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Parker Hannifin Enables the Next Generation of Innovators as Gold Supplier for the *FIRST* ® Robotics Competition

Otsego, MI, February 6, 2018 — Parker Hannifin has joined forces with *FIRST*® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), an international, K-12 not-for-profit organization founded by inventor Dean Kamen to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology, as a Gold Supplier of the *FIRST*® Robotics Competition.

The *FIRST* Robotics Competition Gold Supplier level designates a contribution valued by *FIRST* between $100,000 and $175,000. Parker Fluid System Connectors Division provided enough product to assemble 1,510 fitting kits for the 2018 *FIRST* Robotics Competition Kit of Parts which was distributed to 3,660 teams of high-school students on January 6, 2018.

"Our job at *FIRST* is to develop the next generation of problem solvers who need STEM and digital literacy skills to solve the world's biggest challenges," said *FIRST* President Donald E. Bossi. "We do this by offering a project-based learning experience with the support of companies like Parker. With its generous support at the Gold Supplier level, we are able to supply young innovators with the tools they need to get a jump on successful careers."

By providing components for the competition, *FIRST* Suppliers are putting the latest technology into the hands of students, giving them the opportunity to apply the same tools used by professional scientists and engineers and, ultimately, helping them learn real-world skills they will carry into the workplace.

"By blending creativity and critical thinking with technology, STEM education enables students to develop the key skills they will need to solve tomorrow's challenges in business and in our communities," said Rich Sachwitz, Marketing Manager at Parker FSC.

On January 6, 2018, *FIRST* teams were shown the new *FIRST*® POWER UP℠ game playing field and received a Kickoff Kit made up of motors, batteries, control system components, construction materials, and a mix of additional automation components – with limited instructions. *FIRST* teams can also choose additional Kit of Parts items from the *FIRST* Choice program, and download software and use vouchers from their Virtual Kits.

Working with adult mentors, students have six weeks to design, build, program, and test their robots to meet the season's engineering challenge. Once these young inventors create a robot, their teams participate in competitions that measure the effectiveness of each robot, the power of collaboration, and the determination of students.

FIRST POWER UP finds *FIRST* Robotics Competition teams trapped in an 8-bit video game. Each three-team alliance has three ways to help defeat the boss: Tipping the scale or the alliance's switch in their favor to earn points, exchanging power cubes for power ups (force, boost, and levitate) to gain a temporary advantage during the match, and climbing the scale tower to face the boss. The alliance with the highest score at the end of the match, which includes autonomous and teleoperated periods, defeats the boss and wins the game.

FIRST Robotics Competition is an annual competition that helps students to discover the excitement of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and gain STEM competence and confidence, creating pathways to well-paying jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities in the fastest-growing fields. In 1992, the *FIRST* Robotics Competition began with 28 teams and a single 14-by-14-foot playing field in a New Hampshire high school gym. This season, more than 91,000 high school students worldwide will participate.

Teams from the United States, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Chinese Taipei, Columbia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, France, Germany, India, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, Poland, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom will compete in 85 District Events, 10 District Championships, and 63 Regional Events in seven countries – all leading up to the 2018 *FIRST* Championship events in Houston, Texas, April 18-21, 2018, and Detroit, Michigan, April 25-28, 2018. This season, participating *FIRST* Robotics Competition high-school students are eligible to apply for $50 million in scholarships from more than 200 *FIRST*® Scholarship Providers.

About Parker Fluid System Connectors Division
From design to delivery, the focus of Fluid System Connectors Division is quality and service. From prototypes, new products, design improvements, and manufacturing efficiencies, our engineers are working to help you accomplish your goals. Utilizing state-of-the-art technologies, we can provide a high level of field support and customer design work to suit your needs with locations across North America.

About *FIRST*®
Accomplished inventor Dean Kamen founded *FIRST*® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) in 1989 to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people. Based in Manchester, N.H., *FIRST*

designs accessible, innovative programs to build self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills while motivating young people to pursue opportunities in science, technology, and engineering. With support from over 200 of the Fortune 500 companies and more than $50 million in college scholarships, the not-for-profit organization hosts the *FIRST*® Robotics Competition for students in Grades 9-12; *FIRST*® Tech Challenge for Grades 7-12; *FIRST*® LEGO® League for Grades 4-8; and *FIRST*® LEGO® League Jr. for Grades K-3. *Gracious Professionalism*® is a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community. To learn more about *FIRST*, go to www.firstinspires.org