



2025



# NATIONAL STUDENT COMPETITION

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## COMPETITION SCHEDULE

### CONFERENCE –

MGM Grand, Las Vegas, Nevada, November 5-7, 2025

### PHASE 1

Team Registration	March 14 - August 27, 2025
Letter of Intent (LOI) from Team Faculty Advisor Due	August 28, 2025
Request for Qualifications (RFQ) Issued	September 2, 2025
Virtual RFQ Meeting – MANDATORY	September 4, 2025
Request for Qualifications Due	September 23, 2025
Region Competition Winners Announced	October 2, 2025

### PHASE 2

Request for Proposals Issued	October 3, 2025
Virtual RFP Meeting – MANDATORY	October 6, 2025
Request for Proposals Due	October 21, 2025
Three Short-Listed Teams Announced	October 27, 2025
Proposal Presentation in Las Vegas, NV	November 6, 2025
National Competition Winner Announced	November 7, 2025

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## INTRODUCTION

The Design-Build Institute of America invites you to participate in the National Student Competition. The competition this year constitutes the submittal of your response to a Request for Qualifications (RFQ). This response will be judged by an industry panel representing architects, engineers, contractors and Owners in your competition region. Each region will select 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams.

The first-place winners of each competition region will be issued the RFP. Those RFP proposals will be evaluated by a national judging panel. From these regional first place RFP proposals, three (3) teams will be short-listed to present their proposals to the national judging panel at the 2025 Design-Build Conference & Expo in Las Vegas, Nevada, November 6, 2025. Awards for the national first, second and third place teams, along with the award for best individual presenter, will then be presented at the conference.

## PRE-SOLICITATION CRITERIA

The project is an airport expansion at a major airline hub. Their vision aims to maintain their airport as a world-class facility for the future of their city. It's a response to the booming population in the area and the airport's record-breaking increase in passenger traffic. Based on their studies, specific desires were identified for such an expansion. The ultimate buildout will be completed in multiple phases and includes a terminal garage complex; on-site, luxury-branded hotel; terminal and airside expansion; additional ticketing and baggage areas; new security screening lanes; state-of-the-art international arrivals facility; and a future transit connector.

This initial Phase One procurement (the 2024 Student Competition) included the design and construction for a main terminal and airside expansion/automated people mover (APM not including systems, as that will be by others) delivered using a DBIA best practice of fixed-fee (\$100,000,000) variable scope. This year's competition will consist of finishing out that main terminal by adding additional gates/concessions on each side of the new main terminal building using another design-build best practice — Progressive Design-Build — and utilizing funding via a Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grant for a majority of funding.

## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The RFQ requirements will include all or parts of the following components (and scoring criteria will be contained in the RFQ):

- a. Provide information to solidify your team's ability to be a design and construction partner with the airport specifically for this activity, including:
  - Design-Build Team specifics — integrated firm or design and construction firms forming a JV, teaming alliance, etc.
  - Design-Build Team's similar work experience in this type of project
  - Design-Build Team experience working together (if not an integrated firm)
  - Project Team key personnel qualifications and resumes
  - Available work capacity
  - Insurance and Bonding
- b. Demonstrating your understanding of the design-build delivery method, respond to:
  - Design excellence
  - Overall design and construction team approach
  - For the RFQ, in addition to design and construction qualifications deliverables, the following deliverables may be required:
    - » Design
    - » Schedule
    - » Cost

The scoring criteria will be included with the RFQ.



## PHASE 1

- RFQ response
- 1 winner in each competition Region
- All winners attend Annual Conference

## PHASE 2

- RFP response
- Issued to Phase 1 winners only
- 3 finalists
- Finalists present at Annual Conference
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place awarded in-person at a general session at Annual Conference

The RFQ response is to provide the team experience in responding to a typical industry RFQ and to identify the team's overall understanding of the design-build process. The RFQ is specifically written to address a project at an airport that is not a real airport project but utilizes typical industry approaches to RFQs.

*Note: Because this is a Student Competition, we might request components in the response to the RFQ which typically are not components for an Industry Qualification Package.*

The RFQ response requires teams to develop fictitious resumes and project examples that don't actually exist because, as in industry, the RFQ expects the team to provide the resumes and projects that provide the judges evaluating the RFQ a clear perspective that this team has both the people and project experience (type, cost, location, etc.) to be the best team for this project. Team resumes should be written in such a way to show the team has the experience to collaborate with the airport on this project. Likewise, project examples should reflect the team's experience with the type, cost and size of the RFQ project description.

Teams will be allowed to submit Requests for Information (RFIs) by email during the proposal period.

