



2022: GATEWAYS TO BLUE SKIES COMPETITION

AIRPORTS OF TOMORROW

The Gateways to Blue Skies: Airports of Tomorrow competition is managed by the National Institute of Aerospace (NIA) on behalf of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

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The Gateways to Blue Skies competition (aka, Blue Skies) was developed to expand engagement between universities and NASA's Aeronautics Mission Directorate's (ARMD's) <u>University Innovation Project</u>. Blue Skies is open to teams of undergraduate and graduate college students who have an interest in aviation and/or aeronautics.

Gateways to Blue Skies projects allow students to work on real aviation/aeronautical design concepts and work together in a team environment. Interdisciplinary teams are encouraged. Initial participation involves a design study, submission of a 5-7 page research paper, and creation of an infographic that summarizes the team's design.

Through the 2022 Blue Skies Competition, **teams of 2 to 6 students will design a 2050s airport (focusing on the exterior of the airport) that can support the climate friendly planes and aviation markets of the future.** This challenge seeks ideas and designs for the evolving airports of 2050 as we push towards climate friendly aviation and new emerging aviation markets. As our aviation technologies and markets change, new airport designs will be needed to support them.

Based on the review of research paper submissions, up to 8 teams may be chosen to present their findings in a competitive design review during the Gateways to Blue Skies Forum at NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, VA next June. Each finalist team will receive a monetary award to facilitate full participation in the Forum. Internship opportunities with NASA's ARMD serve as the competition prize for members from the winning team.

Competition Purpose and Objective

Through Blue Skies, NASA hopes to reach as many college students as possible. **Submissions from ALL academic levels (i.e., freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, and graduate) are highly encouraged and anticipated.** The purpose of this competition is to get college students thinking (at a higher system's level) about how the climate-friendly aviation technologies of tomorrow will change the airports of 2050.

Background/Context for 2022 Theme

NASA Aeronautics has always been about improving aviation efficiency and safety, while reducing noise, fuel use and harmful emissions. For decades, NASA-developed technologies have contributed to making aviation more sustainable – environmentally and economically. Now NASA is expanding research for sustainable aviation by developing and testing new green technologies and designs for next-generation aircraft, new automation tools for greener and safer airspace operations, and new sustainable energy options for aircraft propulsion. NASA is partnering with industry, academia, and other agencies through the <u>Sustainable Flight National Partnership</u> to accomplish aviation's aggressive climate change agenda – reduce aviation carbon emissions by half by 2050 (compared to 2005), and achieve net-zero emissions by 2060.

Through its University Leadership Initiative, NASA is aiming to help address the long-term challenge of Zero Emission Aviation by 2050, focusing beyond the next generation aircraft and pioneering new concepts, technologies, and operations to achieve a zero-emissions future. In this case, zero emission technology refers to any technology that provides a pathway to the eventual adoption of aircraft that do no environmental harm in all its operating modes. The focus is specifically on reducing aviation emissions and not target emissions from energy production. The 2050s aviation landscape will incorporate new technologies and designs, enabling new aircraft to fly safer, faster, cleaner, and quieter. This future landscape includes the use of alternative fuels (electric, hydrogen, ammonia, sustainable aviation fuel, etc.), increased efficiency in the use of existing fuels, and changes to the shapes and designs of commercial aircraft.

These advancements will require infrastructure updates or design overhauls to existing or new airports. Blue Skies challenges teams to evaluate the future landscape and propose designs to accommodate the new technology in an "airports of tomorrow" concept.

2022 Project Description

The 2022 Gateways to Blue Skies: Airports of Tomorrow competition asks teams to design a 2050s airport that can support the climate friendly planes and aviation markets of the future. This design study should start with an assessment of the 2050s aviation landscape, including important societal and aviation landscape altering factors such as economics, safety, regulations, the environment, etc. These factors should be taken into consideration when creating and justifying elements of the design, **which should focus on the exterior of the airport**. The exterior of the airport includes but is not limited to gate design, airport layout, fuel/energy transportation/storage/transmission, establishing infrastructure for recharging/refueling aircraft, ground support equipment for the entire aircraft turnaround process (multimodal transfer of cargo, baggage loaders, baggage cart tractors, towing vehicles or tugs, and ground power units), safety measures, and maintenance areas. The focus should not be on the runway design, airport building interiors, ground transportation to the airport, and air traffic management. Write a technical paper on your design study and create one or more infographics summarizing your findings/design. In addition, create a short 2-minute video to highlight your design.

