



Call for Presentations

2026 Federal Design-Build Symposium

From Authorization to Implementation



August 11-12, 2026 | Hyatt Regency Reston | Reston, VA

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 18, 2026

Design-build is now the fastest-growing collaborative delivery method in the U.S., used on nearly half of all design and construction projects nationwide. From state and local agencies to the private sector, Owners are turning to design-build to deliver greater certainty, speed and accountability.

The recent passage of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) authorizes Progressive Design-Build (PDB) for federal military construction, an important step forward for federal project delivery.

The 2026 Federal Design-Build Symposium will focus on what it takes to implement PDB successfully in the federal environment, not in theory, but in practice. As agencies and industry prepare for PDB's expansion beyond the military services, this Symposium will serve as a forum for candid lessons learned, acquisition strategies that work and real-world examples of Design-Build Done Right® within the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR).

We invite subject matter experts with direct federal design-build and Progressive Design-Build experience to submit session proposals addressing topics, including but not limited to:

Progressive Design-Build in Action

- Comparing Two-Phase Design-Build and Progressive Design-Build — when and why Owners choose one over the other
- Delivering PDB within federal programming regulations and phased funding constraints
- Successfully navigating permitting and environmental review in a PDB framework
- Understanding the PDB “off-ramp” — purpose, structure and lessons learned
- Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) source selection plans — best practices, examples and pitfalls to avoid

Risk, Liability & Market Pressures

- Emerging liability considerations in today's federal design-build market
- Strategies for addressing workforce constraints, Build America/Buy America requirements and ongoing market volatility

Content Guidance

- Sessions are subject to coaching from the Planning Committee.
- Sessions may have subject matter experts added as needed for balance.
- Federal project examples are not required. Given the limited number of federal PDB projects, examples from other sectors are welcome.
- The number of available session slots is limited. We look forward to selecting a strong lineup of presenters.

Cost, Scope & Contracting Realities

- Managing “betterments” within a design-to-budget model
- Award fee implementation and incentive structures that drive performance
- Project examples where early budget transparency improved outcomes

Execution & Readiness

- Proprietary meetings — when they add value and when they create risk
- Owner and Design-Builder Readiness Assessments — common frustrations, red flags and how to resolve them
- Demonstrating Design-Build Done Right® within the FAR

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Submitting Your Presentation Idea

All submissions must be completed [online](#). Incomplete submissions will not be accepted. As part of the submission process, you will be asked to answer the questions below. Only those who answer “yes” to the following questions need respond:

1. Can you and any additional panelists, if selected, commit to travel to present in a timeslot to be determined on August 11-12 in Reston, VA (just outside of Washington, DC)?
2. Is your content current and highly relevant to the successful execution of design-build within the context of the Federal marketplace?

STEP 1: Contact Information

1. **Select your role** (submitter only or submitter and speaker)
2. **Provide your contact information** (name, title, credentials, company, email, etc.)
**If submitter only, please type "N/A" in this field*
3. **Experience presenting the topic** – Has the presenter conducted a similar topic at a DBIA or any other industry event?
4. **Attestation** – Submitters must review and attest to their understanding of the points below:
 - a. I agree that, if selected, I will submit a copy of my DRAFT PowerPoint presentation to be used during the conference to DBIA by June 15, 2026.
 - b. I agree that, if selected, I will submit a copy of my FINAL PowerPoint presentation to be used during the conference to DBIA by August 3, 2026. DBIA will withdraw session presenters from the program if we do not receive final presentations by the August 3 deadline.
 - c. Registration and applicable travel fees are my responsibility.
 - d. At this time, DBIA cannot accommodate the use of Wi-Fi based polling software such as Mentimeter in our concurrent (track) programming. DBIA is investigating how to incorporate such tools into our concurrent programming and will reach out to presentation teams if and when these tools can be accommodated.
5. **Provide DBIA Certification status**

STEP 2: Proposal Information-Presenter Details

1. **Select presenter composition:** Are you a single presenter or do you have a panel?
2. **List the individuals to participate in this session, if selected — Information must include presenter(s):**
 - Name
 - Credentials
 - Title
 - Company
3. **Full Team Perspective:** How does your presentation or panel incorporate broad perspectives — such as experience levels, firm sizes, market sectors, geographic regions — while highlighting efforts to expand opportunities and promote engagement for small and underrepresented businesses in design-build?

