

AIAA Design Competition Rules

I. Eligibility Requirements

- All AIAA University Student members (hereinafter “students”) are eligible and encouraged to participate. Membership with AIAA must be current to submit a report and to receive any prizes.
- Students must submit their letter of intent and final report via the online submission to be eligible to participate. **No extensions will be granted.**
- More than one design may be submitted from students at any one school. At large student members may collaborate with each other even if they do not attend the same university.
- If a design group withdraws their final report from the competition, the team leader must notify AIAA Headquarters immediately.
- Design projects that are used as part of an organized classroom requirement are eligible and encouraged for competition.
- Student participants must be (paid) AIAA Student Members to participate.
- Faculty Advisors and Project Advisors do not need to be AIAA Members

II. Schedule

- The schedule for AIAA Design Competitions will be posted to the Design Competitions [program website](#) each year by 15 August. The schedule posted to the program website is the final schedule unless otherwise stated.
- All Team Roster & Proposal and Final Report submissions must be made via the online submission form, which can be found at www.aiaa-awards.org.
- Results are returned to students in August of the same year, dependent on the reviewing committee schedule.

III. Categories/Submissions

- The number and types of categories/competitions on offer in any given year is at the discretion of the AIAA Student Activities Committee (SAC)
- Team_Submissions
 - Team competitions will be groups of not less than 3 and not more than 10 AIAA Student Members per entry, unless specified in the competition Request For Proposal (RFP).
- Individual_Submissions
 - Individual competitions will consist of only one AIAA Student member per entry.
- Graduate
 - Graduate students may participate in the graduate categories only.
- Undergraduate
 - Undergraduate students may participate in the undergraduate categories and graduate categories, however, graduate entries must comprise at least 2/3 graduate students
- Team Roster and Proposal Information
 - Team Roster and Proposal Information indicating interest in participating in the design competitions is required before submitting a final report.

- All Team Roster and Proposal Information Forms must be submitted through the online submission system. This only asks for basic information about your proposal and team.
- Team Roster and Proposal Information must include the competition of interest, proposal title, student's names, emails, AIAA membership numbers, expiration dates, faculty advisor(s) names, emails, and project advisor(s) names and emails. Incomplete forms will result in the Team or Individual being ineligible to compete in the competition.
- Submission of Final Design Report

Each team or individual must provide an electronic (.pdf) copy their design report as outlined below, or according to RFP instructions, to the online Submission site, www.aiaa-awards.org -

 - An electronic copy of the report in Adobe PDF format must be submitted to AIAA using the online submission site. Total size of the file cannot exceed 25 MB.
 - Electronic report files must be named (ex): "year_[university]_DESIGN_REPORT.pdf"
 - A "Signature" page must be included in the report and indicate all participants, including faculty and project advisors, along with students' AIAA member numbers and signatures. If the submitting team is comprised of at-large student members, each student member needs to include the name of the university he or she attends.
 - Electronic reports should be no more than 100 pages, double-spaced (including graphs, drawings, photographs, and appendices) if it were to be printed on 8.5"x11.0" paper, and the font should be no smaller than 10 pt. Times New Roman, unless otherwise stated in the relevant competition RFP.

IV. Copyright

All submissions to the competition shall be the original work of the team members. Authors retain copyright ownership of all written works submitted to the competition. By virtue of participating in the competition, team members and report authors grant AIAA non-exclusive license to reproduce submissions, in whole or in part, for all of AIAA's current and future print and electronic uses. Appropriate acknowledgment will accompany any reuse of materials.

V. Conflict of Interest

It should be noted that it shall be considered a conflict of interest for a design professor to write or assist in writing RFPs and/or judging proposals submitted if (s)he will have students participating in, or that can be expected to participate in those competitions. A design professor with such a conflict must refrain from participating in the development of such competition RFPs and/or judging any proposals submitted in such competitions.

VI. Awards

The prize money provided for the competitions is funded through the AIAA Foundation. The monetary awards may differ for each competition, with a maximum award of \$1,000. The award amounts will be listed on the AIAA Design Competitions program website once per year at the beginning of each cycle.