Eligibility

The Gateways to Blue Skies competition is open to full-time or part-time undergraduate and graduate students at an accredited U.S.-based community college, college, or university. Teams may include senior capstone students, clubs, multi-university teams, and/or multi-disciplinary teams.

Eligibility is limited to U.S. Citizens. Foreign students and foreign universities are not eligible to participate in this challenge.

Interdisciplinary teams and minority serving institution students are encouraged to apply!

UNIVERSITY DESIGN TEAMS MUST INCLUDE:

- At a minimum, teams must contain one US citizen faculty advisor with a university affiliation at a U.S.-based institution, and 2 U.S. citizen students from a U.S.-based university who work on the project and present at the Blue Skies Forum.
- Team size is limited to a maximum of 6 student team members.

SPECIAL ELIGIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS

- An individual may join more than one team.
- A faculty advisor may advise more than one team.
- A university may submit more than one technical paper.
- Team members may not be a Federal employee acting within the scope of employment (this includes co-op students with civil servant status)
- The expectation is that Blue Skies projects are student-led initiatives (i.e., students are doing the work).
 - Faculty take on the role as mentors, and if a team is selected as a finalist, help manage any monetary awards sent to the university.

Dates and Deadlines

Note: All deadlines must be met by 11:59 p.m. EST on the date specified below, unless otherwise indicated.

DATE	DESCRIPTION
Rolling (Previously: Oct. 25, 2021)	Notifications of Intent (NOI) deadline
November 3, 2021	Deadline to submit Questions for Q&A Session
November 9, 2021	Q&A Session for interested teams
February 8, 2022	Q&A Session #2 for interested teams
March 3, 2022	Deadline to submit Technical Paper, Infographic, and Video via online upload tool
April 7, 2022	Teams are notified of their selection status
May 1, 2022	Deadline for Hotel Reservations at Gateways to Blue Skies Group Rate
May 10, 2022	Deadline for Online Registration and Payment for the Gateways to Blue Skies Forum
May 30, 2022	Deadline to submit Presentation/Chart Deck Files (Noon EST)
June 1 - 2, 2022	2022 Gateways to Blue Skies Forum at NASA LaRC in Hampton, VA

How to Compete in the Gateways to Blue Skies Challenge

- 1. Thoroughly review this document
- 2. Find a qualified advisor and a diverse team of students
- 3. Ensure that your team meets the eligibility requirements
- 4. Submit an NOI by the deadline
- 5. Attend the Q&A session with the challenge sponsors
- 6. Develop and submit a Technical Paper, Infographic, and 2-minute video by the deadline
- 7. Technical papers are reviewed and evaluated by the Blue Skies judges
- 8. Based on a review of the technical papers, up to 8 teams will advance to the next phase of the competition presenting their design concepts in a face-to-face design review during the Blue Skies Forum at NASA's Langley Research Center.
- 9. Winning team members receive NASA internship offers

Notice of Intent

Notice of Intent Deadline: Rolling (Previously: 11:59 p.m. EST on October 25, 2021)

Interested teams are strongly encouraged to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to compete by the deadline in order to ensure an adequate number of reviewers. Teams who submit NOIs by the deadline will be invited to participate in an exclusive Q&A session with judges prior to the technical paper due date and will receive any and all updates to the challenge. NOIs are non-binding.

To complete the brief NOI form, please visit the online NOI Submission Form.

The following information will be requested on the NOI submission form:

- University name
- Partnering universities (if any)
- Project title
- Contact information for the faculty advisor and team lead
- Synopsis of the design concept (limited to 1,500 characters) providing a high-level overview of the proposed concept
 - NASA anticipates changes to teams' designs along the way, and design concepts can be changed at any point between NOI submission and Technical Paper submission.

