qualify to apply for more than $80 million in college scholarships.

The ***FIRST*** Chesapeake District Alexandria VA Event in Partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy-EERE will be held at Hayfield Secondary School - 7630 Telegraph Rd, Alexandria, VA 22315.

Saturday, March 4: Opening Ceremonies 10:30am
Qualifying Matches 11am-7pm (lunch break 1-2pm)
Sunday, March 5: Opening Ceremonies 9am
Qualifying Matches 9:30am-12:30pm (lunch break 1-2pm)
Playoff Matches and Awards 2-6pm (estimated)

This event will also feature a hydrogen fuel cell car display hosted by the U.S. Department of Energy's Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies Office on Saturday from 11:30am - 3:00pm. Powered by the most abundant element on earth, this fun and sporty car produces only water as its exhaust. Take a look under the hood during this demonstration of the progress being made toward a clean, equitable energy future.

A Live Stream will be viewable online the days of the event.

Virginia***FIRST*** dba ***FIRST*** Chesapeake administers the ***FIRST*** Tech Challenge Program and the ***FIRST*** Robotics Competition Program for the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. Each year, ***FIRST*** Chesapeake directly impacts over 8,000 middle and high school students through robotics workshops and competitions. Over 50,000 individuals attend 20+ ***FIRST*** Chesapeake robotics competitions and workshops from November through April each year. To learn more about ***FIRST*** Chesapeake, go to www.firstchesapeake.org. Follow Us on Twitter and Facebook

FIRST Chesapeake thanks our many corporate sponsors who make our programs possible and available for students across our service area.

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