

Innovate, Collaborate, and Soar to New Heights

Innovation Competition 2024

Attention all young professionals in the aviation industry! Are you ready to showcase your innovative ideas and solutions to industry experts? The ACC Young Professional's Innovation Competition is the perfect opportunity for you to demonstrate your expertise and creativity. We're seeking the brightest minds in the field to present their solutions to the challenges faced by the aviation industry. This competition is an excellent chance for young professionals to network with each other, network with industry leaders, gain industry recognition, and potentially win valuable prizes. Don't miss this opportunity to take your career to new heights and make a real impact on the aviation industry.

Sponsored by the ACC Foundation, the purpose of this competition is to encourage innovative thinking among young professionals who engage in the development and operations of airports. To enter the 2024 ACC Young Professionals Innovation Competition, teams will submit their planned team members by **August 15, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. EDT**. Once teams are established, team members will work together to finalize an Innovative Idea and submit an initial abstract by **November 15, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. EDT**. They will then have until **January 12, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. EDT** to complete and submit their final proposals for review by a panel of judges. A maximum of four teams, as selected by our panel of industry members/experts based on the review and scoring of the final proposals, will have the opportunity to present their innovations at the 2024 ACC/AAAE Airport Planning, Design & Construction Symposium, taking place on **March 5-7, 2024, in Salt Lake City, Utah**. The finalist teams will create presentations based on their innovation and final proposals to present on March 4, 2023, in Salt Lake City in front of a panel of industry members/experts for final judging and scoring. The panel of judges will collaborate to select the first and second-place teams and the winning team will be announced and presented their awards during the Awards Luncheon at Symposium.

SCOPE

Think about the many factors of change that are affecting the modern aviation industry. Creative thinking from new leaders will be vital as the industry continues to adapt to these factors. ACC is seeking new, innovative ideas from young professionals in aviation. These innovations can be technical or operational in nature and can fall within any discipline of airport development but are required to be an original concept or a unique improvement to an existing model or practice that furthers the development and addresses growing challenges at airports. Once the idea is finalized, the teams must prepare a one-page abstract to submit to the judges for review. Abstracts must be submitted by **November 15, 2023, by 5:00 p.m. EST**. After the submittal of the abstract, teams shall prepare final proposals. Final proposals are due **January 5th, 2024, by 5:00 p.m. EST** to Brad Mikulecky via email. A panelist of judges will review the final proposals from January 8 to January 11th, 2024. The final teams (a maximum of four teams) 2024, I be selected by the judges and all participants will be notified of the selected finalist teams on **January 11th, 2024 by 5:00 p.m. EST**. Finalist teams will then present their Ideas in person to a panel of 5 industry expert judges on March 4th, 2024 in Salt Lake City, Utah before the start of the 2024 ACC/AAAE Planning, Design, and Construction Symposium.

PARTICIPANTS

All participants must be 35 years old and under.

- Teams can be made up of a maximum of four members, with a minimum of two members.
- Teams cannot have more than 2 members from the same company/organization.
- Team members from different companies/organizations – including airport staff – are highly encouraged.
- At least half the team must be from ACC member firms. Not sure if your company is an ACC member? Check the ACC Member Search here: <https://members.acconline.org/>

If you plan on joining the competition and have put together your team, email Brad Mikulecky and submit each team member's name, company, job title, office location, and email address by **August 15th, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. EDT.**

Interested in joining the competition, but do not have a full team? Email Brad Mikulecky by **August 4th, 2023,** to be added to a list of participants looking for team members. The email should include your name, company, job title, and office location. Teams will then be created, and information on team members will be sent out on **August 18th, 2023, by 5:00 p.m. EDT.**

All teams and names of team members will be sent to all participants on **August 18th, 2023, by 5:00 p.m. EST.**

PUBLIC COMPETITION TIMELINE

- Single participants send contact information to Brad Mikulecky by August 4th, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. EDT.
- Deadline for team submittals is August 15, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. EDT.
- All teams and team member names sent out to all participants on August 18th, 2023, by 5:00 p.m. EDT.
- Abstracts due November 15, 2023, by 5:00 p.m. EST - Emailed to Brad Mikulecky
- Final Proposals due January 5th, 2024, by 5:00 p.m. EST - Emailed to Brad Mikulecky
- Finalist Teams announced January 11th, 2024, by 5:00 p.m. EST.
- Final presentations March 2024 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