Technical Paper, Infographic, and 2-Minute Video Submission

Technical paper, infographic, and video submission deadline: 11:59 p.m. EST on March 3, 2022

Technical Paper Guidelines TECHNICAL PAPER EXPECTATIONS

Technical papers are expected to demonstrate significant research in your design and analysis. The Gateways to Blue Skies Steering Committee will be looking for well-developed concepts. It is imperative that you apply all of the criteria in your design details.

- Technical papers should be 5-7 pages in length, separate from the infographics.
- Technical papers should clearly articulate the innovation and design being proposed.
- Submissions must be original, the work must be of the Candidates, and must not violate the rights of other parties.
 - Each submitting team represents and warrants that the team is the sole author and owner of the submission, that the submission is wholly original, that it does not infringe on any copyright or any other rights of any third party of which the team is aware, and that the electronic technical paper and video submission is free of malware.

THE TECHNICAL PAPER SHOULD INCLUDE:

A cover page with the following information:

- University name
- Project title
- Full names of all team members [including faculty advisor(s)], along with major course of study and Academic level of each student (undergraduate or graduate)

The body of the technical paper should outline/include (5-7 pages):

- Identification and implementation of **alternative/renewable fuels** and **complementary aeronautics concepts/shapes and designs** (VERY IMPORTANT!)
- Assessment of the 2050s aviation landscape and appropriate landscape altering factors.
- Inclusion of innovative capabilities/technology
- Indicate *WHY* you chose your design/configuration/system/approach in terms of *VALUE* in the areas of technology readiness, system performance, safety, and affordability.
 - Analysis and research supporting key airport design choices
 - Realistic technology assumptions, including realistic Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) and justifications
 - Consideration of the effects of assumptions/design choices downstream and on the upgradeability of any evolutionary architecture.
- Timeline of key technology advancements to achieve your 2050s airport design

TECHNICAL PAPER FORMATTING GUIDELINES

Teams are responsible for the formatting and appearance of their technical paper. Figures and tables must be placed in the file and therefore must be in digital format. We recommend teams use image files with a *minimum* dpi of 150.

- Technical papers should be 5-7 pages in length.
 - The Cover Page, Table of Contents, Appendices, and Infographic are *excluded* as a part of your 7-page total limit. They do not count toward the minimum or the maximum page limitations.
 - References should be included as an appendix and will not count toward the minimum or maximum page limits. **Appendices are to be used for references and calculations ONLY.**
 - Note: Judges are not obligated to look at the appendices. Include important details in the body of
 your paper to ensure they are reviewed. There is no preference in citation formatting, but
 references must be formatted uniformly and correctly. Just listing a link to the source is not
 acceptable.
 - Papers should be single spaced and single column.
 - Use of information graphics, tables, and charts are highly encouraged where appropriate (a well-conceived graphic can convey multiple pages worth of text and convey a deeper understanding of the problem and solution).
- Please use fonts common to Macintosh and PC platforms, i.e., Times, Times New Roman, Helvetica, or Arial for text; Symbol for mathematical symbols and Greek letters.
- Font size should be 11 or 12 pt.

TIPS FROM THE JUDGES

- Start with a big picture view of your concept, rationale, and goals. Consider the technical paper page limit when determining the appropriate level of design details (i.e., higher systems level analysis).
- A picture is worth a thousand words and can convey a lot of information. Pictures for the technical paper are a plus where appropriate. Show us your innovation! (Please do not include illegible hand-drawn sketches).
- Report quality can impact the judges' scoring. Poor grammar, typographical errors, etc. do not reflect well on your team.

• Make use of published papers and reports available to you on your chosen theme. AIAA, FAA, DOE, and the <u>NASA</u> <u>Technical Report Server</u> have a host of available papers on these topics that you may want to reference.

Infographic Guidelines THE INFOGRAPHIC SHOULD INCLUDE:

An infographic is a graphic visual representation of information, data, or knowledge intended to present information quickly and clearly. In this case, **the infographic should be a visual representation of your 2050s airport design choices and incorporate supporting information from your technical paper, in a way that is easily understood by audiences from non-technical backgrounds.**

- The infographic should be a blend of both visual and textual information (with more emphasis on the visual aspect).
- The infographic should reflect only the information discussed in the technical paper (i.e., it should NOT be used to add additional information that didn't fit within the 7-page technical paper page limit).
- The infographic should justify presented design elements in a visually compelling manner.

