Eligibility Criteria

Team composition

Full-time undergraduate or graduate students at any US or Canadian college or university, including students who have graduated in the six months prior to April 29, 2011. Each institution may sponsor up to one undergraduate team and one graduate team or one combined team of up to five students each. Students must have contributed significantly to the innovative technology or concept that is entered. Interdisciplinary teams are encouraged, including teams across business and technical schools. Each team must have a faculty member as a team advisor.

Technology

To fulfill the spirit and intent of this National Security Innovation competition, the technology or concept must have application to solving a homeland security or defense problem or issue. The entry must be the original idea and work product of the student/advisor team, and must not have been (1) made available to the public as a commercial product or process or (2) currently be licensed to any company. If the technology is a continuation of previous research at the University, the current team of students and advisor must have achieved significant advances in the technology. Technology which has previously won any of the top three awards at a NSIC competition is not eligible.

Competition Process

Entry Form

The Entry Form (Application to Compete) must be completed and submitted by January 26, 2011. (Visit www.ColoradoHDA.org and select the NSIC 2011 tab for easy access to the Application to Compete the form.) The Entry Form will include a list of Team Leaders (student and faculty advisor), a Technology Description and a signed certification of eligibility.
**Preliminary Round**
The Preliminary Round Written Submission will be no longer than five pages including any figures or pictures and will be submitted by February 24, 2011. This submission should include the status of Intellectual Property Protection, the status of testing and simulation of the concept and current/previous funding sources.

**Final Round**
Preliminary Round entries will be judged and no more than ten entries will be identified for the Final Round in Colorado Springs on April 29, 2011. Finalists will be notified of their acceptance and other details not later than March 24, 2011.

The Final Round will be primarily an oral presentation, but will also require a one page Executive Summary. Each team will have 15 minutes to present and 10 minutes of Q&A. Judges will consist of a national panel of executives with experience in research & development, operations, marketing, finance, and strategy. Students will be judged based on their presentation and the Executive Summary.

**Judging Criteria**
The criteria for both the Preliminary and the Final Round will be:

*Technical Analysis:* Entry described a truly unique and appropriate solution to an existing or emerging national or homeland security problem

*Market Analysis:* Entry demonstrated an understanding of market need (government or commercial), key segments, and size

*Industry Analysis:* Entry demonstrated an understanding of alternatives, major trends, and forces that affect the industry

*Recommendations:* Entry described a reasonable action plan of the required next steps to further develop the technology into a marketable commodity

*Presentation Skills:* Materials were presented in clear, concise, and logical form; conveyed confidence, enthusiasm, and professionalism; responsive to evaluators questions

**Prizes**
Made to the top three teams in the amounts of:
First Prize - $10,000
Second Prize - $5,000
Third Prize - $2500
Universities/Institutions can accept the prize monies as student scholarships or designate to a charity, club or academic department.
Confidentiality and Intellectual Property

The National Security Innovation Competition requires participants to present potential Intellectual Property to a wide audience of people who are not obligated to keep the information confidential. It is suggested that participants withhold proprietary details from their technical presentations. U.S. inventors have a one year grace period after the first public disclosure. U.S. patent rights are lost one year after the public disclosure. International patent rights for most countries are lost immediately upon public disclosure. In order to impact patent rights, the disclosure must be *enabling*--that is, it must teach someone "of ordinary skill in the art" how to actually duplicate the invention without undue experimentation. Participants are encouraged to seek legal counsel for advice on intellectual property that should be protected prior to entering the competition.

*All submissions will be submitted by e-mail to rscott@coloradohda.org or faxed to 719-685-7878 (attn: NSIC Program Director) by the deadlines indicated.*