

Western National Robot Rodeo & CAPEX May 11-15, 2015



Description

Expert operators from both military and civilian bomb squads and other public safety organizations use advanced skills to maneuver Hazardous Duty Robots in challenging, real-world scenarios. In partnership, Los Alamos National Labs and Sandia National Labs are conducting the 8th Annual Western National Robot Rodeo and Capability Exercise in cooperation with the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators Region II, CTTSO/Technical Support Working Group, and the United Kingdom, Ministry of Defence.

This CAPEX allows active members of bomb squads and other public safety organizations to test new products and provide instant, on-site feedback (i.e., as part of an Operational Evaluation) to vendors, event facilitators, and sponsors. Participants and vendors alike have mentioned how useful this opportunity has been for them. TSWG representative Tony Detrick said, *"The WNRR and CAPEX is an excellent opportunity to 'test drive' new technology with existing capabilities in real world scenarios that help to identify current and new technology capability gaps."* The event also provides an opportunity for participants to network with other bomb technicians and exchange information and techniques.

Scenarios

The events were designed to include the following major areas that contribute to real-world concerns:

- IED and VBIED Disablement
- CONOPS
- TTPs – Tools, Techniques, and Procedures
- Triage
- Transportation – Planes, Trains, and Automobiles
- Operator Proficiency

WNRR 2014

The 2014 Western National Robot Rodeo took place at Los Alamos National Lab. Eight teams attended, including two EOD teams, members of state and local police bomb squads from across the US, and a British Army EOD team. Dave Heaven, an advisor to the National Bomb Squad Commanders Advisory Board (NBSCAB) who spent time observing WNRR 2014 said, *"Participants at the Western National Robot Rodeo were very enthusiastic about getting to try out new robot technologies, and NBSCAB will benefit from this in their work to identify technology requirements across the spectrum of challenges being presented to bomb squads in the U.S."*

**Western National
Robot Rodeo**

Events

The Western National Robot Rodeo is a five-day, 10 event technical competition that includes scenarios like:

- Vehicle-Borne IED
- IED in a Culvert
- X-Ray ToolKit® (XTK) Scenarios
- Obstacle Course
- Airplane Search
- Field Diagnosis of a “Sick” Robot
- Mobile Drug Lab
- Smoke-filled Building and Night Ops
- Emergency Medical Triage
- Live-Fire Maneuvers
- Operator Proficiency



Benefits

- Provides challenging training environment
- Modeled after real-world events and scenarios
- Forces teams to push the boundaries of their comfort level with their tools and capabilities
- Allows teams to have fun event and fully engage all team members
- Offers exposure to new technologies and tools
- Provides camaraderie and networking opportunities
- Practice, practice, practice, ...



Contact Information

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