DIGITAL INFOGRAPHIC FILE GUIDELINES

Each team is required to submit the digital file of their infographic. Digital infographic files will be displayed on the Gateways to Blue Skies Website, and as such, will need to follow some standard guidelines:

- Infographic files should be a minimum of 2550 x 3000 (8.5" x 11").
- Infographics can be oriented portrait or landscape, at the team's discretion.
- Images and graphs embedded should be "print-ready," with a minimum PPI of 300 whenever possible.
- Images and graphs should be clear, legible, and appropriately sized.
- Links or redirects in the body of the infographic are not permitted, with the exception of references. The infographic should stand alone.
- File size limit is 100MB.
- Infographic should be submitted as a .PDF file
- Infographics should include a small team identifier in bottom left-hand corner (i.e., University and/or team name; logo; etc.)

Video Guidelines

GENERAL VIDEO FORMATTING INSTRUCTIONS

As a part of the technical paper submission process, teams will be required to include a 2-minute video. The intent is for the video to highlight and enhance each team's technical paper by including animation, graphics, or other creative ways of showcasing unique aspects of their proposed concept.

- 1. Videos are limited to a maximum length of 2 minutes
- 2. Videos should be uploaded to YouTube, and teams will provide their video's Youtube URL on the online technical paper submission form. Other types of video files will not be eligible for consideration.
- 3. Videos need to be publicly viewable via a link. Videos should be "Unlisted" or "Public" on YouTube.

- a. Troubleshooting Tip: YouTube accounts sometimes need to be verified prior to being able to fully upload videos.
- 4. Your university name and project title should appear in text at the front of the video
- 5. Do not use music or images which may violate copyright law. You may use images created by NASA.
 - a. It is the responsibility of the team to follow copyright law. Neither NASA nor NIA can approve the use of copyrighted material.

Submitting The Technical Paper, Infographic, and Video

To upload your technical paper, infographic and video (.pdf files and link), please visit the <u>online Competition</u> <u>Submission Form</u>.

No revisions can be accepted after submission, so please proof your technical paper, infographic, and video files very carefully before submission. If there are any technical problems with the content of your technical paper, infographic or video (for example, your file was corrupted or a URL link was broken), we will try to contact you immediately, so it is very important that you provide us with up-to-date contact information on the submission form.

Late submissions will not be accepted, and the submission form will close promptly at midnight.

The following information will be requested on the Technical Paper, Infographic, and Video Submission Form:

- University name
- Partnering universities (if any)
- Project title
- Infographic Title
- Faculty advisor & team lead contact information
- Team Member names, university affiliation, academic major or subject of study, year in school
- Additional Faculty Advisor information, if applicable
- How did you hear about the Blue Skies Competition?
- List departments/organizations from your college/university that contributed to the Blue Skies design submission
- File upload for PDF technical paper document
- File upload for Infographic
- URL link for team's public YouTube video (*NOTE: Video must be Unlisted or Public. Private videos are not publicly viewable and therefore may result in disqualification.*)
- A 2-3 sentence synopsis of the proposed design (max 500 characters)
- Mailing address and POC for stipend checks (for use only if a team is selected as a finalist in the competition)
- Vendor W9 Form for the primary proposing university (to be completed by the accounting department at the university).
 - Please download, complete, and submit this <u>Template Vendor W9 Form</u>
- An Intellectual Property and Media Release
- 2022 Blue Skies Forum Only Travel Information (*NOTE: Please be sure answers are reflective of the full team, sharing insights from team members in the open-answer section).*

Deliverables for Finalist Teams

TEAMS WHO ARE SELECTED TO ATTEND THE 2022 BLUE SKIES FORUM WILL BE REQUIRED TO:

- Give a 25-minute presentation, with an additional 20 minutes of Q&A at the Blue Skies Forum
- Print a poster-sized version of their infographic for display (48" x 36")

Presentation Guidelines

Presentation Files Submission Deadline: Noon EST on May 30, 2022

Presentations are limited to 25 minutes, followed by a 20-minute Q & A session. Teams may choose who speaks and who doesn't speak during the presentation. However, we encourage all team members to stand together at the front of the room during the presentation to be available to answer questions, even if they are not presenting.

