Dear Sirs:

Our team is very appreciative for the invitation we have received to participate in the Pentagon’s International Robot Competition. We have, without any reservations, decided to accept.

The advancements in technology that will be made by the various participants within this competition are staggering. This information will be utilized in a plethora of areas. We can implement the robots in situations of disaster where humans are unable to assist in rendering aid, and it can lend a hand, quite literally speaking, in many other humanitarian efforts. With robots becoming more “human-like”, a new generation is approaching. Our world is evolving, and we recognize that we must be part of this evolution to endure the changes presented to us.

The reason the contest was first organized greatly factors into our decision to compete in your project. DARPA officials saw the need for more advanced robotics when faced with the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster caused by the devastating 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan. The robots the Pentagon deployed to help in the disaster relief were unable to assist in many operations that would have impeded the explosions that occurred within the nuclear plant. If the robotic technology that we contribute to this contest can be put to use in areas and scenarios similar to this one, we would feel as if we accomplished something quite significant, regardless of our placing in the contest.

Our robotic design could also help in situations that we encounter daily but are of equal importance such as assisting the elderly and working in manufacturing settings as Mr. Davenport suggested in a recent article. The idea behind this is that the robots will be able to perform more complicated tasks than the ones that we have today. Mr. Davenport advocates that the current robotic technology is lacking in many areas. He states that, “Even though they are loaded with thousands of lines of code and able to communicate wirelessly with their human overseers, the robots are limited to simple tasks, such as opinion doors or walking up stairs.” With the implementation of this contest, the greatest minds in robotics will come together and, although competing against one another, will be collaborating together to assist humanity. The ideas presented by our team and others will be able to be integrated into a robot that will accomplish great things and pave the way for advancements in this field.

Innovations in robotics are happening all around us, and our team would be honored to be part of this technological evolution. These inevitable changes are at the utmost importance to our survival as human beings. In Mr. Davenport's essay, he quotes Mr. Pratt as saying, “But to not develop the technology is to deny yourself the capability to respond effectively.” This is the primary reason behind our team’s decision to participate; we want to embrace the necessary advancements in robot intelligence. We want to allow not only ourselves, but also the entire human race, to reach our full potential in regards to technological progressions.

Sincerely,

The Team