

University Design Competition for Addressing Airport Needs

2025
Design Competition
Guidelines



participants need to explore past ACRP research reports to see what ideas have already been presented and studied.

The Competition website is the participant's source for complete and up-to-date information

Important to Note Before You Begin

Introduction

The Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP) is sponsoring a national competition for universities that engages students in addressing issues relating to airports and the National Airspace System.

This Competition challenges individuals and teams of undergraduate and/or graduate students working with faculty advisors to consider innovative approaches related to these challenges.

Submitters should design innovative solutions that focus on addressing airport issues and constraints that would enhance the management, safety, capacity, and efficiency of the nation's airports.

Subject Areas

The Competition focuses on design solutions addressing airport needs in the following broad areas:

- **Airport Safety, Operations, and Maintenance**
- **Passenger Experience and Innovations in Airport Terminal Design**
- **Airport Environmental Interactions**
- **Airport Management and Planning**

Background and some specific challenge areas are defined in the Technical Design Challenges section.

Students are not limited to the suggested topic areas and are free to consider design solutions in related topic areas if they are consistent with the four broad challenge areas.

As part of the required literature review,

Check out ACRP Studies and Reports: As you explore ideas for design proposal topics, you will want to start by reviewing recent ACRP studies to get a sense of what topics have attracted the interest of the airport community. Go to <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/author/ACRP/transportation-research-board/airport-cooperative-research-program> to see links to recent studies.

Literature Review: A literature review summarizes the key resources that you have reviewed on your design topic and critically evaluates and analyzes those resources. A literature review is far more than a bibliography. It provides a summary of those resources, an understanding of the state-of-the-art in the subject area, and identifies existing knowledge gaps or processes where your innovative approach can contribute. Your literature review is the foundation for justifying your design and approach and for describing how it will meet an existing need or fill in a gap. The review panel will carefully consider the thoroughness and appropriateness of this section with respect to your chosen design topic. ACRP studies and reports directly address airport issues and needs and are a logical and expected first step in conducting your literature review. Cite these in your submission.

Interactions with an Airport Operator(s) who can help you understand the feasibility and practicality of your design concept is a Competition requirement. ACRP can assist to link students to airport operators.

A description of the team's interactions with airport operators and the feedback received must be incorporated into the Problem-Solving Approach section of the design proposal. Contact listings must also be included in Appendix C. Airport operators are employees engaged in managing and running an airport. FAA employees, airport consultants and state aviation officials are considered industry experts.

Interaction with Industry Experts in your design process is also a requirement. The Competition website lists experts from many fields who have offered to be available as an advisor along with their contact information. You will need to document this interaction in your proposal. A description of the team's interaction with industry experts who are not airport operators, and the feedback received, must be incorporated into the Problem-Solving Approach section of the proposal. Contact listings must also be included in Appendix C. Examples of industry experts include: FAA employees (such as those that work for the Office of Airports <https://www.faa.gov/airports>), companies that use or provide services to airports, consultants, and airline employees.

A Safety Risk Assessment and a Benefit-Cost Analysis are required elements of your design proposal. The Competition website has video tutorials to help you with developing these elements.

Evaluation Rubric: The scoring guidelines used by reviewers are available on the Competition Website and shows the weight given to each element of the design proposal.

Competition website resources:

- Competition Guidelines
- Links to ACRP and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reports and Resources
- Online Design Submission Process
- Expert Advisors in Challenge Topics
- Online Notice of Intent Electronic Submission Form
- Link to Winning Designs from the 2007-2025 Competition Years
- Contact Information for Queries
- Instructional videos on the required Safety Risk Assessment and Cost/Benefit Analysis

Competition updates will be posted on the website.

Competition Goals

1. Raise awareness of the benefits of the ACRP and the importance of airports and the FAA to the National Airspace System infrastructure.
2. Increase the involvement of the academic community in the ACRP and addressing airport operations and infrastructure issues and needs.

3. Engage students at U.S. colleges and universities in the conceptualization of applications, systems and equipment capable of addressing related challenges in a robust, reliable and comprehensive manner.

4. Encourage undergraduate and graduate students at U.S. colleges and universities to contribute innovative ideas and solutions to issues facing airports and the National Airspace System.

5. Provide a framework and incentives for quality educational experiences for university students.

6. Develop an awareness of and interest in airports and aviation as vital and challenging areas for careers in engineering and technology.

