

News Release

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Hon Michael O'Brien

Minister for Employment, Training &
Further Education
Minister for Road Safety
Minister for Science and Information Economy

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SA TO HOST INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FINALE

South Australia will host the grand finale of a \$US1.6 million international competition challenging research organisations to build super smart robots, Science and Information Economy Minister, Michael O'Brien, announced today.

The competition, known as MAGIC 2010 or the Multi-Autonomous Ground-robotic International Challenge, is being organised by Australia's Defence Science and Technology Organisation in partnership with the US Department of Defence.

"South Australia is the *Defence State*, and I'm pleased to announce that the culmination of this event - the Grand Challenge - will be staged in South Australia in November 2010," Mr O'Brien said.

"This is another high technology event being hosted our state attracting significant attention from around the globe, and reinforcing South Australia's commitment to the Technology and Defence industries.

"DSTO – the principal organiser of the event - is part of the Department of Defence and has its largest laboratory located in the northern suburbs of Adelaide," Mr O'Brien said.

Mr O'Brien was speaking at the South Australian launch of the event today, which also included a conference to brief challenge participants.

"The competition will run from now until the end of next year, and competing teams will be eliminated at various stages along the way," Mr O'Brien said.

"The final five teams will bring their robots to Adelaide in November next year to compete in mock battles and showcase their full capabilities.

"The competition aims to attract the most innovative solutions from around the world based on addressing a technology gap currently faced by coalition forces operating in urban combat zones

"Ultimately, the competition aims to make military operations much safer for our troops by creating robots that can take over from humans and carry out some of the more dangerous work," Mr O'Brien said.

Competition details are at: www.dsto.defence.gov.au/MAGIC2010/