Presenter names, titles and credentials will be listed exactly as submitted if selected, so please confirm this information with fellow panelists. Please note, there is a maximum of 4 panelists allowed for each session. Should you wish to have more than 4 panelists, please contact conferences@dbia.org to discuss whether or not additional panelists can be accommodated.

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STEP 3: Proposal Information- Presentation Overview

1. **Presentation Title:** Title should capture the essence of the topic to be discussed and should not exceed 12 words. (DBIA reserves the right to modify the title; submitters will be notified). Please be sure to use title case.
2. **Presentation Summary:** Please provide an overview of the session intent and why the topic is relevant to successful integrated delivery. The summary statement should not exceed 200 words and may be used for marketing purposes should your presentation be selected.
3. **Presentation Learning Objectives:** Submitters will be asked to provide four learning objectives that clearly expresses what the attendee will be able to do after taking a course.
4. **Connection to Best Practice:**
 - a. Please select the Federal Sector Best Practices emphasized in your presentation (check all that apply).
 - b. In 200 words or less, please explain how your presentation will emphasize and make connections to the Federal Sector Best Practices noted above.
5. **Presentation Format:** Submitters will be asked to select from: Single Presenter, Panel with Presentation, Panel Discussion without presentation, Other: Please Specify
6. **Presentation Level:** Submitters will be asked to select from: Beginner, Intermediate or Advanced
7. **Intended Audience:** Submitters will be asked to check all that apply: Owners (Procurement/Pre-Award Professional), Design Professionals, General Contractors, Specialty/Sub Contractors or Other: Please Specify
8. **Logistical Contact:** Title and Full Contact Information — This person must be prepared to serve as DBIA's main point of contact if selected, including coordination with co-presenters, where applicable.
 - a. Name
 - b. Title
 - c. Email
 - d. Phone
9. **Please check here** to confirm your agreement and understanding that, if selected, DBIA has the right to request modifications to content and to suggest additional panelists as deemed necessary to achieve our conference goals.

STEP 4: Proposal Summary and Submission

Before you submit your final presentation, **submitters will be asked to double check the following:**

- Review the abstract information by clicking the “Edit Proposal” image in the left column.
- Review the primary author information below by clicking the “Edit Speaker Information” Image in the left column
- Click the “Add Additional Presenter” image in the right column to add additional speakers to this abstract.
- The primary submitter must obtain confirmation that any additional speakers will participate should DBIA accept the submission. DBIA requests that there be no more than three additional presenters.

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How Are Presentations Evaluated?

DBIA's goal is to develop a balanced, high-quality and cutting-edge conference program that reflects the diversity, depth and strategic priorities of DBIA and the design-build industry. To achieve this, a committee of industry experts evaluates all presentation submissions through a structured review process.

Initial Review & Scoring: Reviewers score each submission based on the criteria below. These scores play a key role in program development. However, final selections are made to ensure a holistic balance of content diversity, presenter representation and strategic alignment.

Evaluation Criteria:

- **DBIA Credentials:** Submissions where presenters hold the DBIA® or Associate DBIA® credential are given preference (DBIA will verify credentials).
- **Owner Participation:** Panels with Owner participation receive heightened consideration.
- **Diversity of Perspectives:** Presentations showcasing diverse perspectives are prioritized.
- **Federal Sector Best Practices:** Presentations emphasizing and/or making clear connections to the Federal Sector Best Practices are valued.
- **Timely and Relevant Topics:** Presentations that focus on relevant topics, including but not limited to those mentioned above, are given added consideration.
- **Tangible Takeaways:** Proposals with concrete, actionable takeaways attendees can apply immediately are prioritized.

Additional Considerations: While reviewer scores are a key evaluation mechanism, DBIA's final determination also considers:

- **Content Diversity:** Ensuring a range of topics to avoid over-concentration on specific subjects.
- **Comprehensive Panels:** Panels with key team players (e.g., Owner, designer, builder) and depth of expertise as emphasized through panel credentials and biographies are prioritized.
- **Strategic Initiatives:** Aligning content with DBIA's strategic goals to offer relevant, cutting-edge insights.

Note: **Submissions promoting specific products or services will not be considered.**

[START SUBMISSION](#)

DBIA will notify submitters of DBIA's interest in the submitted session concept by April 13. Additional logistical details will be provided at that time to those selected for the next round of conversations.

Questions regarding the submission process should be directed to:
Courtney Zsitek at czsitek@dbia.org