About the ACRP

ACRP carries out applied research on problems that are shared by airport operating agencies, not adequately addressed by other federal research programs. The ACRP undertakes research and other technical activities in a variety of airport subject areas involving administration, environment, legal, policy, planning, safety, human resources, design, construction, maintenance, and operations at airports. ACRP can draw on its targeted research to help U.S. university students be engaged in contributing innovative approaches to issues facing our nation's airports and the National Airspace System.

Airports are vital national resources. They serve key roles in the transportation of people and goods and in regional, national, and international commerce. They are where the nation's aviation system connects with other modes of transportation and where federal responsibility for managing and regulating air traffic operations intersects with the role of state and local governments that own and



operate most airports. Research continues to be necessary to solve common operating problems, to adapt appropriate new technologies from other industries, and to introduce innovations into the airport industry.

The primary parties supporting ACRP are (a) the ACRP Oversight Committee (AOC), an independent governing board appointed by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation, with representation from airport operating agencies, other stakeholders, and relevant airport associations such as the Airports Council International - North America (ACI-NA), the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE), the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO), Airports Consultants Council (ACC) and the Airlines for America (A4A) as vital links to the airport community; (b) the Transportation Research Board (TRB), a program unit of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, as program manager and secretariat for the governing board; and (c) the FAA as program sponsor. The ACRP benefits from the cooperation and participation of airport professionals, state and local government officials, equipment and service suppliers, other airport users, and research organizations. Each of these participants has different interests and responsibilities, and each is an integral part of this cooperative research effort.

About the FAA

The FAA is part of the Department of Transportation and is responsible for the safety of civil aviation. The activities of the FAA include:

- Regulating civil aviation, including commercial service airports, to promote safety;
- Encouraging and developing civil aeronautics, including new aviation technology;
- Developing and operating a system of air traffic control and navigation for both civil and military aircraft;
- Researching and developing the National Airspace System and civil aeronautics;
- Developing and carrying out programs to reduce aircraft noise and other environmental effects of civil aviation; and
- Regulating U.S. commercial space transportation.

The FAA provides the framework for a safe, secure, and efficient aviation system. As a leading authority in the international aviation community, the agency is responsive to the dynamic nature of customer needs, economic conditions, and environmental concerns. The FAA encourages and supports innovative research to improve airport and aviation safety, improve aviation capacity, and reduce environmental impact.

Competition Partners

The ACRP gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following partnering organizations that supply expert advisors for teams, assist in dissemination of the Competition opportunity to organizational members, and participate in design reviews.

The American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE)

AAAE is the largest professional organization for airport executives in the world, representing thousands of airport management personnel at public use airports nationwide. The organization's primary goal is to assist airport executives in fulfilling its responsibilities to the airports and communities they serve.

The Airport Consultants Council (ACC)

ACC is an international trade association representing more than 240 companies that provide development and operations-related consulting and product services to airports and other aviation system stakeholders. Members offer architectural, engineering, planning, security, environmental, financial, management, economic and construction services, products and equipment.

The Airports Council International - North America (ACI-NA)

ACI-NA is a membership organization representing state, regional, and local governing bodies that own and operate the principal airports served by scheduled air carriers in the United States and Canada. ACI-NA member airports handle approximately more than 95 percent of the domestic and virtually all the international air passenger traffic and cargo traffic in North America.

The National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO)

NASAO was founded to ensure uniformity of safety measures, to standardize airport regulations and develop a truly national air transportation system

responsive to local, state, and regional needs. The organization represents the men and women in state government aviation agencies who serve the public interest in all 50 states, Guam, and Puerto Rico.

University Aviation Association (UAA)

UAA is the voice of collegiate aviation education to its members, the industry, government and the public. Through the collective expertise of its members, this nonprofit organization plays a pivotal role in the advancement of degree-granting aviation programs that represent all segments of the aviation industry.

Overall Requirements

The ACRP University Design Competition for Addressing Airport Needs is open to teams or individuals from accredited U.S. colleges and universities who are working with a faculty advisor.

Students enrolled in the fall semester 2024 and/or spring 2025 are eligible to participate. Final due date for all submittals is May 9, 2025.

Challenges might typically be addressed as part of senior design class or independent

study option or through other academic venues, including faculty-mentored, college-based student chapters of professional societies.

The Competition requires evidence of interaction with both airport operators and industry experts for feedback on the practicality of the proposed design/approach. Links to expert advisors are provided on the Competition website. The American Association of Airport Executives offers assistance in linking students to airport operators. Participants should contact Matt Griffin at mjgriffin@nas.edu to request assistance.

