

**For Immediate Release**  
**January 05, 2018, NR-18-01**  
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## 2017 ACC Young Professionals Innovation Competition Winner Announced

*Team of individuals from San Francisco International Airport, HMMH and RS&H selected first place for their submission, 'Taxiing Into Autonomy'.*

**Alexandria, VA** – The Airport Consultants Council (ACC) is pleased to announce the winner of the 2017 ACC Young Professionals Innovation Competition, 'Taxiing Into Autonomy'. The proposal uses autonomous aircraft towing vehicles to improve airfield and gate utilization efficiency by making it easier and less costly to tow aircraft to remote parking positions, and reduces pushback maneuvering time by eliminating engine run-up and tug disconnect times. The winning team includes Christopher DiPrima, San Francisco International Airport; Michelle Fong, San Francisco International Airport; Justin E. Divens, HMMH; and Joseph Gale, RS&H.

The first-place team will present their submission at the [2018 ACC/AAAE Airport Planning, Design and Construction Symposium](#) in Denver, Colorado on February 28 – March 2. The team will also have the opportunity to display their submission at the event.

Supported in part by the [ACC Members Foundation](#) the competition is part of a larger program offered by the ACC Young Professionals Forum as a means to engage the young professionals in ACC member firms and enhance their professional careers. Targeted for industry professionals that are aged 35 or under, the Young Professionals Forum provides networking, mentoring, education, and career growth opportunities.

"Congratulations to this year's winning team, who present a futuristic concept that may be a reality before we know it," said ACC President T.J. Schulz. "This submission represents the key goals of the Innovation Competition – to highlight innovations that reflect evolving trends and addresses growing challenges at airports."

ACC would like to thank all who submitted projects and participated in the competition, including team members from the following firms and airports:

ADB Safegate	Jacobsen Daniels	RS&H
DY Consultants	JMT	San Francisco Int. Airport
HMMH	Merchant Aviation	Urban Engineers
		WSP

Competition submissions were evaluated by a panel of judges including Evan Futterman, Futterman Consulting; Wilson Rayfield, Gresham, Smith & Partners; Kate Andrus, Mead & Hunt; Anne Barry, Ross & Baruzzini; and Benet Wilson, AviationPros.

The ACC Young Professionals Forum is looking to refresh the Innovation Competition for 2018. If you wish to be a part of this process, please contact Pinar Maurice at [pinarm@acconline.org](mailto:pinarm@acconline.org).

*The Airport Consultants Council (ACC) is the global trade association that represents private businesses involved in the development and operations of airports and related facilities. ACC is the only association that focuses exclusively on the business interests of firms with airport-related technical expertise. ACC informs its members of new trends while promoting fair competition and procurement practices that protect the industry's bottom line. Founded in 1978, ACC Headquarters is located in the Washington, D.C. area. View this release online at [www.ACCOnline.org](http://www.ACCOnline.org).*

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