One representative from the first place team *may be* invited by the Technical Committee responsible for the RFP to make a presentation of their design at an AIAA forum. A travel stipend *may be* available for some competitions, with a maximum travel stipend of \$750 which may be used to help with costs for flight, hotel, or conference registration to attend an AIAA forum.

Paper certificates will be provided to each individual team member plus a faculty advisor and project advisor, only if the team or individual places 1st/2nd/3rd. This does not include institutions/individuals from nations subject to US government sanction. It is the team's/individual's responsibility to provide an appropriate mailing address to AIAA HQ for the purposes of mailing these certificates.

Participation certificates may be requested in writing to studentprogram@aiaa.org and they will be delivered in electronic format. Teams may request participation certificates up to 01 October of the same year.

VII. Proposal Requirements

The technical proposal is the most important factor in the award of a contract. It should be specific and complete. While it is realized that all of the technical factors cannot be included in advance, the following should be included:

- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the Request for Proposal (RFP) requirements.
- Describe the proposed technical approaches to comply with each of the requirements specified in the RFP, including phasing of tasks. Legibility, clarity, and completeness of the technical approach are primary factors in evaluation of the proposals.
- Particular emphasis should be directed at identification of critical, technical problem areas. Descriptions, sketches, drawings, systems analysis, method of attack, and discussions of new techniques should be presented in sufficient detail to permit engineering evaluation of the proposal. Exceptions to proposed technical requirements should be identified and explained.
- Include tradeoff studies performed to arrive at the final design.
- Provide a description of automated design tools used to develop the design.

All analytical modeling tools, data sources, computer codes, and technical resources used to generate, analyze, model and produce the design and associated report must be:

i.) Available for inspection, download, and/or sale to all individuals and entities regardless of nationality as allowed by US export laws;

or

ii.) Generated personally by the students on the team without the use of codes falling under restriction i or substantial material assistance by individuals or entities outside of the team.

Teams are required to list all computer codes used along with the URL where they may be obtained under the conditions above (E.g. <https://www.mathworks.com/products/matlab.html>). Teams must agree to this provision when submitting their materials.

VIII. Rules, Regulations, and Laws Governing Technical Review and Financial Awards

This competition is subject to all applicable laws, including US export laws. US law prevents AIAA from awarding prize money to, or providing substantive feedback on entries from, persons residing in Iran, Cuba, North Korea, Crimea, Sudan, or Syria. AIAA is not responsible for US export laws concerning the provision of technical feedback or prize money, and AIAA will not make any exceptions to this provision and will comply with all relevant US export laws.*

***NON-HARASSMENT**: Any faculty, advisor, student or student(s) found to be sending or directing harassing messages to any staff member or professional volunteer regarding application of the Design Competition program rules is subject to a ban on their university's future participation in this AIAA program, up to and including a **permanent** ban. The determination of staff and volunteers regarding the application of U.S. government rules and regulations regarding financial awards, technical feedback and review are final.

IX. Basis for Judging

The AIAA Technical Committee that developed the RFP will serve as the judges of the final reports. Unless other judging criteria are outlined in the relevant RFP, reports will be evaluated according to the criteria below. Please refer to the RFP for your competition to see if the criteria are different. Judges reserve the right to not award all three places. Judges' decisions are final, and candidates will be provided feedback via judging comments after the program has closed for the cycle.

1. Technical Content (35 points)

This concerns the correctness of theory, validity of reasoning used, apparent understanding and grasp of the subject, etc. Are all major factors considered and a reasonably accurate evaluation of these factors presented?

2. Organization and Presentation (20 points)

The description of the design as an instrument of communication is a strong factor on judging. Organization of written design, clarity, and inclusion of pertinent information are major factors.

3. Originality (20 points)

The design proposal should avoid standard textbook information, and should show the independence of thinking or a fresh approach to the project. Does the method and treatment of the problem show imagination? Does the method show an adaptation or creation of automated design tools?

4. Practical Application and Feasibility (25 points)

The proposal should present conclusions or recommendations that are feasible and practical, and not merely lead the evaluators into further difficult or insolvable problems.

Contact Details:

For more information about this program, please contact us at studentprogram@aiaa.org.