A key criterion for submittal evaluation is innovation. As part of the required literature review, participants should carefully review and consider previous related research and proposed problem solutions in formulating and supporting their submission.

The ACRP offers a wealth of research papers and other documents that students should consider in planning their submittal and proposed research approach. Links to previous and current ACRP research are available on the ACRP website: www.nap.edu/author/ACRP/transportation-research-board/airport-cooperativeresearch-program. **Students should also review previous winning submissions of the University Design Competition for Addressing Airport Needs and its**





predecessor, the FAA Design Competition for Universities. Links to these resources are provided on the Competition website.

Participants are encouraged to take an interdisciplinary approach to the selected topic and a cross-departmental approach where appropriate. Submissions must be student written and demonstrate a thorough understanding of current conditions/state-of-the-art approaches relevant to the chosen topic. Guidelines for elements of the submittal package are provided on page 11.

Note that additional information, resources, and responses to queries will be posted on the Competition website at <https://www.trb.org/ACRP/ACRPDesignCompetition.aspx>. Scoring criteria for submittal review are also posted on the Competition website. The submittal packages must be delivered electronically with instructions and necessary forms provided on the website.

Notice of Intent: A key goal of the Competition is to enhance the educational experience of participating students. The ACRP believes that by providing access to experts, the educational process can be strengthened; students gain exposure to professionals in the field; and students will be better able to assess the practicality of their designs.

Teams wishing to receive assistance may submit a “Notice of Intent,” by emailing Matt at MJGriffin@nas.edu

Once a Notice of Intent is received, the faculty advisor will be contacted to see what assistance might be needed. **A notice of intent is not necessary to participate.**

Technical Design Challenges

1. Airport Safety, Operations, and Maintenance

Safety is the core value for all parties in the United States National Airspace System (NAS). To get a sense of the extensive scale of the system, almost 20,000 airports are located throughout the NAS. Of those, approximately 8,700 feature paved runways, taxiways, and ramps/aprons. A subset of those facilities, roughly 500, feature an FAA/contract tower. Those towered airports have more than 135,000 aircraft operations—takeoffs and landings—a day, averaging approximately 50 million airport operations per year.

Airport maintenance and operations personnel are key to maintaining that core value of safety. The day-to-day operation and maintenance of an airport involves many tasks, both routine matters and unusual circumstances. Responsibilities include keeping records; hiring and training personnel; maintaining pavement; maintaining markings, signs, and lighting; providing snow and ice control, if applicable; managing emergency preparedness; overseeing handling of hazardous materials, including jet fuel; conducting airport self-inspections; overseeing procedures for operation of vehicles on the

airfield; providing obstruction lighting; protecting navigational aids; protecting public safety; dealing with wildlife control; and overseeing construction projects.

Safety on the airside is an especially critical issue as the airside includes surfaces where aircraft taxi and take off. These include ramps, taxiways, and runways. Incursions and excursions on these surfaces continue to be a focus area. According to the FAA Runway Safety Office, 25,551 Runway incursions have been reported over the past 20 years. Paved airport surfaces can be affected by many things: adverse weather, build-up of rubber residue from aircraft tires, and normal wear and tear. The pavement surface must also be kept free of what is referred to as foreign debris. Airport operators certificated under 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 139 are required to keep these surfaces in a condition that meets requirements specified in the regulation. These surfaces are inspected visually on a regular basis so any deficiencies can be found and corrected. Some automated systems have been developed to supplement aspects of these visual inspections.

In the interest of safety, an airport surface must be closed for a pavement repair. Runway closures reduce capacity at that airport, affecting carriers that may have to juggle flights to accommodate the repair and inconveniencing non-airline (called general aviation, or simply GA) aircraft that need to use alternate airfields, especially if the closure is unplanned. Any technologies or procedures that either improve the structure/longevity of pavement, increase the speed of repairing pavement, or automatically alert the airport operator to hazardous pavement conditions will be a welcome advance for airports.

This design category has challenges that focus on new approaches that will help airport operators increase airfield efficiency outside of the terminal and airport buildings. Designs can also consider the potential effects of NextGen on airport operations.

