

7th Annual MATE ROV Competition



Discovering the Mysteries of Mid-Ocean Ridges

The Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) Center, the National Science Foundation, and the Marine Technology Society's (MTS) ROV Committee invite you to our **7th Annual International Student ROV Competition**. Nearly 60 teams representing middle schools, high schools, home schools, after-school groups, community colleges, and universities from the U.S., Canada, Hong Kong, Scotland, Iran, and Russia are scheduled to compete in this year's event, which is being held **June 26 – 28, 2008** at **Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) and the University of California, San Diego (UCSD)**.

In partnership with the **RIDGE 2000 Program at SIO**, the 2008 competition highlights hydrothermal vents found at mid-ocean ridges and the technologies used to study these deep-sea environments.

Over the last seven months, the student teams have worked to develop ROVs for underwater mission tasks that involve both the use of sensors to measure environmental parameters, such as the temperature of "black smokers," and the collection of vent organisms and geologic features. This unique deep-sea environment will be replicated within UCSD's Canyonview Pool.

A panel of judges--professionals representing industry, science, government, education, and exploration--will evaluate the teams on their ability to effectively communicate an understanding of their vehicles' design and construction via technical reports, poster displays, and engineering evaluation interviews.

The competition will also feature the **Ocean Career Expo**, organized by the MATE Center and our partners in the Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE). A kick-off reception at the Birch Aquarium at SIO will set the stage for an exciting weekend. At the awards banquet, MTS ROV Committee Chairman Drew Michel will present an overview of the ocean workforce that will enlighten students on the exciting careers awaiting them in the field of marine technology.

We encourage you to join us as the students expand their understanding of mid-ocean ridges and the biology, chemistry, and geology of deep-sea hydrothermal vent environments. Visit the MATE competition web site at www.marinetech.org/rov_competition/ where **LIVE updates** – including scores, photos, and video clips – will be posted during the event.

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