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**Bosch expands partnership with *FIRST*[®] to help bridge STEM gap,
increase community engagement**

*Company will continue to empower students and associates as *FIRST*[®] Strategic Partner*

- Bosch has been involved with nonprofit *FIRST*[®] for 18 years
- Partnership represents larger commitment to bridge the gap in STEM education and future careers for students
- Bosch associates to volunteer more than 30,000 hours this season, mentoring students on *FIRST* teams

MANCHESTER, N.H., December 11, 2018 — [FIRST](#)[®] (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) recently announced that Bosch has become a *FIRST* Strategic Partner. *FIRST* is a global K-12 not-for-profit organization founded by inventor Dean Kamen to inspire young people's interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Bosch has been involved with *FIRST* since 2000, supporting robotics teams with sponsorships, mentor programs and equipment assistance centers, as well as providing scholarship opportunities to *FIRST* students. The strategic partnership announcement represents a larger commitment by Bosch to *FIRST*.

As a Strategic Partner, Bosch will have the opportunity to utilize its industry experience to offer insights for *FIRST* programs. It will continue to provide funding, equipment, volunteers and more to enhance the reach and overall impact of *FIRST*.

“By sharing our knowledge and resources with *FIRST* students, Bosch is not only investing in the future of STEM but building relationships between students and mentors,” said Charlie Ackerman, senior vice president of Human Resources for Bosch in North America. “It’s so important to give our time to mentor these young people. As a Strategic Partner of *FIRST*, Bosch is continuing to grow its support of *FIRST* teams and educating and inspiring the next generation of talent.”

The demand for STEM-educated employees continues to rise, and in the future the need will outpace the number of prepared candidates if left unaddressed. Bosch’s partnership with *FIRST* is a critical component of its larger effort to close the STEM skills gap.

“To close the STEM skills gap, we need businesses and communities engaged and working together to help young people prepare for an ever-changing workforce. Bosch, a longtime *FIRST* supporter, understands this completely,” said Donald E. Bossi, president of *FIRST*. “We’re thrilled to recognize Bosch as a *FIRST* Strategic Partner and to continue connecting Bosch associates and resources to *FIRST* teams so we can inspire and open pathways for more kids.”

This season, Bosch associates will volunteer more than 30,000 hours mentoring students on robotics teams. For the 2018-2019 season, Bosch will support more than 60 teams in the U.S., with Bosch associates acting as coaches, mentors, designers and general volunteers to teams. These volunteers will engage with the four *FIRST* programs: [FIRST® LEGO® League Jr.](#) (Grades K-4), [FIRST® LEGO® League](#) (Grades 4-8), [FIRST® Tech Challenge](#) (Grades 7-12), and [FIRST® Robotics Competition](#) (Grades 9-12).

Bosch also offers two four-year scholarships annually to high school seniors who have participated in *FIRST* for at least two years and plan to pursue a STEM degree.

Bosch is one of [more than 20 other companies](#) (including one federal agency) that have achieved the top-tier level for sponsorship of *FIRST*. For more information about *FIRST* programs and sponsorship opportunities, please contact development@firstinspires.org.

About Bosch

Having established a regional presence in 1906 in North America, the Bosch Group employs nearly 34,500 associates in more than 100 locations, as of December 31, 2017. In 2017 Bosch generated consolidated sales of \$13.7 billion in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. For more information, visit twitter.com/boschusa, twitter.com/boschmexico and www.bosch.ca.

The Bosch Group is a leading global supplier of technology and services. It employs roughly 402,000 associates worldwide (as of December 31, 2017). The company generated sales of 78.1 billion euros (\$88.2 billion) in 2017. Its operations are divided into four business sectors: Mobility Solutions, Industrial Technology, Consumer Goods, and Energy and Building Technology. As a leading IoT company, Bosch offers innovative solutions for smart homes, smart cities, connected mobility, and connected manufacturing. It uses its expertise in sensor technology, software, and services, as well as its own IoT cloud, to offer its customers connected, cross-domain solutions from a single source. The Bosch Group's strategic objective is to deliver innovations for a connected life. Bosch improves quality of life worldwide with products and services that are innovative and spark enthusiasm. In short, Bosch creates technology that is "Invented for life." The Bosch Group comprises Robert Bosch GmbH and its roughly 440 subsidiary and regional companies in 60 countries. Including sales and service partners, Bosch's global manufacturing, engineering, and sales network covers nearly every country in the world. The basis for the company's future growth is its innovative strength. At 125 locations across the globe, Bosch employs some 64,500 associates in research and development.

Additional information is available online at www.bosch.com, www.iot.bosch.com, www.bosch-press.com, www.twitter.com/BoschPresse.

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 \$80 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-4. [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.