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### **Drive a SELEX S&AS Robot at Wonderama – Edinburgh International Science Festival 2007**

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Top class engineers from SELEX Sensors and Airborne Systems (S&AS) are launching 'Rampaging Chariots' at Wonderama, from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> April at the Edinburgh International Science Festival.

Visitors will be able to race one of five available robots round an obstacle course. There will be four racing sessions each day lasting one hour followed by a two-a-side football game between the top four drivers from each session. The competitive events will be showcased alongside demonstrations from the Air Cadets of 870 (Dreghorn) Squadron and students from Peebles High School.

Rampaging Chariots is the brainchild of engineers from SELEX Sensors and Airborne Systems (SELEX S&AS) and follows their success with mentoring young air cadets who went on to win the lightweight, middleweight and heavyweight grand championships of the BBC TV cult programme RobotWars.

Last year engineers and graduates from SELEX S&AS helped school children and air cadets from across Scotland to construct and test powerful, featherweight, radio-controlled sporting robots to compete in the Rampaging Chariots Scottish Robotic Games held at SELEX S&AS at Crewe Toll. The winning teams went on to compete in the UK Robotic Games in July where they battled with teams from across the whole of the UK.

Launching the project, UK Robot Wars 2005 Grand Champion team leader, Peter Bennet, said, "Rampaging Chariots and Robot Wars have inspired young people to pursue a career in engineering and holding this event at the Edinburgh International Science Festival helps bring the fun side of engineering to all the family."

SELEX S&AS Director General Manager Edinburgh, Norman Bone said "This is an exciting engineering project for young people to become involved in. Our aim is to encourage young people into engineering, which is the lifeblood of our company and we strongly believe is the future of our country."

SELEX S&AS is a leading electronics engineering company with a prominent market position in the high tech defence and aerospace sector and is one of Scotland's biggest success stories. The company is committed to innovation, investing heavily in research and development and offers inspiring career opportunities in the fields of engineering and science.

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**Notes to Editors:****About Finmeccanica:**

Finmeccanica is Italy's leading high-tech company, operating in the design and manufacture of helicopters, aerostructures, satellites, space infrastructure, missiles and defence electronics. It plays a leading role in the European aerospace and defence industry, and participates in some of the biggest international programmes in the sector through well-established alliances with European and American partners. Finmeccanica also boasts significant manufacturing assets and skills in the transport, energy and IT sectors. The group is listed on the Milan stock exchange, and operates in Italy and abroad through 16 companies and 6 joint ventures. It employs around 51,000 staff in total. As part of its drive to maintain and build on its technological expertise, Finmeccanica spends the equivalent of over 16% of its revenues on research and development.

**About SELEX Sensors and Airborne Systems:**

SELEX Sensors and Airborne Systems, a Finmeccanica company, is one of Europe's leading defence electronics companies which is 75% owned by Finmeccanica and 25% owned by BAE Systems and brings together the former UK based BAE Systems Avionics and Galileo Avionica in Italy. SELEX Sensors and Airborne Systems provides world class capabilities in surveillance, protection, tracking, targeting, avionics and imaging systems. The company employs some 7,600 employees and has operations in England, Scotland, Italy, and the United States. Further details can be obtained from our website [www.selex-sas.com](http://www.selex-sas.com)

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