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Minnesota Places Third in Real World Design Challenge

~ Hutchinson High School placed third in the 22 state aircraft design competition ~

SAINT PAUL– A team of student engineers from Hutchinson High School has placed third among 22 states in the Real World Design Challenge (RWDC). The Hutchinson Innovators designed and tested an innovative tail and wings for a business jet in the annual competition that provides high school students, grades 9-12, the opportunity to work on real world engineering challenges in a team environment.

The student team worked alongside their engineering mentors from Lockheed Martin MS2 Tactical Systems, Cessna Aircraft, and the Federal Aviation Administration using Windchill communications software. The students planned, designed and tested their finished project. The Hutchinson team also received the award for the most innovative design and the technical merit award which reflected the accuracy of their calculations in their engineering notebook.

"Our students can be innovative and accomplish extraordinary feats when given opportunities, high expectations and mentoring professionals from the business community," Education Commissioner Alice Seagren said. "This is a unique opportunity for Minnesota students to work with professional engineers throughout the state and I hope even more teams will participate in next year's Real World Design Challenge."

The Innovators were coached by Hutchinson High School technology education teacher Daryl Lundin. Team members are Jesse Brooks, Jason Corby, Alex Felber, Christy King, Jordyn Koll, Abbey Machtemes and Andrew Paulsen.

The Innovators won first place in the Minnesota Real World Design Challenge in January, which qualified them to move on to the national challenge. Each student and coach in the national competition received an all expense paid trip to the competition in Washington D.C.

Parametric Technology Corporation (PTC) provides the instructor/coach with up to 100 seats of free Pro-ENGINEER software for all schools participating in the challenge. The RWDC provides a valuable addition to the Science Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) curriculum.

Teachers interested in coaching a team and engineers interested in mentoring a team can contact John Rapheal at john.v.rapheal.@state.mn.us.