

6th Edition

AeroTHON 2026

Theme: Aerial Surveillance and Rapid Delivery

Track 1

ROTORCRAFT SYSTEMS CHALLENGE

Multicopter UAS Design,
Build and Fly event

Design Build Fly



Jun 13, 2026 (Phase 1)



Oct 30-31, 2026 (Phase 2)

Phase - 1 Venue Sponsor:



Phase - 2 Venue Sponsor:



Track 2

NEXT GEN AIR MOBILITY CHALLENGE

Conceptual & System Design
of Hybrid VTOL UAS

**Innovate -Compete -
Transform Aviation.**



Sep 26 - 27, 2026 (Single Phase)

About AeroTHON

AeroTHON is one of the Annual Flagship events of SAEINDIA that prepares the students for being industry ready by providing an opportunity and platform for the students to apply and develop their skills in designing, building, flying an Uncrewed Aerial System (UAS) with insightful mentorship from the industry professionals.

To support the mission of Indian government to make India a UAS/Drone hub by 2030, under AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, SAEINDIA Aerospace Forum has been organizing AeroTHON every year since 2021. With the astonishing success of the past editions, we are organizing the 6th edition of AeroTHON as AeroTHON 2026.

AeroTHON2026 evolves with two Tracks :

Track 1	Track 2
Rotorcraft Systems Challenge – Multirotor UAS Design, Build and Fly event	Next Gen Air Mobility Challenge – Conceptual & System Design of Hybrid VTOL UAS

For additional details, refer to event website <https://saeindia.org/aerothon2026/>

SAEINDIA Aerospace Forum

Aerospace Forum is a team of dedicated Industry professionals representing a broad spectrum of knowledge and skills in the aerospace industry who define the strategy and direction of the Forum. Overall objective of the group is "To develop a strong community of interest, leading to a healthy aerospace ecosystem in India" . Numerous events and activities have been organized by the Aerospace forum over the last decade. SAEINDIA team has been collaborating with SAE International for the development of Aerospace Standards. The Indian team is actively involved in in G-31 Electronic Transactions for Aerospace (ETA) Technical Committee, G-34, the Artificial Intelligence in Aviation Committee and HM-1, the Integrated Vehicle Management Committee.

Visit: <https://saeindia.org/aerospace-forum/>.



Objectives



To inculcate an innovation mindset among the student community in emerging technologies like Uncrewed aerial vehicles (UAV).



To Incubate and nurture skills and capabilities of aero design in young minds and prepare them for Atmanirbhar Bharat in critical aerospace technologies.



To provide a platform for Aero-passionate students to demonstrate UAV design expertise.



To help develop the next generation of entrepreneurs.



Introducing TWO TRACKS

Important Dates



Registration Open
Feb 11, 2026



Registration Close
Mar 31, 2026

Track 1: Rotorcraft Systems Challenge

Key milestones		Date
Phase 1	Design Report and Presentation submission by students	May 24, 2026 (Sun)
	Review of Design reports by Jury	May 24, 2026 (Sun) – Jun 12, 2026 (Fri)
	Students present designs to Jury	Jun 13, 2026 (Sat)
Phase 2	Physical Prototype build	Jun 13, 2026 (Sat) – Nov 12, 2026 (Thu)
	Flying Round [Fly round, Valedictory and Awards ceremony]	Oct 30, 2026 (Fri)
	Flying Round [Fly round, Valedictory and Awards ceremony]	Oct 31, 2026 (Sat)



Contest Structure:

Phase 1: Design & Technical Evaluation

(Mode: Hybrid : In-person/Virtual)

- Submission and presentation of innovative UAS designs
- Technical evaluation by industry and academic experts
- Shortlisting of teams for Phase 2

Phase 2: Build, Fly & Final Evaluation

(Mode: In-Person)

- Prototype fabrication of the multirotor UAS
- Tiger's Cage (Business) presentation
- UAS inspection against design submission in Phase 1
- Flight testing and mission demonstration
- Final evaluation and prize distribution

Track 2: Next-Gen Air Mobility Challenge

Key milestones	Date
Design Report & Presentation submission by students	Aug 16, 2026 (Sun)
Presentation & Evaluation by Jury	Sep 26, 2026 (Sat) - Sep 27, 2026 (Sun)
Announcements of the Winners	Oct 15, 2026 (Thu)

Contest Structure:

Single Phase: Conceptual & System Design Evaluation

(Mode: Virtual)

- Preparation and submission of Design report & associated presentation.
- Technical presentation (Virtual) evaluated by industry and academic experts
- Final evaluation and results announcement.
- Development of a rapid urban delivery air mobility concept
- Definition of system architecture & mission profile
- Performance analysis and feasibility assessment



Sponsorship

Sponsor Category	Sponsorship Value	Promo Graphics	Venue Branding	Stall Space at finals Venue	Special Invite to Other Aeroforum Events	Webinar with Students
Title Sponsor	Rs. 4,00,000	Large	Large	18 Sqm	2 (Complimentary Delegate Pass)	6
Co-Sponsor	Rs. 3,00,000	Large	Large	9 Sqm	1 (Complimentary Delegate Pass)	4
Associate Sponsor	Rs. 2,00,000	Medium	Medium	6 Sqm	-	2
Supporting Sponsor	Rs. 1,00,000	Small	Small	2 Table Space	-	0
Start-up Sponsor	Rs. 50,000	Small	Small	1 Table Space	-	0
Academia Sponsor	Rs. 50,000	Small	Small	1 Table Space	-	0

