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DARPA Virtual Robotics Challenge Announced

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Remember that big DARPA Robotics Challenge for humanoid robots that we posted about in October 2012? The first phase, known as the Virtual Robotics Challenge, is now complete. Tim Smith over at the Open Source Robotics Foundation has got a new post up about the results. The quick version is that 26 teams from 8 countries qualified for the VRC and based on the result, DARPA has selected a total of 9 teams to move on to the the next phase which will involve physical robots. From the DARPA press release:

1. Team IHMC, Institute for Human and Machine Cognition, Pensacola, Fla. (52 points)
2. WPI Robotics Engineering C Squad (WRECS), Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, Mass. (39 points)
3. MIT, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass. (34 points)
4. Team TRACLabs, TRACLabs, Inc., Webster, Texas (30 points)
5. JPL / UCSB / Caltech, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif. (29 points)
6. TORC, TORC / TU Darmstadt / Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va. (27 points)
7. Team K, Japan (25 points)
8. TROOPER, Lockheed Martin / University of Pennsylvania / Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Cherry Hill, N.J. (24 points)

9. Case Western University, Cleveland, Ohio (23 points)

the Open Source Robotics Foundation received funding from DARPA to develop a cloud based simulator for the Virtual Robotics Challenge, based on the free software 3D robot simulator Gazebo. For more see the OSRF post, or take a look at DARPA's news release and the official DARPA Robotics Challenge website. And, of course, we've got video too. Read on to see an overview and video of these virtual robots in action

via robots.net <http://robots.net/article/3602.html> (<http://robots.net/article/3602.html>)

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