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Microchip Announces Results of 2013 FIRST® Robotics Competition Arizona Regional

50 Teams Participated, Including 44 from Arizona; Any Student Participating on a FIRST Team Eligible to Apply for Over $16M in Scholarships

CHANDLER, Ariz.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Microchip Technology Inc. (NASDAQ: MCHP), a leading provider of microcontroller, mixed-signal, analog and Flash-IP solutions, today announced the **results** of the **2013 *FIRST*® Robotics Competition (FRC) Arizona Regional**, held March 22-23, 2013 in Chandler. Phoenix's Carl Hayden High School; Tempe Preparatory Academy, Tempe; and Buena High School, Sierra Vista qualified to compete in the **2013 *FIRST* Robotics Competition Championship**, April 25-27, 2013 in St. Louis, MO. Kingman High School/Kingman Academy of Learning, Kingman; Yuma High School, Yuma; and Rockwell-Collins & Escondido Charter High School, Escondido, Calif. were Regional Finalists. Students had six weeks to build a robot capable of competing in this year's competition, the game called Ultimate Ascent℠, where teams joined forces to fling saucer-like discs through various slots during several two-minute and fifteen-second matches. Extra points were scored for robots that could hang from a 10-foot tower in the final seconds of the match. Any student participating on a *FIRST* team is eligible to apply for more than $16 million in scholarships.

"The engineering challenge presented by *FIRST* to build a functioning robot that must accomplish specific tasks inspires students to find creative solutions using math, science and engineering, while adhering to strict deadlines. Working with industry mentors, students learn marketable skills such as working on a team, critical thinking, marketing and problem solving, while having fun at the same time," said Steve Sanghi, president and CEO of Microchip Technology, co-chair of the *FIRST* Arizona Regional Planning Committee, *FIRST* sponsor and member of the *FIRST* Board of Directors.

Chandler, Ariz.-based **Microchip Technology** is the organizing sponsor of the FRC Arizona Regional. Fifty high-school robotics teams competed in the 2013 FRC AZ Regional, including 44 teams from Arizona, three from New Mexico, two from California and one from Mexico. AZFirst, a non-profit organization, awarded the Steve Sanghi Scholarship to Bianca Rodriquez, a senior at Carl Hayden High School, Phoenix, AZ. Funded by Steve and Maria Sanghi, this scholarship totals $16,000 over four years, and is awarded to an outstanding *FIRST* participant who intends to pursue a college degree in science, technology, engineering or math. Coconino High School won the **Regional Chairman's Award**, which recognizes the team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate, and embodies the purpose and goals of *FIRST*. Christine Sapio, teacher at Coconino High School, Flagstaff, a FTC (*FIRST* Technical Competition) Affiliate Partner, received the "Outstanding Volunteer of the Year" award for her success in growing the FTC robotics program for middle-school and high-school students.

Additionally, Dave Thompson, *FIRST* coach at Coconino High School, received the Woodie Flowers Finalist Award, which recognizes a teacher or engineer who demonstrates excellence in teaching science, math and creative design. Chris Brandt from Saguaro High School in Scottsdale was awarded the “Arizona Teacher of the Year,” based upon an essay written by his students.

Generous supporters of the 2013 FRC Arizona Regional included Organizing Sponsor Microchip Technology; Leader in Technology Sponsor Microchip Technology Employees; and Captain of Innovation Sponsors Army ROTC, Avnet, Craig and Barbara Barrett, Medtronic Foundation, Microchip Technology and Wells Fargo. Friends of the Future Sponsors included Best Buy Children’s Foundation, Go Daddy, ON Semiconductor, and Steve and Maria Sanghi. Regional Fan Sponsors included Chase Giving Foundation and Wishes in Stitches/Alan and Margaret Jannuzzi.

Due to the growth of local *FIRST* programs First Lego League, FTC and FRC, two separate FRC Arizona regional events are expected to be held in 2015. Recruitment of FRC teams is currently occurring, with a goal of doubling the number of teams in the next two years. For more information and to get involved, contact *FIRST* Regional Director Carol Popovich at **carol.popovich@microchip.com** or (480) 792-7938.

Resources

High-res FIRST logo Available Through Flickr or Editorial Contact (feel free to publish): **http://www.microchip.com/get/UA16**

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About Microchip Technology

Microchip Technology Inc. (NASDAQ: MCHP) is a leading provider of microcontroller, mixed-signal analog and Flash-IP solutions, providing low-risk product development, lower total system cost and faster time to market for thousands of diverse customer applications worldwide. Headquartered in Chandler, Arizona, Microchip offers outstanding technical support along with dependable delivery and quality. For more information, visit the Microchip website at **http://www.microchip.com/get/6LF3**.

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. To learn more about *FIRST*, go to **http://www.microchip.com/get/ATTQ**.

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