Airport Safety, Operations, and Maintenance Challenges:

A. Exploring new methods for design and maintenance of pavement surfaces and markings. Ideas include, but are not limited to:

- Methods for innovative pavement repair.
- Innovative pavement materials, installation, and maintenance techniques, including nondestructive evaluation methodologies.
- Improved approaches to rubber removal/surface restoration due to aircraft tire friction.
- New or improved techniques for ice removal from runways.
- Improved methods for ensuring the integrity of airfield markings.

B. Improved methods for foreign object detection and removal from runway surfaces.

C. Innovative approaches to address wildlife issues at airports including bird strikes.

D. Methods for improving runway safety during airport construction and reconstruction.

E. Safety considerations for drones operating in or near the airport environment—issues and constraints as well as benefits and costs.

F. Innovative concepts for virtual/remote towers at non-towered airports.

G. Expanding situational awareness of pilots and ground operators on the airside.

H. Innovative applications, including web-based solutions, for airport operations and maintenance.

I. Improved methods for ground traffic flow scheduling.

J. Strategies for safe and effective integration of automated and connected vehicles into the complex airport operations environment.

K. Innovative ways for airports to respond to future demand for alternative powered aircraft including electric and biofuels.



Passenger Experience and Innovations in Airport Terminal Design Challenges:

- A. Improved strategies for airport asset management, including land use.
- B. Innovations to accommodate passengers with disabilities and aging passenger demographics at airports.
- C. Passenger experience technologies such as restroom cleanliness monitoring, passenger wayfinding, smart building systems, etc.
- D. Advancements in airport concessions.
- E. Airport IT infrastructure.
- F. Passenger processing to access customs and border screening.

While students will need to undertake a thorough literature search, some key documents and resource links to begin the process are listed on the Competition website.

III. Airport Environmental Interactions

As the FAA carries out its mission, it must comply with regulations protecting the environment. All airport operations must be carried out with

L. Innovative ways for airports to respond to future demand for alternative powered aircraft including electric and biofuels.

M. Innovative approaches to aircraft rescue and firefighting including environmentally safe and effective alternatives for fire suppression.

While students will need to undertake a thorough literature search, some key documents and resource links to begin the process are listed on the Competition website.

II. Passenger Experience and Innovations in Airport Terminal Design

Planners and architects for all sizes of airports are struggling with how to design passenger terminals that provide good value and level-of-service efficiency that meet the criteria of many aspects of airport terminals, from security requirements and procedures to the needs of both traditional and low-cost airlines and concessionaires. Practical information is needed not only to address current issues but also to provide the flexibility to accommodate emerging trends and issues.

Over the history of air travel, airport terminals have always been seen as a gateway to the world as well as the introduction to their community. These campuses are, in effect, small communities that not only house the transportation providers (airlines, mass transit, etc.) that they were built to host but many times they also have their own police and fire departments, marketplaces and restaurants, parking facilities, and all of the supporting systems necessary to support these functions. In the last 50 years, massive security operations, customs and border processing, and health and safety functions have also had to be incorporated.



consideration for how the environment could be adversely affected. Airport environmental concerns may include many things: noise; land use; social impacts; air quality; endangered and threatened species; energy supply and natural resources; light emissions; solid waste impacts; or construction impacts. This design category has challenges that focus on improvements in snow and ice removal, containment and cleanup of fuel spills, storm water management, noise reduction and energy efficiency that will help airports carry out their mission in a way that will be environmentally sound and energy efficient.

As mentioned in Section I, Airport Safety, Operations and Maintenance, one of the airport operator responsibilities is snow and ice control on paved surfaces. Air carriers/pilots must ensure their aircraft are free of ice/snow to enable a safe takeoff. In many cases, this involves application of a chemical agent, which for both aircraft and airport pavements must meet strict corrosivity requirements. After the aircraft is treated, the airport operator is left with the problem of how to dispose of these chemicals or other cleanup required. Any improvements in aircraft and/or pavement anti-icing and/or de-icing agents themselves, new methodologies or procedural improvement, would be welcome.

Another environmental hazard is fuel spills. While a hazard on the airfield itself, airport operators must also ensure the spilled fuel does not enter the water supply where it can do even more damage. Stormwater management at airports is important to prevent contaminants such as chemicals and fuels from entering the water table. Air quality around airports is also a factor. Energy efficiency is another factor of environmental responsibility at airports. Energy is required for all airfield buildings, vehicles, and the airfield itself. It can be a challenge, especially at remote airports that may not have an independent power source, to keep the airfield properly lit.

