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Edinburgh Air Cadets Win the 2007 Scottish Robotic Games

Air Cadets from 870 (Dreghorn) Sqn in Edinburgh triumphed over young engineers from Scottish schools and ATC Squadrons at the 2007 edition of the Scottish Robotic Games.

The Games, which consist of Two-a-side Football, an Assault Course, Sumo battle and a Tug-of-war, as well as a series of special categories such as "Best Engineered Rampaging Chariot" and "Best Artistic Design", saw 31 teams made up of children aged 12 to 17, square off their creations on two purpose built arenas at SELEX Sensors and Airborne Systems (S&AS) Edinburgh facility.

The 870 Sqn team consisting of cadets Gabreille Rictoras, Angus Marks and Victoria Wood won the Two-a-side Football tournament and came third in the Assault Course and Tug-of-War competitions. They drove a radio controlled Rampaging Chariot they had built themselves from a kit of over 300 engineering and electronic parts supplied by the Rampaging Chariots Guild.

The Scottish Robotic Games, which have been sponsored by SELEX S&AS UK for the second year running, are designed to interest young people in engineering, as such SELEX S&AS engineers were on hand to assist the teams troubleshoot and repair their robots before and after each event.

Entry to the games is open to any school or youth organisation in Scotland with teams from as far afield as Castle Douglas, Ullapool and Thurso competing this year. Over 120 basic robot kits issued by the Rampaging Chariots Guild have been built or are under construction.

Rampaging Chariots is the brainchild of SELEX S&AS Business Development Manager Sqn Ldr. Peter Bennett RAF (Retd), and follows his success in leading the Air Cadet team who became Grand Champion in the last edition of Robot Wars with Typhoon II. The Rampaging Chariots project aims at attracting youngsters to the field of engineering. "Through the construction and operation of these robots, young people are given the opportunity to think about science and engineering in a new way," says Peter.

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SELEX S&AS Director General Manager Edinburgh, Norman Bone said, "Rampaging Chariots provides education in project management, leadership, engineering, science, electronics and mathematics, as well as encouraging teamwork to achieve challenging goals. Our aim is to encourage young people into engineering which is the lifeblood of the company and a core area of expertise within Scotland".

Notes to Editors:

Accompanying photo shows the Scottish Grand Champions: Cdt Victoria Wood, Cdt Gabrielle Rictoras and Cdt Angus Marks with Group Captain Bob Kemp CBE, Chairman of the Lowland Reserve Forces' and Cadets Association.

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