

# Gift Of Computer-Controlled Milling Machine Hits The Right Spot With The Gearheads

Northwestern Regional 7's FIRST Robotics Team #4055 NRG, the Gearheads, has been gifted with a sophisticated computer-controlled milling machine donated by Wittmann-Battenfeld Corporation of Torrington. The machine can be programmed to cut specific parts from designs created by student members of NRG. Wittman-Battenfeld is a manufacturer of industrial robots and injection molding equipment; their Torrington facility designs and builds robots to create high tech parts when paired with molding machines. The Gearheads are excited for this addition to their workshop, and are delighted that the CNC Machine has already proved useful.

The Gearheads have completed an intense build season and are prepping for competitions in Hartford this weekend, March 29-30, and in Maine the following weekend. This year's FIRST Robotics Challenge involves designing and building a robot capable of playing Ultimate Frisbee as well as climbing a pyramid-shaped jungle gym. Over 2500 high schools worldwide are participating in the competition. Strict rules about how



Photo: Courtesy The Gearheads

the field at a time.

The Gearheads have helped start another robotics team; First Tech Challenge Team #6762 is also based at Regional #7 in Winsted. The FTC team works on a smaller scale with less expensive robots, but the mechanical challenges and the programming are just as sophisticated. Team 6762 is currently made up of middle school students, but high school students are welcome- and in fact 6762 competed successfully against high school teams last month. Wittman's donation will benefit Team 6762 as well. A few more donations would be welcome to help provide the accessory tools, vises, clamps, and bits for the milling machine. The team accepts donations on its website, [www.NRG4055.org](http://www.NRG4055.org), or through email, [nrg4055@gmail.com](mailto:nrg4055@gmail.com)

NRG 4055 & 6762 would like to extend a huge thank you to Wittmann-Battenfeld for their generosity, and to all their sponsors, especially The Alcoa Foundation whose founding grant in 2011 made it all possible!

usfirst.org . The Hartford event is free for spectators of all ages: <http://www.firstct.org/?p=1169> . It will feature about 60 teams in rapid fire matches lasting 2-1/2 minutes, with 6 robots on

the robot can climb, and restricting its size, weight, cost, and schedule, make the challenge especially difficult this year. The 2013 challenge video 'Ultimate Ascent' may be seen at [www](http://www).