## Sample RFQ

Review a sample [Request for Qualifications \(RFQ\)](#) from a previous year's competition. While the scope is not representative of this year's competition, this example provides insight into the quality of the RFQ document you should expect to receive.

The RFQ requirements will include all or parts of the following components:

Provide information to solidify your team's ability to be a design and construction partner with the airport specifically for this project, including:

- Design-Build Team specifics — integrated firm or design and construction firms forming a JV, teaming alliance, etc.
- Design-Build Team's similar work experience in this type of project
- Design-Build Team experience working together (if not an integrated firm)
- Project Team key personnel qualifications and resumes
- Available work capacity
- Insurance and Bonding

Demonstrating your understanding of the design-build delivery method, response to:

- Design Excellence
- Overall design and construction team approach
- For the RFQ, in addition to design and construction qualifications deliverables, the following deliverables may be required:
  - » Design
  - » Schedule
  - » Cost

The scoring criteria will be included with the RFQ.

Click [here](https://www.dbia.org) to register online at [dbia.org](https://www.dbia.org)

# PHASE 1: RFQ RULES

1. Although DBIA encourages DBIA Student Chapters to compete, they do not receive special consideration and schools without chapters are also invited.
2. Teams will consist of five students. It is not mandatory to have design students on the team; however, teams may have up to two design students on their team, for five extra evaluation points per student for a potential maximum of 10 extra points. Teams that do not have design students will not be penalized. "Design" is defined as civil, mechanical and/or electrical engineering, architecture or interior design. Students currently participating in a school sponsored internship are also considered eligible, and one member of the team can be enrolled in a master's graduate program.
3. Ph.D. students are not allowed to compete without first requesting and obtaining approval from the Competition Committee. Submit requests to the DBIA [Membership Department](#).
4. Design excellence, as defined by DBIA, is an evaluation element for the competition.
5. Only the student team may contribute to the development and response to the RFQ, and AI is not allowed (and the team will have to attest to this). The faculty advisor can participate as a consultant on a *very limited* basis.
6. Team registrations must be submitted online on or before the deadline. You can see all Student Competition deadlines on the [Competition Calendar](#).
7. The Team's faculty advisor must then email a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the DBIA [Membership Department](#) before the LOI deadline to confirm team participation.
8. After receipt of registration and the LOI, the RFQ will then be released to participating teams.
9. Teams (and the faculty advisor) must participate in a mandatory one-hour webinar to discuss the RFQ ([See the competition calendar for details](#)).
10. Teams will submit their RFQ response by email to the [Membership Department](#) at DBIA National no later than 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time on or before the due date.
11. RFQ submittals will be judged by the Regional Jury.
12. Submittals must be in the format specified in the RFQ.
13. Unlike industry where late submittals will not be evaluated, DBIA policy is that late submittals will be accepted but will have 20 points deducted from their overall score; however, submittals more than four hours late will not be evaluated.
14. Rule violation will result in Team disqualification.
15. All Phase 1 teams will have the opportunity to debrief with the Region Jury Chair regarding RFQ responses, if requested.
16. All Phase 1 first-place teams are expected to attend DBIA's Design-Build Conference & Expo in November, and awards will be presented.

[Click here to register online.](#)

## REGIONAL WINNERS

The winner in each Phase One (RFQ) Regional competition will move on to Phase Two of the national competition and receive a Request for Proposal (RFP).

## TRAVEL & REGISTRATION

Region first-place winners will also receive \$1,500 from their Region to assist with travel expenses (airfare, hotel, rental car, etc.) plus complimentary conference registrations for students and their faculty advisory to attend the DBIA Design-Build Conference and Expo. All Phase 1 (RFQ) champions are expected to represent their Region at the Annual Conference. The \$1,500 is ONLY to be used for travel and expenses to attend the DBIA conference.

## HOTEL

All regional first-place teams should immediately secure their rooms as they do fill up fast. We suggest trying our room block around the venue first to compare with alternatives in the area. Cancellations must be made using the hotel's cancellation policy to avoid being charged a penalty. Teams are responsible for covering lodging and travel costs.

## SHORT-LISTED TEAMS

The top three teams in Phase Two (RFP) will be short-listed to present their proposals in person to the national judging panel at the Design-Build Conference & Expo.

## TRAVEL & REGISTRATION

Short-listed teams will also receive \$3,000 from DBIA National to assist with travel expenses (airfare, hotel, rental car, etc.) plus complimentary conference registrations for students and their faculty advisory to attend the DBIA Design-Build Conference and Expo. The \$3,000 stipend is ONLY to be used for travel and expenses to attend the DBIA conference.

## HOTEL

Whether you are a Regional Winner or a short-listed top three, hotel suggestions are the same and you should have already made your reservations when notified you were a Regional Winner.