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High-tech training shows merge efforts for 2011 events

By Richard Burnett, Orlando Sentinel

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Two annual high-tech training shows that bring hundreds of engineers from around the world to Central Florida have combined the planning for their 2011 events, officials said Thursday.

Organizers the GameTech and Army Games for Training conferences have agreed to hold their respective 2011 events together at the Orlando Caribe Royale on March 22 through March 25.

Terms of the venture call for them to collaborate on program planning, marketing, promotional activities and logistics, according to Team Orlando, the military high-tech training advocacy group based at Central Florida Research Park.

Both conferences have become key business and professional development networking events for the high-tech training industry, which has more than 100 companies and 20,000 employees across Central Florida. GameTech features workshops and speakers on military and commercial high-tech training technology. Army Games for Training focuses on defense training systems.

GameTech drew a record 539 engineers and other training professionals to its 2010 event; more than 225 attended Army Games for Training this year.

Merging the conference organizations will save money and enhance the value of the events for those who attend, organizers said.

"Many of the same players are already involved in both conferences," said Leslie Dubow, the project director of Army Games for Training and an executive with the Army's high-tech training contract agency in Orlando. "We feel that our attendees will benefit from the exposure to a wider gaming vision."

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