EACH PRESENTATION FILE MUST INCLUDE A COVER SLIDE THAT INCLUDES:

- Project title
- University name
- Faculty advisor's name(s)

Slide readability

The presentation room is very large. Please ensure the font on your power point is large enough for those to see from the back of the room. Take advantage of high contrast options and avoid black screen backgrounds. Emphasize slide readability, especially for significant figures/calculations. Dark videos/animations and black backgrounds do NOT show well in the presentation room and should be avoided.

SUBMITTING THE PRESENTATION

To upload your team's presentation, please visit the <u>Finalist Deliverables Submission Page</u>. Presentations must be submitted by the deadline using the online upload tool, prior to team check-in at the Forum (i.e., presentations on flash drives will not be accepted). <u>Revisions to these files will not be accepted after the noon deadline – no exceptions</u>. Teams that do not submit a presentation by the deadline will be barred from presenting, and their stipends may be subject to return to NIA. Teams are encouraged to submit their final presentation files prior to travel.

Late submissions will not be accepted, and the submission form will close promptly at Noon EST.

Evaluation Criteria

A panel of NASA and industry experts will evaluate and score the competition components. Design projects will be evaluated and judged based on adherence to the following:

EVALUATION CRITERIA (170 POINTS MAX)

Technical Paper Evaluation Criteria (100 Points Total)

• **Theme Adherence:** Adherence to 2022 Gateways to Blue Skies thematic components as stated in the Background and Project Description (Max 20 points)

- **Technical Merit and Rationale**: Sound technical / scientific / engineering analysis, evaluation, and rationale of design concept, including evidence of thorough and proper research conducted (Max 50 points)
- **Innovation**: Application of innovative capabilities and/or new technologies to an airport's exterior infrastructure that accommodate climate-friendly fuels and airplane designs, as well as reduce cost and improve safety. (Max 15 points)
- **Technology Assessment**: Realistic technology assumptions, including realistic Technology Readiness Levels and justifications (Max 15 points)

Infographic Evaluation Criteria (30 Points Total)

- **Theme Adherence**: Adherence to 2022 Gateways to Blue Skies thematic components as stated in the Background and Project Description (Max 5 points)
- **Technical Paper Representation:** Representative of the findings and design choices made in the Technical Paper (Max 5 Points)
- **Technical Simplification**: Language and information should be easily understood by audiences from non-technical backgrounds (Max 5 Points)
- Element Justification: Visible information that helps justify presented design elements (Max 5 Points)
- **Visuals**: Visually compelling and well laid out components (Max 10 Points)

Video Evaluation Criteria (5 Points Total)

• **Overall Impression:** Video content is organized and flows. Viewers could easily follow the material; the video enhanced/highlighted one or more aspects of the team's design concept(s) and/or increased understanding of how various components of the design worked together (Max 5 Points)

Note: The evaluation criteria below will only be applied to the 8 finalist teams who are invited to present their designs at the Blue Skies Forum in June.

Presentation Evaluation Criteria (30 Points total)

- Presentation quality and consistency with technical paper (Max 10 points)
- Presence of teamwork and integration (Max 10 points)
- Quality of response to questions for presentation, infographic, models, and prototypes (Max 10 points)

Forum Participation (5 Points Total)

• Attendance and engagement in all Forum activities (Max 5 points)

A PDF version of the Evaluation Criteria is available for printing.

Participation Awards

Teams selected to present at the Forum will receive a \$6,000 monetary award to facilitate full participation in the Blue Skies Forum, held at NASA Langley Research Center in June 2022.

Prizes

NASA ARMD is setting aside up to 6 internships for students on teams that advance to the Blue Skies Forum. Selections will be made first to students on the winning team(s) and will based on the cumulative merit of each student's individual internship application and availability for fall, spring, or summer internships.

- Fall: Late August/early September to mid-December (16 weeks)
- Spring: Mid-January to early May (16 weeks)
- Summer: Late-May/early June to August (10 weeks)

Note: NASA internships have additional eligibility requirements:

- Cumulative 3.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale)
- Undergrad and graduate students must be enrolled full-time in a degree-granting program at an accredited college or university.

