

PRESS RELEASE: February 29, 2012

Equilibar Sponsors High School Robotics Team as Investment in Technology's Future

Equilibar Precision Regulators is proud to be one of several corporate sponsors of Gorillaz, the 2012 Robotics Team of Henderson County Public Schools. The team has designed and built a robot that will compete against other North Carolina high school team robots this spring through the FIRST Robotics Program.

“In recent months, U.S. manufacturing has begun to accelerate, highlighting a critical need for engineers and technical workers,” noted Equilibar President Jeff Jennings. “The FIRST Program offers an exciting hands-on introduction to science and technology for high school students who are considering what careers they will pursue. We believe such programs are vital for the future.”

Founded in 1989 by inventor Dean Kamen, FIRST is a non-profit organization with the mission “to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership.” The FIRST acronym refers to “For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology.”

The 2012 FIRST Robotics Competition involves more than 58,000 high school students who will compete in 52 regional events throughout the country before the April national championship in St. Louis, Missouri. This year's challenge was to build a robot that will shoot a basketball through a goal. Each team had six weeks to complete the robot, working under the guidance of local engineers and other mentors.



Gorillaz team members calculate a design



Student configures the control panel

Sponsoring the Gorillaz team fits well with Equilibar's focus on providing innovative solutions to global customers through inventive design applications. Equilibar's ultra-sensitive back-pressure regulators have played key roles in aerospace, cryogenics, automotive, fuel cell and other industries that require cutting-edge, agile technology.

"We specialize in demanding applications that require more precision than traditional regulators can provide," Jennings said. "Our team thrives on finding elegant ways to simplify complex and challenging applications. We look forward to working with a new generation of engineers, scientists and technicians in the coming years. That's why we want to encourage programs such as FIRST Robotics."

Equilibar provides ultra-sensitive back pressure regulators to customers around the world. The company is headquartered in the mountains near Asheville, North Carolina. For more information, visit www.equilibar.com . Information about the FIRST Robotics Program can be found at www.usfirst.org .



Adult coordinator Mike Murphy looks on as students build a wooden prototype

