

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is GoFly?

A: GoFly is catalyzing the creation of a personal flyer. We are reimagining flight, transportation, and exploration through the lens of safely and reliably soaring through the skies ... and we are doing it for everyone. We envision a future where an “everyone” personal flyer exists that is capable of being flown safely by anyone, anywhere. We’re rethinking how humans get around in the 21st century.

Q: What is the GoFly Prize?

A: The GoFly Prize is a \$2,000,000 challenge to create a personal flying machine that is useful, safe, and thrilling. We encourage innovators from all walks of life, including academics, engineers, students, and builders to submit their ideas and participate in the competition to reimagine flight, transportation, and exploration.

Q: Who is behind GoFly?

A: Our team consists of a group of innovators and engineers who saw an opportunity to create a community and a competition focused on making people fly. We have spent years building relationships with aviation experts who share our vision and who are committed to helping Teams in the official competition make personal flight a reality. Our network now includes international aerospace organizations as well as major leaders in flight such as Boeing and Pratt and Whitney.

Q: How is Boeing involved?

A: Boeing, the world’s largest and most forward-thinking aerospace company, has partnered with GoFly to turn dreams into reality. Since its founding more than a century ago, Boeing has been at the forefront of innovation and exploration, pushing the limits of what is possible through game-changing technologies that impact the world and meet the needs of the global community. Through GoFly, Boeing will help empower the next generation of dreamers and thinkers to take on one of the most ambitious and exciting opportunities of our day. As the Grand Sponsor of the GoFly competition, Boeing is sponsoring tomorrow.

Q: How is Pratt and Whitney involved?

Pratt and Whitney, a world leader in the design, manufacture and service of aircraft engines and auxiliary power units, is the sponsor of the Disruptor Prize. Through GoFly, Pratt & Whitney supports the next generation of aviation leaders. As a Corporate Sponsor, the company provides mentors and lecturers to help teams around the world develop the future of flight.

Q: Do competitors keep their Intellectual Property?

A: Yes, Teams will keep their intellectual property. Teams grant limited media rights to GoFly so that GoFly can publicize and promote the Competition and the Teams. Other than these media rights, any and all rights a Team has in its inventions, drawings, patents, designs, copyrights and other intellectual property remain with the Team.

Q: How will my Team’s confidential information be protected?

A: The information that Teams provide to GoFly as part of the Competition will only be shared with the Judging Panel and representatives of GoFly who are involved in administering the Competition. Anyone who has access to a team’s confidential information will have signed a confidentiality agreement and agreed not to share or use such confidential information, except as may be required by law. In addition, teams will not have access to any nonpublic information about other Teams or their technology or performance during the Competition.

Q: What am I supposed to be building?

A: What the device looks like or how it works is up to the Teams. We welcome revolutionary design. While all devices must be safe, Teams have the option to fly manned or use a mannequin to simulate the user for this competition, operating the device as a remotely piloted or autonomous UAV. We are propulsion agnostic, but like all great inventions the device should be user-friendly, almost an extension of the user's body, and provide the thrill of flight.

A full listing of technical rules can be found [here](#).

Q: How much money can I win?

A: GoFly is offering \$2,000,000 USD in total prizes over the course of the competition. This purse will be spread out over three prize phases. Phase I included ten \$20K prizes awarded based on written technical specifications; Phase II included five \$50K prizes awarded to Teams with the best VTOL demonstration; and Phase III will unveil the Grand Prize Winner, and \$1,600,000 in prizes to be awarded at the Final Fly-Off in Q1 of 2020.

Q: Who will be doing the judging?

A: Judges at each stage of the competition will be leaders and luminaries in the areas of expertise required for evaluating the technical capabilities and adherence to the rules of the competition.

Q: How were the Phase II winners chosen?

A: Phase II winners were carefully selected from a highly competitive pool of **31** Teams, from 16 countries, by a panel of **38** judges. Over the course of several weeks, our expert judges carefully evaluated each individual aspect of every submission in accordance with the official [Technical Guidelines](#). The judging process involved several stages of review, and **15** judges evaluated the winning submissions.

Looking ahead to the Grand Prize, Teams will be evaluated on highly challenging criteria in the following areas:

- Performance, including speed & endurance
- The ability to achieve near vertical takeoff and landing
- Quietness
- Compactness
- The experience of open-air flight

Q: Do I need to win a Phase I or Phase II Prize in order to proceed to the next phase?

A: A Team does **not** need to win a previous phase prize in order to continue into the next round of the competition. GoFly believes in late bloomers, and we all know that in engineering it is often perseverance that leads to ultimate success.

