

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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California Space Authority  
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**CALIFORNIA OPTIMISTIC FOR REGOLITH VICTORY**

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA - The 2008 Regolith Excavation Challenge is just days away and as teams from around the country are making their final preparations, the host state is hoping that the competition will reinforce California's important role in space innovation.

"This competition is more than a contest between amateur inventors, it is a declaration that California is holding strong to its role as a leader in space venturing," said Brian McGowan, Deputy Secretary for Economic Development and Commerce for the California Business, Transportation and Housing (BTH) Agency.

McGowan will be attending the competition this weekend on behalf of BTH and he will be meeting with and speaking to the various teams. BTH has been a sponsor of the 2007 and the 2008 Regolith Excavation Challenges. A copy of his biographical information is attached.

The Regolith Excavation Challenge promotes the development of new technologies to excavate lunar regolith. Excavation is a necessary first step towards lunar resource utilization, and the unique physical properties of lunar regolith make excavation a difficult technical challenge. Advances in lunar regolith excavation have the potential to contribute significantly to the nation's space exploration operations.

Spectators are encouraged to attend the Regolith Excavation Challenge. There is no fee to attend, and no registration required. The event is taking place on the campus of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, Building 7, Advanced Technology Lab and the surrounding engineering plaza. A preliminary schedule is listed below. Adjustments to this schedule may be made in order to meet logistical requirements on the day of the event.

**August 2, 2008**

7:00 AM - Excavator Inspections Begin  
7:30 AM - Excavation Attempts Begin  
9:00 AM - Exhibits Open  
12:30 PM - Luncheon Break  
1:30 PM - Excavation Attempts Resume  
3:00 PM - Exhibits Close  
7:00 PM - Excavation Attempts Conclude for the Day

**August 3, 2008**

7:00 AM - Excavation Attempts Resume  
12:30 PM - Luncheon Break  
1:30 PM - Excavation Attempts Resume  
5:30 PM - Excavation Attempts Conclude  
6:00 PM - Results Announced (If not earlier, depending on completion of attempts)

The California Space Education and Workforce Institute (CSEWI) and the California Space Authority (CSA) appreciate the sponsors' steadfast support of this event.

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*California Space Authority is a nonprofit organization supporting California's commercial, civil and national security space stakeholders. Governed by a statewide board of directors, CSA works closely with the State of California, industry, other government, education, workforce entities and academia to support space enterprise development and expansion statewide.*