Sponsorship Benefits

Benefits to Industry:

 Innovation and Collaboration - Access fresh ideas & innovative solutions from student teams. - Partner with academia to advance aerospace technology	 Brand Visibility, Corporate Social Responsibility Enhance brand image and demonstrate commitment to aerospace development.	 Talent Identification and Acquisition Identify and recruit skilled graduates with practical experience
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Benefits to Academia:

 Branding, Placements and Internships Academia gains visibility, Job and Internship opportunities to deserving teams.	 Practical Experience Students obtain Hands-On experience and along with Faculty Coordinators obtain Industry Mentoring through real-world applications, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge & practical skills.	 Skill Development and Knowledge Sharing Students get access to Special skill development sessions, access to tools and solutions, awareness from Industries and Solution providers	 Networking and Collaboration Network and collaborate with industry experts, enriching academic perspectives through diverse and professional interactions.
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Additional Benefits:

- Dedicated areas for Demo/Interaction with Participants during Phase 1.
- Guest of Honour slot at Inauguration and Valedictory for Title Sponsor
- Opportunity to offer Internships, attachments or talent absorption.
- Resume/CVs of Candidates will be shared based on individual concurrence complying with General Data Protection Regulation upon event completion.
- Support from Aerospace Forum Members or their nominees to deliver lectures, shape and contribute to academic curriculum, training, capability building, career coaching etc.
- Special Invite for sponsor representatives to attend and participate in other Aerospace Forum events like AeroCON & AeroSTANDARDS for Title and Co-Sponsors.
- Promotion of short ads (less than 3 minutes) prior to valedictory event.

Registration Guidelines

Track 1: Rotorcraft Systems Challenge

- Registration Fee: Rs. 20,000 + 18% GST per team for Rotorcraft Systems Challenge.
- Teams can be formed with a minimum of 5 students and a maximum of 10 students of multiple disciplines with one faculty advisor.
- It is mandatory for participating students to become student members of SAEINDIA. It is encouraged to take up the membership under +1 scheme as membership status continues for one more year after the completion of graduation.
- Though not mandatory, Faculty are encouraged to become a Faculty Member of SAEINDIA and avail the benefits available for the faculty member of SAEINDIA.
- [Click here](#) to sign up for SAEINDIA membership.
- [Click here](#) to download "Team Details form", save the filled form in PDF format and proceed for registration.

[Register Now](#)

Track 2: Next-Gen Air Mobility Challenge

- Registration Fee: Rs. 5,000 + 18% GST per team for Next-Gen Air Mobility Challenge (Design ONLY challenge).
- Teams can be formed with a minimum of 5 students and a maximum of 10 students of multiple disciplines with one faculty advisor.
- It is mandatory for participating students to become student members of SAEINDIA. It is encouraged to take up the membership under +1 scheme as membership status continues for one more year after the completion of graduation.
- Though not mandatory, Faculty are encouraged to become a Faculty Member of SAEINDIA and avail the benefits available for the faculty member of SAEINDIA.
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[Register Now](#)

AeroTHON 2026's Sponsors

Title Sponsor

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Co Sponsor



Associate Sponsor



Track 1 Phase 1 - Venue Partner



Track 1 Phase 2 - Venue Partner



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.saeindia.org/aerothon2026/

Sponsorship: Ms. Shantha Priya | +91 73387 48891 | priya@saeindia.org

Team Registration: Mr. Suman | +91 98402 10293 | suman@saeindia.org

Disclaimer: The AeroTHON organizing committee and SAEINDIA shall not be held responsible for non-fulfillment of their obligations due to the exigency of one or more of the force majeure events such as but not limited to the acts of God, war, flood, earthquake, strikes, lockouts, pandemics, epidemics, riots, civil commotion, scarcity of water, electricity or such other basic facilities etc. and shall inform the participating teams on the occurrence and cessation of the event within one week of such decision being made. If the force majeure conditions continue beyond a reasonable period where running the event is not feasible either due to the force majeure conditions or any other reasons, the event may be cancelled for the year. (a) Earthquake, flood, inundation and landslide, storm, tempest, hurricane, cyclone, lightning, thunder, pandemics, epidemics or other extreme atmospheric disturbances or any other act of God (b) Strikes, labour disruptions or any other industrial disturbances not arising on account of the acts or omissions of the organisers, war, hostilities (whether declared or not), invasion, act of foreign enemy, terrorism, rebellion, riots, weapon conflict or military actions, civil war, ionising radiation, contamination by radioactivity from nuclear fuel, any nuclear waste, radioactive toxic explosion, volcanic eruptions or other such occurrences beyond the control of the organisers (c) Acts of expropriation, compulsory acquisition or takeover by any government agency of the said venue where the event is to be held or any part thereof (d) Any prohibitory order of any Court.