SUBMITTAL FORMAT

- Initial Abstract
 - Maximum two-pages
 - The abstract should do the following:
 - Introduce the Innovate Idea
 - Identify the team members/team name (if created)
 - *Please note the scoring criteria*
- Final Proposal
 - Maximum 10 pages
 - The final proposal shall include/address the following:
 - Cover Sheet
 - Team Member Chart
 - Introduce and describe the entire Innovate Idea

- Identify the need for the Idea in the current aviation industry climate.
 - Include citations, case studies, or personal accounts to back up claims.
 - Identify potential drawbacks of the Idea.
 - How/who this Idea would benefit the aviation industry and describe the significance it could have?
 - The feasibility of the Idea being brought into the current aviation industry.
 - Potential costs associated with the implementation of the Idea.
 - Minimum 10-point font
 - *Please note the scoring criteria*
- All projects and documentation must be submitted digitally.
- Additional submittal formats acceptable upon request and approval

FINAL PRESENTATION FORMAT

Should your team be selected to compete and present at the 2024 ACC/AAAE Planning, Design & Construction Symposium, presentations will be accepted as followed:

- Presentations will be a maximum of 15 minutes, including a maximum of 5 minutes Q&A.
- Acceptable presentation formats include slideshow presentations or interactive presentations.
 - Additional presentation formats are acceptable upon request and approval to Brad Mikulecky and Grace Healey.
- All teams should confirm the endorsement by their organization to support their attendance at the 2024 Symposium. All team members will be responsible for travel expenses and conference attendance (if planning to attend) at the 2024 Symposium.
 - *Additional formats acceptable upon request

SCORING CRITERIA

Initial Abstracts will be reviewed by a panel of judges and comments will be provided to teams at the discretion of the judges. Initial Abstracts will be made public for all teams to see and will be sent out prior to the submission of the Final Proposals.

Scoring for the Final Proposals will be based on the following criteria:

- 30% Originality – Ideas presented are unique, creative concepts of the team members.
- 30% Potential – Significance or value of the improvements that this innovation could bring to the airport development industry.
- 30% Feasibility – Ideas presented are actionable within the current aviation system and address any concerns of cost or stakeholder buy-in.
- 10% Submittal Quality – The proposal is well-structured and organized, tailored to the needs and interests of the target audience, includes relevant data, research and/or visuals to display the innovation, is error-free, grammatically correct, and displays a high level of overall professionalism.
- **A bonus will be provided to any team that has members from three plus organizations.**

Scoring by this panel for the final presentations will be based on the following criteria:

- 50% Presentation Quality – Team worked within one of the acceptable formats to engage their audience, clearly and directly present their ideas, and make a strong case for the impact their innovations could have.
- 50% Q&A – All team members were knowledgeable in every aspect of their innovation. Answers to the panel’s questions were complete and concise.

AWARDS

The winning team will be announced and presented during the 2024 ACC/AAAE Airport Planning, Design & Construction Symposium Awards Luncheon, following their presentations and careful deliberation by the judges. All remaining teams will be recognized during the Awards Luncheon.

1st Place Winners

\$250 awarded to each team member.

Free registration and the opportunity to present at the 2025 Symposium* (4 registrations max)

Opportunity to present and/or display your presentation at the 2025 Symposium.

Given award at the Symposium during the Awards Luncheon – Est. at \$100 each (\$400 max)

Feature content in ACC Weekly news feed

Presentation description, links on ACC website www.ACConline.org

2nd Place Winners

\$200 awarded to each team member.

Free registration to the 2025 Symposium* (4 registrations max)

Presentation description, links on ACC website www.ACConline.org

*The free registration to the following year’s Symposium is solely for the individuals on the team. If a team member is unable to make it to the following year’s Symposium their free registration does not get passed onto another person.

If you have questions, please reach out to Brad Mikulecky (brad.mikulecky@meadhunt.com).
