



## **AIAA DBF Competition Logistics – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

*Below is a list of commonly asked questions about the AIAA Design/Build/Fly (DBF) Competition Logistics.*

### **Section I: Travel**

#### **Q: When and how can I acquire a visa invitation letter for the purposes of travel to the United States?**

Visa letters will be available beginning after the top 110 teams are invited to submit a final report. The AIAA Staff Program Manager will e-mail all international teams informing them of how they can obtain a visa letter. Please start this process early. Visa processing times vary by consulate, and AIAA has no influence over the U.S. Government's visa processing timeline.

#### **Q: We applied for a visa but haven't heard back/our appointment is far in the future. Is AIAA able to expedite our visa?**

No. AIAA does not issue emergency visa request letters because the DBF Competition does not constitute an emergency for the purposes of an expedited visa. Any such requests will be denied by the U.S. government, and consequently will be denied by AIAA.

#### **Q: Who needs to apply for a visa?**

Citizens of countries that do not participate in the visa waiver program. Please go to <https://travel.state.gov/> to verify your country's participation in this program.

#### **Q: Is there a hotel block with special rates for DBF participants?**

No, AIAA does not contract with hotels for DBF rates.

#### **Q: Is there a general timeline of the on-site competition (flyoff)?**

The DBF Competition is held from Thursday through Sunday evening. Please be sure to stay for the duration of the competition – don't win an award only for no one from your team to be there to accept it (awkward)!

### **Section II: Competition Site**

#### **Q: Can I bring a visitor with me to watch me fly my plane?**

Yes, however, they must fill out a registration form which will be sent to teams approximately two months prior to the conference. Visitors must accept their own liability and recognize that they will be on a property with limited access to facilities.

#### **Q: Is there enough parking?**

Yes, there is plenty of parking at all competition sites in Wichita, KS and Tucson, AZ.

#### **Q: Does AIAA provide Wi-Fi on site?**

No, AIAA does not provide wi-fi. Please plan to bring your own wi-fi hotspots.



**Q: Does AIAA provide any meals to participants?**

No, AIAA does not provide meals unless otherwise stated. We periodically invite food trucks to come on site to sell food to attendees looking to get meals.

**Q: We need a pilot for our team. How can we get one?**

Pilots are available on an as-available basis to teams on site at DBF that do not have a pilot. A sign-up sheet will be available at the competition desk. After signing up, you will need to make arrangements directly with the pilot(s) you've chosen.

**Section III: General**

**Q: Is there a registration fee to attend or participate in Design/Build/Fly?**

No, AIAA does not charge a registration fee to participants or spectators.

**Q: Is AIAA Membership required to participate in Design/Build/Fly?**

Yes, you and all members of your team must have AIAA student membership to participate. This is because AIAA provides this program as a benefit to student members. Valid membership is required of all team members when you submit your initial proposal.

**Q: When will I find out the rules, timeline, mission, etc. for the coming competition?**

Please wait until the draft rules are issued in late summer. This document will be posted to [www.aiaadb.org](http://www.aiaadb.org).

**Q: Where do I submit my proposal and final report?**

All materials must be submitted at [www.aiaa-awards.org](http://www.aiaa-awards.org)

**Q: I have a question about the rules/technical specifications. Where do I ask that?**

Please contact the DBF Competition Director at [director@aiaadb.org](mailto:director@aiaadb.org). Prior to contacting the Competition Director, please ask yourself the following:

- Have I reviewed the rules or mission FAQs to make sure that my question isn't already answered?
- Has another member of my team already asked the same question I am about to ask?

**Q: Will the Design/Build/Fly Competition be live streamed?**

No, the competition will not be livestreamed. AIAA will post competition highlights and activities during the competition to our social media channels. Be sure to follow us for more!

**Q: Is there an option to participate virtually in the flyoff?**

No, all flyoff activities are done in-person.

**Q: We need to withdraw from the competition because we cannot travel or fly our plane. How do we do that?**

Please send your notice of withdrawal to [director@aiaadb.org](mailto:director@aiaadb.org).

**Q: I have a logistics question or a submission question that wasn't answered here.**

Please contact us at [studentprogram@aiaa.org](mailto:studentprogram@aiaa.org). Rules questions will be forwarded to the Competition Director at [director@aiaadb.org](mailto:director@aiaadb.org).