

News

DARPA XC2V Design Challenge Explores Advantages of Crowd-Sourced Design

March 15, 2011

How novel of a design of a vehicle body might a crowd produce? And how fast? That was the goal of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's (DARPA) Experimental Crowd-derived Combat-support Vehicle (XC2V) Design Challenge, which launched on February 3. A creative, innovative design community stepped up to complete the first part of that goal.

The XC2V Design Challenge asked individuals to co-create a vehicle body design for two different missions—Combat Reconnaissance and Combat Delivery & Evacuation – and submit these concepts for vote. This competitive challenge prompted designers to push the limits of creative design. Feedback from the crowd enabled designers to incorporate novel ideas and concepts.

More than 150 design entries were received and validated. Some of the entries that rose to the top included innovations for modularity, increased visibility, unique personnel carrying strategies, optimal equipment usage, and ease of ingress and egress. The top-three entries included many of these concepts. Voting ended March 10, 2011, and the winning vehicle will become a functional concept car in June of this year. The top three design choices are:

- 1) The FLYPMODE – Victor Garcia (United State)
- 2) The KRATOS – Marc Senger (United States)
- 3) Style and Design Studio (France)

With winners selected using current methods —the program turns to an analysis of crowd-sourced selection. The next research question becomes, how could crowd-sourced selection contribute to the goals of Defense manufacturing? Fundamental questions remain regarding the role of diversity vice expertise in such design and selection tasks. In the coming weeks DARPA will include potential vehicle end users in alternative engagements. This follow-on study seeks more answers and may allow for a second vehicle to be built. Side-by-side evaluation between crowd-selected and end-user-selected vehicles will be conducted.

Stay tuned for more as DARPA continues its research for the best methodology to get the best products in the hands of the warfighters in the shortest time possible.

Visit the XC2V challenge webpage at <http://www.local-motors.com/XC2V> for complete challenge details, to register, and see the winning designs.

Spread the word and stay informed by following the XC2V challenge on Facebook and Twitter.

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News

Voting now open in DARPA XC2V Design Challenge

March 04, 2011

What do you think is more useful in a vehicle for the warfighter: a removable door that doubles as a defensible fighting position when away from the vehicle, a tortoise shell-inspired rollover recovery frame, or a modular exoframe enabling multiple configurations and additional storage options? These concepts and more have been submitted by more than 100 participants in the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) eXperimental Crowd-derived Combat-support Vehicle (XC2V) Design Challenge. DARPA now needs your help selecting the winning design.

DARPA offers the public the opportunity to make a difference in advancing military technology and the process used to develop future vehicle concepts. Voting is now open for the XC2V Design Challenge.

On February 3, 2011, DARPA began an effort to engage the crowd in its latest challenge. The XC2V Design Challenge asked individuals to co-create a vehicle body design for two different missions—Combat Reconnaissance and Combat Delivery and Evacuation—and submit these concepts for vote. A month later, designs have been submitted, and DARPA needs the public to vote for the best design. Who votes? A community of servicemembers, race and auto enthusiasts, designers, engineers and YOU.

The top three designs with the most votes will receive cash prizes. The top design will become a reality as a fully functioning concept vehicle early this summer.

Each concept submission will be scored for its overall design quality and how it satisfies the competition requirements. Winners will be announced March 15, 2011.

Join the Xcitement and vote today on the XC2V challenge webpage at <http://www.local-motors.com/XC2V>.

Spread the word and stay informed by following the XC2V challenge on Facebook

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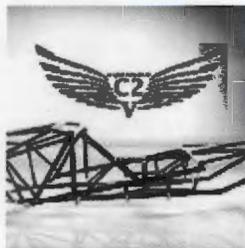
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DARPA issues Experimental Crowd-derived Combat-support Vehicle (XC2V) Design Challenge

February 03, 2011

Today's warfighters are called upon to operate at peak efficiency in virtually every terrain and under myriad harsh environmental conditions. Would their ability to face rapidly changing mission demands improve by introducing a dynamic method of manufacturing military vehicles that streamlines the design/build process, introduces the latest in innovation, and keeps pace with the needs of the warfighter?

From concept to construction current military vehicle manufacturing processes take several years. By leveraging the power of the crowd, we can contribute to reducing that timeline significantly. Additionally, this opens the aperture to introduce greater ideas and design compilation with a reduction in time and the potential for a better performing vehicle. This more efficient process could save lives and improve mission success.

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) seeks to engage the crowd for its latest challenge. The Experimental Crowd-derived Combat-support Vehicle (XC2V) Design Challenge, facilitated by Local Motors, Inc. asks individuals to conceptualize a vehicle body design for two different missions—Combat Reconnaissance and Combat Delivery & Evacuation.

This is an opportunity for servicemembers, race and auto enthusiasts, and those with an interest and talent in engineering, materials, industrial design, etc., to support the warfighter by contributing to the future of military vehicle manufacturing, win up to \$10,000, and see their design become a reality in the form of a fully functioning concept vehicle.

This competition provides experts, novices and the curious the opportunity to provide input to the final design of the vehicle. Whether you provide a design or just vote on the best submission, you can contribute.

The challenge begins today, and final submissions are due March 3, 2011.

Visit the XC2V challenge webpage at <http://www.local-motors.com/XC2V> for complete challenge details, to register, and join the Xcitement.

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