Airport Environmental Interactions Challenges

A. Making snow and ice removal more environmentally friendly. Both chemical and nonchemical options can be considered. The ACRP is seeking designs that offer:

- Improved means and methods of complying with aircraft and airfield anti- and de-icing requirements.

- Environmentally safe aircraft and airfield anti- and de-icing products that are compatible with both aircraft structures and airport pavements.
- Improved containment and cleanup of anti- and de-icing products.

B. Improving methods for containment and cleanup:

- Bioremediation techniques for fuel spill cleanup.
- Techniques/substances for neutralization of toxic components of fuel.
- Techniques for prevention of percolation of fuel into groundwater.

C. New tools and approaches to stormwater management methods, water use at airports, and dealing with negative impacts of standing water.

D. New tools and approaches to noise reduction at airports.

E. Enhanced methods for improving air quality around airports.

F. Innovative strategies for management of natural environments to minimize negative impacts on and to enhance compatibility with airport operations.



G. Enhancing resilience and sustainability of airport operations and associated improvement projects in response to potential climate change effects or other naturally occurring catastrophic events:

- Risks to terminal operation.
- Risks to flight control procedures.
- Risks to operation of other on-airport facilities.
- Risks to fuel supply.
- Effects on freight and passenger access logistics.

H. Methods of reducing carbon emissions from ground equipment at large hub airports.

I. Helping airports plan for the expected growth in global electricity demands. As the growth in electrical ground vehicles continues, airports will need to provide and/or support the charging not only of passenger vehicles but ground support equipment and electric aircraft.

While students will need to undertake a thorough literature search, some key documents and resource links to begin the process are listed on the Competition website.

IV. Airport Management and Planning

In today's airport environment, especially at the busier airports, any change in "normal" operations affects that particular airport and also may ripple across the NAS and affect many other airports and passengers. To meet this challenge, the FAA, airport operators, and airport users must work together to develop action plans that provide the best solutions for local and regional areas, as well as the nation. An integrated approach is preferred which includes improving technology, air traffic control procedures, and expanding airport and airfield infrastructure.

Airport Management and Planning Challenges

This design category has challenges that focus on airfield management and planning that will help airport operators optimize the use of existing airport resources and plan for upcoming functional needs.

A. Maximizing airport capability:

- Strategies for accommodating aircraft that experience extended delays on the tarmac and in line for takeoff, including dealing with human needs as well as airport and airline capabilities.
- Innovative approaches to demand forecasting and management for airports.

- Innovative strategies for reducing airline fuel consumption, such as new ways to reduce gate-to-gate time or revise procedures.
- Effective alternatives to current ramp and gate controls.
- Creative approaches to airport revenue generation for general aviation airports.
- Models for collaborative decision making and data sharing at airports.
- Improved aircraft and airport design factors affecting aircraft compatibility to decrease the risk of aircraft wing tip collisions in the non-movement apron areas.
- Effective uses of social media in airport planning, marketing, development, and customer service.
- Planning for the integration and mitigation of possible impacts of drones into the airport environment.
- Enhanced management approaches to landslide functions to include parking and ground transportation.
- Innovative approaches to building and maintaining workforce capacity at airports in response to changing demographics, influence of emerging technologies, institutional changes, and other relevant factors.
- Strategies for mitigating potential cybersecurity challenges at airports.

B. Identifying, collecting, and managing data from new technologies such as artificial intelligence and machine learning to improve airport planning and operations.

C. Planning and preparing airport infrastructure for the integration of advanced air mobility transportation systems. How do airports plan now for this upcoming new transportation venue?

D. Planning and preparing airport infrastructure for the integration of commercial space operations.

E. Airport cybersecurity risk management and threat mitigation.

While students will need to undertake a thorough literature search, some key documents and resource links to begin the process are listed on the Competition website as well as instructional videos on completing a Safety Risk Assessment and Guidance for Preparing Benefit Cost Analyses.

Guidelines for Design Submission

It is strongly recommended that participants review the Tips for Proposers section of the Competition website. Each of the following should be identified as a separate section of the design submission.

Design Package Components:

1. Main Body of the Design Submission

The main body of the report must contain the following sections. There is a limit of 40 pages. Only required appendices are allowed. See format below. Use the bolded section headings noted below in formatting your design package.

Cover Page to include: Title of Design; team member(s) name(s) and status (undergraduates or graduates); advisor(s) name(s) and university attending.

Executive Summary – 1 page. This section must include a statement of the problem being solved, brief background information on the topic, a short explanation of the process undertaken to arrive at the solution and the solution itself.

