Lockheed Martin And Drone Racing League Announce 2019 AlphaPilot Teams

Nine AlphaPilot Teams of World-Class Engineers Will Push the Boundaries of Autonomous Flight in DRL's New Artificial Intelligence Robotic Racing (AIRR) Circuit Later This Year

BETHESDA, Md., May 22, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT) and Drone Racing League (DRL) today announced the nine teams that were accepted into the 2019 AlphaPilot Innovation Challenge, an open competition to develop artificial intelligence (AI) for high-speed racing drones. These teams have earned a coveted spot in DRL's inaugural autonomous drone racing series, the Artificial Intelligence Robotic Racing (AIRR) Circuit, which kicks off later this year.

The nine AlphaPilot teams, comprised of 69 students, drone technologists, aerospace engineers and coders from across the world, are:

- **ICARUS** from Atlanta; affiliated with Georgia Tech's School of Aerospace Engineering

- **Formula Drone** from Los Angeles; affiliated with UCLA

- **KEF Robotics** from Pittsburgh

- **MAVLab** from Delft, the Netherlands; affiliated with the Delft University of Technology

- **TEAM USRG @ KAIST** from Daejeon, the Republic of Korea; affiliated with the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST)

- **Team Puffin** with four team members from the U.S., Sweden and Australia

- **UZH Robotics and Perception Group** from Zurich, Switzerland; affiliated with the University of Zurich

- **Warsaw MIMotaurs** from Warsaw, Poland

- **XQuad** from Minas Gerais, Brazil; affiliated with the Federal University of Minas Gerais

These nine teams will compete to design an AI framework capable of piloting racing drones through high-speed aerial courses without any GPS, data relay or human intervention. AlphaPilot teams will battle it out during AIRR's inaugural, four-event season later this year for a chance at winning a $1 million cash prize, sponsored by Lockheed Martin. An additional $250,000 reward will be given to the first team whose autonomous drone pushes the limits of performance between human and machine, and bests a human-piloted drone.

"At Lockheed Martin, we're already accelerating AI-enabled autonomous technologies that help astronauts, military service personnel and first responders do demanding, dangerous jobs more safely and efficiently," said **Lockheed Martin Chief Technology Officer Keoki Jackson**. "Through our Innovation Challenge, we look forward to working with these teams at the boundaries of AI and fully autonomous flight, and digitally transforming the way we fight wildfires, orchestrate disaster-and-recovery operations and support our front-line service personnel."

"The combination of robotics and AI will fundamentally change the future of sports. Until now, AI had yet to enter the realm of real-life sports as a competitor, and we are thrilled to watch history be made as the AlphaPilot Teams introduce AI pilots as racers for the first time in AIRR. Witnessing a moment when AI will defeat a human pilot will be a paradigm shift in how we think about the role of AI in our lives," said **DRL CEO and Founder, Nicholas Horbaczewski**.

The AlphaPilot Challenge launched in November on the HeroX platform, attracting 424 teams from 81 countries. Teams competed in a series of qualification tests this spring. A panel of industry experts evaluated their technical strategy and abilities in developing image-classification algorithms and performing in simulated racing environments.

"At HeroX, we believe in the power of global collaboration to solve the world's most pressing problems. The AlphaPilot Challenge demonstrates the power of crowdsourcing to unite industry experts, researchers, and students to create the future of disruptive AI technologies," said **Christian Cotichini, CEO and Co-Founder of HeroX**.

To help the AlphaPilot Teams prepare for AIRR, DRL will provide cutting edge hardware including standardized racing drones with an onboard NVIDIA Jetson AGX Xavier, the platform for AI at the edge. Lockheed Martin engineers and AI specialists will provide ongoing mentorship to assist with teams' code development.

To learn more about the AlphaPilot Teams, visit www.herox.com/alphapilot and click on the teams tab.

To learn more about DRL's upcoming AIRR Circuit, visit thedroneracingleague.com/airr/.

DRL will announce the 2019 AIRR Circuit dates and locations in June.

About Lockheed Martin

Headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland, Lockheed Martin is a global security and aerospace company that employs approximately 105,000 people worldwide and is principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture, integration and sustainment of advanced technology systems, products and services. For more information, visit lockheedmartin.com.

About Drone Racing League

DRL is the professional drone racing circuit for elite FPV pilots around the world. A technology, sports and media company, DRL combines world-class media and proprietary technology to create thrilling 3D drone racing content with mass appeal. Founded by Nicholas Horbaczewski in 2015, DRL is a privately held company headquartered in NYC. For more information on DRL, visit www.drl.io.

About HeroX

HeroX was co-founded in 2013 by XPRIZE founder Peter Diamandis, and entrepreneur Christian Cotichini as a means to democratize the innovation model of XPRIZE. The HeroX platform is an open ecosystem of solvers that our clients turn to when tackling any problem. Our platform creates value by matching solvers with consumers to co-create innovative thinking. HeroX exists to enable anyone, anywhere in the world, to create a challenge that addresses any problem or opportunity, build a community around that challenge and activate the circumstances that can lead to breakthrough innovation.

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