2025 Blue Skies Competition Scoring Matrix

Page 1: Proposal & Video Evaluation Criteria

Page 2: Final Technical Paper, Infographic, & Presentation Evaluation Criteria

Proposal and Video Evaluation Criteria	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Not Done
Proposal Evaluation Criteria (Max 80 Points)						
Situation Assessment: Sound technical / scientific / engineering analysis, evaluation, and rationale of the selected agricultural area and its challenges, needs, the specific area where the teams use case/opportunity for impact, and aviation systems proposed to address the opportunity, indicating thorough and proper analyses conducted or to be conducted. (Max 20 points)	20	16	12	8	4	0
Concept of Operations Overview: Clear depiction of systems integration approach, including an understanding of integration factors and necessary trades: simplicity, cost/ROI, support system requirements, connectivity constraints, limitations posed by environmental conditions, expected improvements over existing practices, and interoperability with existing people, organizations, solutions, and technologies. (Max 20 points)	20	16	12	8	4	0
Implementation Analysis: Sound analysis of pathway and timeline to implementation by 2035 or sooner, including, but not limited to: technology readiness levels, training, barrier analysis, customer/stakeholder operational integration, etc. (Max 15 points)	15	12	9	6	3	0
Innovation: Of proposed aviation system in agriculture (i.e., creative re-use of an existing technology, a novel approach or proposed system, an improvement to a process that substantially and measurably lowers cost or improves efficiency and/or safety). (Max 15 points)	15	12	9	6	3	0
Proposal Compliance: Proposal complies with all proposal requirements [i.e., inclusion of all required sections (as stated in the Overview and Competition Theme Description) and forms; adherence to format and page count requirements] (Max 5 points)	5	4	3	2	1	0
Composition / Grammar / Cohesion: Paper utilizes excellence in the English language, grammar, and composition to effectively convey concepts. (Max 5 points)	5	4	3	2	1	0
Video Evaluation Criteria (Max 20 Points)						
Relevance to Proposed Concept: Video enhances/highlights aspects of the team's concept(s) and/or increases understanding of aviation systems. (Max 10 Points)	10	8	6	4	2	0
Value Proposition: Video provides clear, compelling argument for investment. (Max 5 points)	5	4	3	2	1	0
Overall Impression: Video content is aesthetic, organized, and flows. Viewers can easily follow the material (Max 5 Points)	5	4	3	2	1	0
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS FOR PROPOSAL & VIDEO (Max 100 Points)						

Assessment:

Excellent = Criteria is fully met with exceptional merit, as documented by numerous or significant strengths and with no major weaknesses.

Very Good = Criteria is met with high merit and little errors; strengths fully out-balance any weaknesses and none of those weaknesses constitute fatal flaws.

Good = Criteria is met with a credible response and a few errors; strengths and weaknesses essentially balance each other.

Fair = Criteria is only nominally met and significant errors are apparent; weaknesses outweigh any strengths.

Poor = Criteria is not met and /or has serious flaws; one or more weaknesses constitute fatal flaws.

Not Done = No effort was made to meet criteria.

Final Evaluation Criteria	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Not Done
The criteria below will only be applied to the finalist teams who are invited to present their designs at the Blue Skies Forum in June.						
Final Research Paper Evaluation Criteria (Max 45 points)						
Situational Assessment and Concept of Operations Description: Sound technical / scientific / engineering analysis, evaluation, and rationale of the conceptualized aviation system addressing the specific agricultural opportunity space. Clear ConOps description, demonstrating thorough and proper research, practical applications, and realistic assumptions. (Max 10 points)	10	8	6	4	2	0
Implementation Analysis: Comprehensive analysis of integration approach, including integration factors and necessary trades: simplicity, cost/return on investment, support system requirements, connectivity constraints, limitations posed by environmental conditions, expected improvements over existing practices, and interoperability with existing people, organizations, solutions, and technologies. (Max 15 points)	15	12	9	6	3	0
Timeline, Technology Readiness Level & Barrier Assessment: Sound pathway to implementation by 2035 or sooner, including, but not limited to: technology readiness levels, training, barrier analysis, customer/stakeholder operational integration, etc. (Max 10 points)	10	8	6	4	2	0
Compelling Key Findings: Final paper makes a compelling case for concept implementation. (Max 5 points)	5	4	3	2	1	0
Expanded Analyses Summary: Clear highlight of changes made between proposal and final technical paper. (Max 5 points)	5	4	3	2	1	0
Presentation Evaluation Criteria (Max 35 Points)						
Visual Presentation: Quality of presentation slides (i.e., visuals, structure, appropriate use of slides for information, easy to follow) (Max 10 points)	10	8	6	4	2	0
Presentation Delivery: Communication delivery and presence of integration and teamwork (Max 10 points)	10	8	6	4	2	0
Q&A Response: Quality of responses to questions from the judges (Max 10 points)	10	8	6	4	2	0
Consistency with Final Research Paper: Representative of the findings and work written in the Technical Paper (Max 5 points)	5	4	3	2	1	0
Infographic Evaluation Criteria (Max 20 Points)						
Aesthetics, Creativity, & Organization: Visually compelling; creative use of color, graphics, images, and/or photos; well laid out components that clearly overview the opportunity space/team-determined use case in the selected aviation solution, and its projected improvements; and the conceptualized approach to deployment (including timeline, opportunities and challenges), with relevant supporting information. (Max 10 Points)	10	8	6	4	2	0
Technical Simplification: Language and information are easily understood by all audiences, especially those in non-technical fields. (Max 5 Points)	5	4	3	2	1	0
Consistency with Final Research Paper and Adherence to Infographic Requirements: Representative of the findings and work written in the Final Technical Paper. (Max 5 Points)	5	4	3	2	1	0
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS FOR FINAL SCORE (Max 100 Points)						

Assessment:

Excellent = Criteria is fully met with exceptional merit, as documented by numerous or significant strengths and with no major weaknesses.

Very Good = Criteria is met with high merit and little errors; strengths fully out-balance any weaknesses and none of those weaknesses constitute fatal flaws.

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