Table of Contents with page numbers referenced for each section and appendix.

Problem Statement and Background on the Design Challenge being addressed. This section should demonstrate that the individual or team has a clear understanding of the issues surrounding the design challenge as well as current conditions and state-of-the-art approaches. See additional background on page 2.

Summary of Literature Review This is an overview of what was gleaned from the literature review with a discussion of primary sources and their influence on the design. Include a description of the ACRP reports reviewed. If no ACRP report was found to address your problem statement, be sure to note this. See page 2. Specific reference citations are to be provided in Appendix F.

Individual or Team's Problem-Solving Approach to the Design Challenge This section should include a thorough description of individual's or team's work including a description of both interdisciplinary and systems engineering approaches as appropriate to solving the problem. Incorporate details of your interaction with airport operators and industry experts and the feedback you received. (See pages 2-3 for more background.) A separate listing of these contacts is required in Appendix C. This section should include a description of how the technical aspects of the Design Challenge are addressed through drawings, mockups, computer codes, etc. as appropriate to provide evidence of a thorough design process.

Safety Risk Assessment The FAA promotes a culture of safety throughout all its operations. Examine existing FAA safety management system guidance as it relates to your proposed design solution. Consider inherent risks and describe how these risks should be addressed to ensure safe operations. Be sure to reference Introduction to Safety Management Systems for Airport Operators (FAA Advisory Circular 150/5200-37) and FAA Safety Management System Manual available under the Resources section of the

Competition website. See video with additional guidance on this section at the Competition website.

Description of the Projected Impacts of the Team's Design and Findings with a thorough discussion of how the design/solution meets ACRP goals. This section should address commercial potential for the design, including a description of processes that would need to be undertaken to bring the design to the product/implementation state. Emphasis should be on increased affordability and utility. This section should provide a financial analysis that reflects a realistic approach to projected cost/benefit determination and for the team's design. Guidance for acceptable cost/benefit analyses for the purpose of the Competition is provided on the Competition website.

2. Appendices A-F as described below are required but not included in the 40-page limit. No other material may be included as an appendix.

Appendix A. List of complete contact information (use permanent addresses) for all advisors and team members. Include email, fax and phone numbers. This information is crucial as student participants may have graduated prior to receiving an award and all award checks are mailed directly to the participants.

Appendix B. Description (approximately one page) of the university or college.

Appendix C. List of airport operators and industry experts contacted by the team. Detail on your interactions must be provided in the Problem Solving Approach.

Appendix D. Sign-off form for faculty advisor(s) and department chair(s). Sign-off form is available at the Competition website.

Appendix E. Evaluation of the educational experience provided by the project. Evaluation questions for both student and faculty are provided on the Competition website.

Appendix F. Reference list with full citations using APA, IEEE, or other standard format. APA reference format is available at <http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/Documentation.html>. IEEE format is available at [IEEE Citation Reference Guide](#).

Format:

Double-spaced, single-sided, minimum 12-point type, Times New Roman or Helvetica font. Captions and charts may be at a minimum of 10-point type. Pages, including appendices, must be numbered and referenced in the Table of Contents. The first page of each section should be bookmarked from the Table of Contents.

Due Date: May 9, 2025

The design package shall be submitted via email to bsummerlin-azeez@nas.edu following guidelines provided at the Competition website. Be sure to include the sign-off form which is available on the Competition website.

All electronic submissions must meet **the 5 p.m.** (Eastern Daylight Time) deadline on **May 9, 2025**. The faculty advisor will receive a submission acknowledgement via email.

By submission of the design package, Competition participants are agreeing that their design may be publicly shared.

Awards and Key Dates

A cash award will be given to the student or shared equally among the student team members in each of the four technical design challenge areas as follows:

First Place - \$3,000
Second Place - \$2,000
Third Place - \$1,000

First place award-winning team representatives will be invited to accept their award and present their design at a ceremony at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine in Summer 2025, date to be determined. A travel allowance will be provided for at least three individuals (one faculty advisor and two or three students) from each of the first-place winning teams.

First place teams will also be invited to present their design at an appropriate Competition partner workshop or conference. Travel costs will be covered.

Notice of Intent (NOI) is strongly encouraged by not required.

Design submissions will be accepted through May 9, 2025.

Note: Students may work on their designs at any time throughout the Competition period.

Winners will be announced June 2025

Contact: Matt Griffin at mjgriffin@nas.edu 202/334-2366

