First USA/Russian Internet Olympiad on Physics

C.A. DANIELSON, R.B. STEPHENS, C.J. HAMILTON, R.L. LEE, General Atomics, B.A. KNYAZEV, Novosibirsk State University — Through the combined efforts of the DPP international outreach community and educators in Novosibirsk and San Diego, an internet-based physics olympiad was held. In this competition, each team had members from both Russia (Novosibirsk) and the U.S. (San Diego); the team halves communicated by Internet, using chat mode and white boards, to jointly solve physics and math problems. Teammates became acquainted by e-mail prior to the event. A dry run was held before the event to familiarize participants with the format, practice working with their teammates, and test communication equipment. Sited at the Joe Rindone Technology Center in San Diego and Novosibirsk State University, Siberia, the communications technology proved capable of allowing team members separated by more than 10,000 miles to work well together and make personal connections. Future multiple site Internet Olympiad events are under consideration. This presentation emphasizes the preparation required for an Internet Olympiad, challenges encountered, and excitement of success.

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