Q: Do I need to participate in Phase II in order to be eligible to participate in Phase III that leads towards the Final Fly-Off?

A: A Team does not need to participate in Phase II in order to continue into the next round of the competition and compete in the Final Fly-Off, but they must submit all Phase II and III documents and fulfill the requirements of the flight readiness review. To begin your Phase III Application and receive information on the flight readiness review, please email: phase3@goflyprize.com

Q: What do I need to do to sign up to be a Phase III Team or submit to Phase III of GoFly?

A: To become an official Phase III Team, innovators must complete the Phase III Agreements, which can be started by contacting phase3@goflyprize.com.

There is a big difference between designing on paper and actual building/flying, so the documents involved for each phase of the GoFly Prize differ as well. Once the competition moves from the Phase I (Paper/Technical Specs Phase) to Phase II/III (the Actual Building Phases), all Teams are required to submit Phase II and III documents. Those documents include:

- Master Team Agreement (similar to the Phase I Competition Agreement with updates)
- Certificate of Insurance (required by the Master Team Agreement)
- Updated Team Release of Liability and Indemnification Agreement
- Updated Team Member Release of Liability and Indemnification Agreement
- Media Rights Agreement
- Company Questionnaire and Accelerator Equity Agreement

Phase II and III Teams **must** participate as corporate entities. Should you have any questions, please contact phase3@goflyprize.com.

Under no circumstances should any off-paperwork or building take place before a Team is officially admitted into Phase II or Phase III of the GoFly Prize. Should any work be done off-paper before being officially accepted into Phase III in contravention of the foregoing, such work is done entirely outside the scope of the GoFly Prize.

Q: What kind of support will I receive during the competition?

A: Even the best and brightest minds can use a little help sometimes. GoFly empowers innovator Teams with software, services, products, and access to experienced Mentors and Masters in design, engineering, finance, law, and marketing. Every month (and sometimes multiple times each month), Teams will have the opportunity to listen to and engage in discussions with the Masters of Aerospace and Business in global webinars. Have a couple of questions on conceptual design or configuration management? Looking for insight into cutting edge noise mitigation techniques? Trying to raise funding to support your build? Masters lectures speak to those disciplines and more. Learn from DARPA chiefs, NASA gurus, Boeing Senior Technical Fellows, and the luminaries who actually wrote the textbooks. Hear about the aerospace fundraising landscape, and take a deep dive into financing decks and pitching VCs. Learn how to protect your intellectual property from patent specialists. A list of Masters, along with their bios, can be found in the [Advisors](#) section.

When one-on-one help is needed, all Teams will have access to our Mentor program, where Teams work directly with Mentors in their specific areas of need. Operationally, the Mentor program is organized so that Teams contact GoFly to request a Mentor within a particular discipline. Upon contact, that Team will be matched with a Mentor (or multiple mentors) in that area. During these Mentor sessions, a Team works directly with the Mentor to answer the Team's specific questions related to their technical build (or financing, or corporate documents, etc.). This is one-on-one support for the Teams, geared to the precise needs of each Team. GoFly believes that providing this type of support is the best way to help aspiring inventors all over the world create the kind of ground-breaking devices that the Competition seeks.

Additionally, all Teams who participate in the Phase II and III Building Phase and who continue to remain active competitors will have access to thousands of dollars in mentoring, software, products, services, media, and discounts, including but not limited to our GoFly In-Kind sponsor program. A list of all benefits can be found in the [Benefits](#) section.

Q: Who are these Advisors/Masters/Mentors?

A: A list of some of our Masters and Mentors can be found under the [Advisors tab](#).

Q: Are there any fees to register as a Phase III GoFly Team?

A: There are no GoFly Phase III registration fees. However, Phase III Teams **must** participate as corporate entities and there is an equity component. Should you have any questions, please contact phase3@goflyprize.com.

Q: Am I eligible to compete?

A: Phase III Eligibility:

Among other requirements, the Competition is open to business entities that wish to compete as a team and (a) are validly formed and in existence under applicable law, (b) comply fully with all terms and conditions of the Master Team Agreement, (c) have completed the full package of required legal documents, and (d) are able to participate without violation of any third-party rights or obligations.

All Team Members must (a) be at least 18 years old (or the age of majority in his/her jurisdiction of residence if it is older than 18), (b) comply fully with all terms and conditions of the Master Team Agreement and all other GoFly legal documents, and (c) be able to participate without violation of any third-party rights or obligations, including without limitation an employer's policies or procedures.

