

Sample form, not for offline completion.

Visit <https://orbitalclaritychallenge.awardsplatform.com> to submit.



NASA
TechLeap
PRIZE

Orbital Clarity Challenge

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Thank you for participating in the NASA TechLeap Prize.

We recommend reading all requirements for this submission before you begin and encourage you to review the [rules](#), [technical guidelines](#), and [evaluation rubric](#) that will be used to assess all valid submissions.

Your entire submission will be shared with the NASA TechLeap Prize team, evaluation panel judges, and the selection committee during the evaluation process. As you respond to this submission form, please include as much information as possible for the evaluation panel to score and evaluate your proposed solution. While the NASA TechLeap Prize team and evaluators will treat all submissions with discretion, you may choose to exclude any confidential and/or sensitive information.

Submissions must be completed in English. This provides consistency across all submissions during our review process and reduces the risk of misinterpretation or translation error. It is fine to leave the video in another language if it is subtitled in English, and to leave organization names and other items in the original language if they have no direct translation to English.

The submission saves automatically, and the status of your submission is available to view on your dashboard.

Prior to submission, confirm that the information provided during registration is correct. Be sure to review your submission as it will appear after it has been completed. When you have finished all requirements, you will be able to complete the submission form. Once you have completed your submission, you will no longer be able to make changes.

Registration must be completed by 5:00 p.m. ET on Wednesday, October 28, 2026. After this deadline, new registrations will not be accepted, and you will not be able to start a submission.

You must complete your submission no later than 5:00 p.m. ET on Wednesday, November 11, 2026.

If you have questions, please review the [FAQs](#). You can also contact our team at hello@nasatechleap.org if you have additional questions or need technical support. If you require accommodations to fully engage in this submission process, [contact us](#). The NASA TechLeap Prize is committed to creating an accessible environment for all participants.

Technology title

Technology description

50 words

Provide a short description of your technology.

Introduce the leadership, structure, and capabilities of those working on this technology. Should you be selected as a winner, you must designate a lead organization or individual responsible for taking accountability for the prize funds, as well as providing project direction, control, and supervision.

Capabilities

250 words

Describe relevant skills, capacities, and experiences that you or your team possess that support your ability to execute the proposed plans and deliver a flight-ready solution that meets the [technical guidelines](#) of this challenge. Be sure to include core competencies and how they apply to your technology, any relevant past projects or experience, and any other details that support your ability to develop a flight-ready solution.

Team size

☐ Fewer than 10

☐ 10-20

☐ More than 20

Indicate the number of people who will serve on the team to develop the proposed technology.

Proof of citizenship, permanent residency, or primary place of business

☐ My organization can provide proof that the location of our primary place of business is in the United States.

☐ I can provide proof of citizenship or permanent residency.

To be eligible for an award, the lead individual or team of individuals must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the United States and be 18 years of age or older. Lead organizations must be entities incorporated in and maintaining a primary place of business in the United States. If you are selected as a potential winner and you are an organization, you will be asked to provide proof of the location of your primary place of business. If you are selected as a potential winner and you are an individual, you will be asked to provide proof of citizenship or permanent residency. Confirm that you will be able to provide one of the options.

Proof of liability insurance

☐ Yes, I confirm I have at least \$250,000 in liability insurance coverage or can demonstrate equivalent financial responsibility.

To participate in the NASA TechLeap Prize, you must demonstrate that you have at least \$250,000 liability insurance coverage. You will be asked to provide proof of your insurance coverage or otherwise demonstrate financial responsibility for that amount at the time you are selected as a potential winner. See the [insurance guidelines](#) for additional details about this requirement.

Do you have and are you able to provide proof of at least \$250,000 liability insurance coverage or demonstrate financial responsibility at that amount?

Here is your opportunity to provide the details of your proposed solution for the Orbital Clarity Challenge. Be sure to emphasize how your technology development plans align with the four criteria that will be used to assess each valid submission ([see evaluation criteria](#)).

Technology overview

350 words

This challenge focuses on the development of low-cost approaches for measuring thermospheric density — or pressure or drag as a means of determining density — in low Earth orbit, to enable the proliferation of affordable measurements across commercial satellites and constellations. Specifically, NASA is seeking solutions that meet or exceed the performance benchmarks described in the [technical guidelines](#). Describe how your solution works. What do you measure, over what altitude range, and by what physical principle or measurement approach? Describe the form of your solution.

Technology performance

350 words

Describe the measurement performance your solution would deliver and why it is useful as an input to thermospheric density models. What accuracy, precision, and spatial or temporal resolution would it achieve at your target altitudes? How will you calibrate and validate your measurements to establish that performance? Use quantitative figures of merit, with supporting data and expected uncertainty, to show how your solution will meet or exceed the benchmarks NASA has identified for your measurand and altitude regime.

