



## Press release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - 8 July 2011

### **SAUC-Europe returns to NURC University students compete in AUV challenge**

*From 4 to 10 July, 10 teams coming from 10 prestigious universities and 4 different countries are participating in the event in La Spezia (Italy)*

After the success of the 2010 edition, **SAUC-E** (Student Autonomous Underwater vehicle Challenge - Europe) **returns for the second time to NURC (NATO Undersea Research Centre), the event organizer.** In this 6-year-old challenge, university students compete using autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) that they have designed and built.

**From Monday, 4 July to Sunday, 10 July more than 100 young men and women** are gathering in La Spezia from the University of Girona (2010 Champion), Heriot-Watt University (2010 2nd place), ENSTA Bretagne (2010 3rd place), DFKI Bremen, University of Southampton and University of Birmingham (joint team), University of West England, University of Luebeck, ESIEA Paris (two teams), and Cambridge University. In NURC's harbour, each team will test their AUV by performing a series of underwater tasks autonomously, with no control, guidance, or communication from a person or from a GPS system. After three days of practice tests and four days of competition, **an international jury of experts will award the three teams that have built the most efficient, reliable and compelling vehicles.**

"**NURC** is honoured once again to host many young, talented engineers and scientists, not only offering them the opportunity to compete in an event that reproduces the real environment in which scientists normally operate, but also the chance to make themselves known to the scientific community", says **Dirk Tielbuerger, Director of NURC.** "We cannot but participate enthusiastically in this enterprise, which was formed to encourage young people to put scientific research into practice with a meaningful, enjoyable approach".

The students participating in **SAUC-E** must rely on skills in physics, mechanical engineering, kinematics, dynamic modelling, ocean engineering, wave studies, electrical engineering, electronics, computer science, and biology. Teams are scored on how well their AUV performs as well as other measures, such as technical merit, craftsmanship, safety of design, marketing and fund-raising efforts.

Info: [www.sauc-europe.org](http://www.sauc-europe.org)

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