Exclusions: A Team Member may not be (a) a Boeing employee or a member of any Boeing employee's immediate family, (b) a Pratt & Whitney employee or a member of any Pratt & Whitney employee's immediate family, (c) located in a jurisdiction where participation in the Competition is prohibited or otherwise restricted by law (or an individual with a residence in or who is a national of Cuba, Iran, Syria, North Korea or Sudan) or (d) subject to export controls or sanctions of the U.S.. Additionally, Teams must not have any presence in Cuba, Iran, Syria, North Korea or Sudan or be subject to export controls or sanctions of the United States. In all cases, each Team's legal documents, forms and questionnaires are subject to GoFly's review and approval.

Each Team's compliance with these requirements and eligibility for the Competition will be determined by GoFly in its sole discretion. Only Teams meeting all of the eligibility requirements set forth in the Master Team Agreement as determined by GoFly and who are otherwise qualified and accepted by GoFly will be recognized as participants in the Competition.

Each Team must obey all local, national, and international laws in undertaking any activities related to the Competition. Team must fully comply with all applicable laws and acquire all necessary licenses, waivers, and/or permits from the applicable regulatory bodies or other applicable third parties. GoFly is not required to advise Team regarding such legal and regulatory compliance, and GoFly shall have no responsibility for Team's compliance with laws applicable to Team and disclaims any responsibility for advising on the applicability of laws or regulations applicable to a Team's participation in the Competition or Team's compliance therewith. GoFly's acceptance of Team into the Competition does not constitute approval of Team's compliance with laws applicable to Team.

Q: What is the competition timeline?

A: An overview of the competition timeline is available [here](#), and a detailed description of the schedule and deliverables can be found in the [Guidelines](#).

Q: When and where are the flight readiness reviews?

A: Fly-off planning reviews will be scheduled with each team individually at a mutually convenient date and time. The review must be completed by January 31, 2020. Fly-off planning reviews will be conducted virtually.

Final Fly-Off FAQs

Q: How will I be judged for the Final Fly-Off?

A: The Grand Prize Team will be evaluated on highly challenging criteria in the following areas:

- Performance, including speed & endurance
- The ability to achieve near vertical takeoff and landing
- Quietness
- Compactness
- The experience of open-air flight

A full explanation of the criteria is available in the technical guidelines, which can be found [here](#).

Q: Can I still compete in the Final Fly-Off if I don't meet all the official Guidelines?

A: Yes, you may compete in the Final Fly-Off as long as you've submitted all required documents, been accepted as an official Phase III Team, and have passed the flight planning review. If you do not meet the requirements listed in the [Guidelines](#), you can still be eligible for:

- \$100K Pratt & Whitney Disruptor Award for disruptive advancement of the state of the art.

However, Teams that do not meet the requirements listed in the official [Guidelines](#) will not be eligible for the \$1M Grand Prize, the \$250,000 size prize, and the \$250,000 acoustics prize. Only those Teams that meet all the Guidelines will be eligible for the Grand Prize, the size prize, and the acoustics prize.

Q: Where will the Fly-Off be held? What facilities will be available at the Fly-Off?

A: The final Fly-Off will be held in the San Francisco Bay Area in the days surrounding Leap Day, February 29th, 2020. Additional details will be announced shortly.

Q: Will GoFly cover travel expenses to the Fly-Off?

A: Teams are responsible for their own expenses.

Q: Do I have to meet all thresholds to win a Fly-Off prize?

A: The Grand Prize and the Acoustics Prize and the Size Prize requires the meeting of all thresholds. The only exception is The Pratt & Whitney Disruptor Award \$100,000 prize for disruptive advancement of the state of the art, which is a subjective prize.

Q: How do I get an invitation to the Final Fly Off?

A: GoFly will issue invitations to the Final Fly Off based upon Teams meeting Phase II submission requirements, Phase III document requirements, and adherence to all GoFly Agreements and Rules. Invitations will be issued in the sole discretion of GoFly.

Q: Do all elements of the Flight Demonstration have to be shown in a single flight?

A: Yes. The entirety must be repeated for a failed attempt.

Q: Will we be required to demonstrate a 20 mile range?

A: GoFly has designed the single flight profile required in the Fly-Off such that devices capable of completing it will also be capable of achieving useful range. An explicit demonstration of maximum range is not required.

Q: Can you provide more details about how sensors will be mounted for the noise measurement?

A: Small details can make a big difference in noise measurement. GoFly will provide more information once the final Fly-Off location is set, at which time we will provide enough information such that Teams can make their own measurements during testing with reasonable confidence.

Q: I have a question that was not answered in the FAQ. Who can I contact?

A: If you have a question not answered in the FAQ, or not included in the public guidelines, please contact info@goflyprize.com.