



## **Orion Energy Systems supports Valders, Howards Grove students who built robot for national contest**

*Project designed to spur interest in science, innovation and technology*

**MANITOWOC, Wis. — March 23, 2010** — Orion Energy Systems Inc. (Nasdaq: OESX) on Monday provided financial support to Droid Rage, a group of high school students from Valders and Howards Grove who built a robot designed for a national competition.

Orion's support will help the team of 25 students travel to Atlanta, Ga., April 14-17 to compete against other robots from throughout the world. The team, in its first year, won the top rookie award at the regional competition, held March 17-19 at the U.S. Cellular Arena in Milwaukee.

The events are organized by FIRST, or For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, a non-profit organization founded to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology.

Approximately 350 teams are expected in Atlanta where robots will partake in a modified game of soccer that includes obstacles on the field and multiple balls. To compete, students had to design, build and program the robots with the help of mentors who are professionals in the science and engineering fields.

"We're proud to support this group of bright students," said Jim Kackley, Orion's president and chief operating officer. "These students represent the future of technology and innovation. The skills they acquire through FIRST are life long and will help them excel in engineering, the sciences and related fields, keeping America competitive in industries that require innovation. They are learning skills that translate to the real world."

Valders High School sophomore Brent Ellis, who accepted the \$1,000 check from Orion with mentor Arrow Guetschow, said he's learned multiple skills during the process, including mechanics, electronics, strategy and team work.

"I've learned a variety of skills that I never thought building a robot would provide," Ellis said. "This has been and continues to be a great experience for everyone on this team. We've had a lot of fun while learning skills like using a metal mill and how to work under pressure."

Teams were allowed six weeks to build the robot after the soccer game was announced. The game changes annually and new robots must be constructed.

Following the check presentation, Ellis and Guetschow toured Orion's Manitowoc tech center and manufacturing facilities.

For more information about Droid Rage visit [www.droid-rage-3381.org](http://www.droid-rage-3381.org), or to learn more about FIRST, visit [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org).

### **Photo Captions**

*Check Presentation photo:*

Orion Energy Systems on Monday presented a check to Droid Rage, a group of high school students from Valders and Howards Grove who built a robot and will compete at the national competition from April 14-17 in Atlanta, Ga. The contest is designed to spur interest in science and technology. From left are Orion's President and Chief Operating Officer Jim Kackley, Droid Rage team member Brent Ellis, team mentor Arrow Guetschow, and Orion's Marketing Director Guy Peterson.

*Droid Rage Tour photo:*

Orion's Marketing Director Guy Peterson, left, gives a tour to Droid Rage team Brent Ellis, center, and team mentor Arrow Guetschow Monday. Droid Rage, a team of high school students from Valders and Howards Grove built a robot that will compete April 14-17 at a national competition in Atlanta, Ga. The contest is organized by FIRST, and designed to pique students' interest in science and technology. Orion presented the group with a \$1,000 check in support of their trip to the national competition.

Orion has deployed its energy management systems in 5,374 facilities across North America, including 123 of the Fortune 500 companies. Since 2001, Orion technology has displaced more than 504 megawatts, saving customers more than \$782 million and reducing indirect carbon dioxide emissions by 6.7 million tons.

**Orion Energy Systems Inc. (Nasdaq: OESX)** is a leading power technology enterprise that designs, manufactures and implements energy management systems, consisting primarily of high-performance, energy-efficient lighting platforms, intelligent wireless control systems and direct renewable solar technology for commercial and industrial customers without compromising their operations. For more information, visit [www.oesx.com](http://www.oesx.com).

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