Intellectual Property (IP) and Media Release

Proposers must acknowledge that they have read and agree to abide by the <u>full Intellectual Property and Media Release</u> <u>Statements.</u> A brief summary of each statement is below.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Title in all intellectual property, including all inventions, patents, patent applications, designs, copyrights, trademarks, trade secrets, software, source code, object code, processes, formulae, ideas, methods, know-how, techniques, devices, creative works, works of authorship, publications, and/or other intellectual property ("Intellectual Property") developed by team participants as part of the Challenge will remain with the respective participants, subject to the following conditions:

Each team, and each participant thereon, participating in the Challenge grants the U.S. Government an irrevocable, royalty-free, perpetual, sublicensable, transferable, and worldwide license to use and permit others to use all or any part of the team's Intellectual Property developed by the team's participants as part of the Challenge, including, without limitation, the right to make, have made, sell, offer for sale, use, rent, lease, import, copy, prepare derivative works, publicly display, publicly perform, and distribute all or any part of such Intellectual Property, modifications, or combinations thereof and to sublicense (directly or indirectly through multiple tiers) or transfer any and all such rights. This royalty-free license includes but is not limited to the right of the U.S. Government to manufacture each team's Intellectual Property for use in NASA missions.

All deliverables provided to NASA under the Challenge, in NASA's sole discretion, may be publicly released in conjunction with any announcements concerning the Challenge.

MEDIA RELEASE

The Teams give permission to be recorded, photographed and/or videotaped by or for NASA or its representatives for the purpose of announcements, including public announcements, concerning the Challenge.

The Teams further give permission to NASA and its representatives to use, reproduce, prepare derivative works, publish, distribute to the public, perform publicly, and/or publicly display all deliverables, including excerpts and any ancillary material, which may include each team participants' names, affiliations (schools), images, voice, and/or likenesses. NASA may distribute the materials, including excerpts therefrom, and any ancillary material through a variety of media in existence now or in the future, including but not limited to print, television, websites, radio, or any other means. NASA may also permit a third party to exercise NASA's rights, including but not limited to the right to display or distribute the recording, including excerpts therefrom, and any ancillary material, in any manner NASA deems appropriate.

The teams also understand that this permission to use each participant's name, image, voice and/or likeness in such materials is not limited in time and team participant will not receive compensation for granting this permission.

Teams acknowledge that NASA has no obligation to use any participant's name, affiliation, image, voice, and/or likeness in any materials produced by NASA, but if NASA so decides to use them, each participant waives the right to inspect or approve any such use.

Teams hereby unconditionally release NASA and its representatives from any and all claims and demands arising out of the activities authorized under this Media Release.

Contact Information

For Gateways to Blue Skies inquiries, please contact the Blue Skies Program Team at <u>BlueSkies@nianet.org</u>:



National Institute of Aerospace Gateways to Blue Skies Program Office 1100 Exploration Way Hampton, VA 23666 BlueSkies@nianet.org https://BlueSkies.nianet.org

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This document has been updated. See changelog below:

- Table of Contents Links & embedded links were not enabled in the previous version. This has been corrected and links should now work properly. *Rev. 01.14.2022*
- Updated "Dates" table with Question Submission Deadline (11/3/21) & updated NOI submission deadline (Rolling). *Rev. 01.14.2022*
- Updated Notice of Intent section Deadline changed to "Rolling". Rev. 01.14.2022
- Updated Victoria O'Leary staff photo. *Rev. 01.14.2022*
- Added Feb. 8, 2022 Q&A #2 to Dates & Deadlines tables. *Rev. 02.07.2022*
- Added language and link to full Intellectual Property & Media Release Statement for Gateways to Blue Skies Competition. *Rev. 02.07.2022*
- Updated list of items to be requested on the Technical Paper, Infographic, and Video Submission Form to include Infographic Title; Team Member names, university affiliation, academic major or subject of study, year in school; Additional Faculty Advisor information, if applicable; How did you hear about the Blue Skies Competition?; List departments/organizations from your college/university that contributed to the Blue Skies design submission; 2022 Blue Skies Forum Only Travel Information. *Rev. 02.28.2022*
- Updated Presentation time limit to 25 minutes. *Rev. 04.07.2022*
- Updated Finalist Team Deliverables submission link. Rev. 04.07.2022