

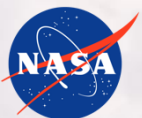


2025 Gateways to Blue Skies Competition:
AgAir | Aviation
Solutions for Agriculture

Q&A Session #2

January 23, 2025
3:30–4:30 PM Eastern

(Please mute all mics.)



The Gateway to Blue Skies: AgAir | Aviation Solutions for Agriculture Competition is sponsored by NASA's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate's (ARMD's) University Innovation Project (UI) and managed by the National Institute of Aerospace (NIA).



Session Agenda



- Welcome & Introductions
- Context for and Discussion of 2025 Theme
- Proposal & Video Expectations
- Programmatic Reminders
- Open Call for Questions
- Wrap Up

Program Team

National Institute of Aerospace



AMY MCCLUSKEY
Gateways to Blue Skies
Program Coordinator



STACY DEES
Higher Education
Challenges Portfolio
Manager

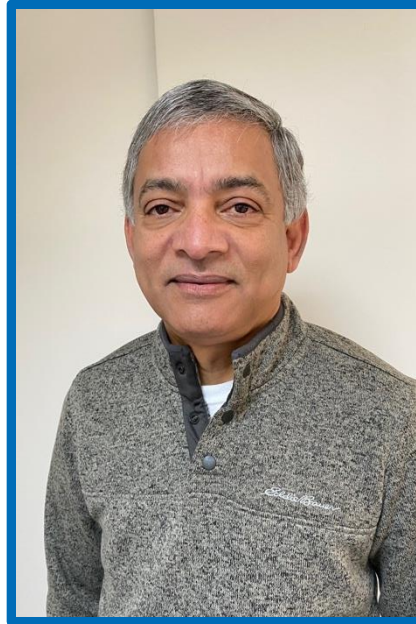


SHELLEY SPEARS
Director, Education
and Outreach

NASA Sponsors: UI Project



Steven Holz,
Blue Skies Co-Chair
UI Assistant Project Manager
(Langley)



Koushik Datta
UI Project Manager (Ames)



Mina
Cappuccio
UI Deputy Project Manager (Ames)

University Innovation (UI) Project:

University Leadership Initiative (ULI)
University Students Research Challenge (USRC)
Gateways to Blue Skies Competition (Blue Skies)



CORE JUDGING PANEL



Steven Holz, Co-Chair
Langley Research Center (UI)



Bradley Doorn, Co-Chair
NASA Headquarters



CJ Bixby
NASA Armstrong Flight Research Center



Shawn Engelland
NASA Ames



Cordelia Hiers-Brady
NASA Headquarters



Craig Nickol
NASA Langley Research Center



Daniel Martin
USDA



George Burba
LI-COR



GATEWAYS TO
BLUESKIES

Context and Discussion of 2025 Theme

AgAir | Aviation Solutions for Agriculture



2025 Theme: **AgAir | Aviation Solutions for Agriculture**



Teams will conceptualize **novel aviation-related system(s) that can be applied to agriculture** by 2035 or sooner with the goal of improving agriculture production, efficiency, environmental impact, and extreme weather/climate resilience.

Teams are encouraged to consider high-potential technologies and systems that aren't currently mainstream or highly regarded as becoming mainstream in the future and **imagine beyond** applying sensors to aviation systems.

Proposal & Video Expectations



- The Competition Guidelines are the foundation on which your submission will be judged!
- Carefully review the evaluation criteria
 - What are we looking for in:
 - the proposal?
 - the video?
 - What do we **NOT** want to see in the Competition:
 - Detailed aircraft design studies
 - Physical prototypes
 - What we **DO** want to see in the Competition:
 - High-level systems concepts,
 - Understanding of current agricultural management techniques,
 - Consideration of operational environment (physical and logistical),
 - End-user consideration and engagement,
 - Decisive and scoped concept choices (one system does not fit all solutions)
 - The ability to close gaps in current aviation-related agricultural needs

Programmatic Reminders



- Primary Academic Advisor **must** sign the Proposal
- Finalists are selected based on Proposal & Video Submission.
- Remember: You will need to submit a W-9/Vendor Form for your university with your Proposal.
- YOU are selling your proposed concept to the judges!

NEXT DEADLINE



[Competition Guidelines PDF](#)

2025 Competition Announced
(August 6, 2024)

Q&A Session 2
(January 23, 2025)

Proposal & Video Submissions Due
(February 17, 2025)

Selection Notifications
(March 14, 2025)

Forum at/near NASA Armstrong
(May 20-21, 2025)
{Subject to Change}



Existing Resources



Visit the Blue Skies FAQ Webpage for the following resources:

- Q&A Session #1 (November 20, 2024)
 - Video/Audio Recording
 - Summary Document
 - Presentation Slides (Chart Deck)
- Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- This Q&A Session and associated documents and recordings will be posted on the FAQs Webpage for future use.

- <https://blueskies.nianet.org/faq>

Q&A:

Open Call Format



To Ask A Question:

1. Use “Raise Hand” Function in Teams to ask verbally.
 - You will be called on to pose your question.
 - If possible, please turn on your camera while speaking.

OR

2. Type questions into the Chat.
 - The host will pose questions to co-chairs during the call.

Future Questions?



Please send all future questions to:
blueskies@nianet.org

Each question will be responded to directly, as well as posted on the [FAQ](#) Webpage for everyone to see.

We encourage you to visit the [FAQ Webpage](#) frequently for updates:
<https://blueskies.nianet.org/faq/>

Scan the QR Code to view the 2025 Gateways to Blue Skies Competition Guidelines Document.