Projected cost and scalability

350 words

A central goal of this challenge is to enable affordable measurements that can be deployed broadly across commercial satellites and constellations. Build the case for why your solution is cost-efficient. Describe your target per-unit cost and explain what makes your approach significantly less expensive — for example, your design choices, component selection, or manufacturing approach. What production rate do you believe is achievable, and how would per-unit cost change as volume increases? Explain how your solution could scale across many satellites or platforms to support the proliferation of measurements. Use quantitative figures, with the assumptions behind them, to support your projected costs.

Visual representation



Upload one PDF file that includes photos, illustrations, schematics, charts, graphs, and any other visual representations of your technology. The PDF should not exceed 10MB and a total of five pages. It should not be used to include text that circumvents submission word counts. Some brief labels and/or basic text descriptions are permitted with a minimum 10-point font size.

NOTE: Gantt charts, schedules, budgets, and other similar content are not acceptable – please use responses in this submission form to provide this information. Pages beyond the five-page limit and unrelated content will render the submission ineligible.

Technology development status

300 words

Explain how this technology has been successfully tested in the laboratory or relevant flight environment (at least the component or breadboard level) to demonstrate current development status and that a solution could be ready for a flight test in eight months. Provide evidence to support your explanation.

NOTE: You may cite test results or other evidence by providing URLs. However, if you choose to provide URLs, they cannot be password protected. Please note that judges are not required to read this content. This information will primarily be used for due diligence on your solution.

Resource needs and accommodation

300 words

Describe the size, weight, power, and data needs of your solution and how it would be accommodated in orbit. Give your best estimates of mass, volume, power draw, and data rate, plus any other requirements (for example, field-of-view, pointing, ram orientation, or thermal). Since the specific host or launch arrangement is not yet defined, state the assumptions you are making and the range of conditions your solution could accommodate.

Flight demonstration and integration

150 words

Describe how your solution would integrate with an on-orbit flight opportunity at the conclusion of the challenge. How would your flight-ready solution interface with a flight provider or flight vehicle, and how would your measurement data be downlinked? Since the specific flight arrangement is not yet defined, state the assumptions you are making about the interface and operating environment.

Solution development plan

250 words

Describe your technical plan to develop your current technology into a flight-ready solution. Explain the engineering work required, the key design decisions, and how your approach will meet the requirements in the [technical guidelines](#). Identify the main technical risks to your approach and how you would mitigate them. (Describe when you would do this work — your schedule and milestones — in the Project plan.)

Intellectual property

200 words

Explain who owns the intellectual property of your proposed technology. If you are building on existing or off-the-shelf technology, detail the permissions you have to use that technology. If you are part of a team, indicate which team members own the intellectual property. If applicable, include information on the process for others to utilize your technology after the challenge is completed.

Other considerations (optional)

150 words

This is your opportunity to describe any outstanding issues that you could not explain in any other sections. If your proposed technology does not meet some of the requirements in the [technical guidelines](#), describe why you have made the choices you did in your submission. Your explanation may include how your proposed approach better meets the overall objectives of the challenge or how your technology exceeds what the technical guidelines specify.

Your submission must include a video that describes your technology and why it should be selected. The video is an opportunity to showcase your technology and to describe it in a succinct format. We want you to share your vision with the judges in a way that is different from the written solution format. You may include screenshots, walk-throughs, or other visuals of your solution if you wish. This DOES NOT need to be a professionally produced video – a video shot on a smartphone is acceptable. Additionally, please take care to protect any intellectual property associated with your solution. Only judges, the selection committee, and challenge administrators will view this video.

In order to complete this part of your submission, your team will upload a short digital film using YouTube. Your video submissions should follow these guidelines or else it will render the submission ineligible:

- 90 seconds in length maximum.
- Your pitch must be in English, or if in another language, subtitled in English.
- Your video must be captioned. See [instructions here](#) on how to caption YouTube videos.
- Your video should not contain any images of identifiable children (under age 18) without express parental consent.
- Your video should not include any copyrighted material (including, but not limited to, music) for which you do not have a license.
- Set the privacy settings on your video to "public" or "unlisted" – do not set them to "private." When set as "unlisted," only those with the YouTube URL will be able to access and view the video, including the NASA TechLeap team, evaluation panel, and selection committee.
- Check to make sure embedding is turned on.

Here are general suggestions for delivering a high-quality video pitch:

- Introduce yourself and your organization(s) and/or team.

- Describe your technology, including what is unique about it.
- Explain how you will know that you've achieved success.
- Do not simply read a slide deck; instead, try to connect with your audience: the judges.

YouTube video URL

If your team is named as a winner, you will have eight months to finalize the design and build a flight-ready solution. Use this section to describe your plan for successfully developing your solution in that timeframe.

Project plan

200 words

In chronological order, lay out the schedule for the development work described in your Solution development plan to reach a flight-ready solution within eight months. Identify the key milestones you would target and when — including the point at which you would prove out the sensing technology identified in your submission — so progress can be confirmed at review points along the way. Note any schedule risks and how you would keep the work on track.

Total cost

Enter the total cost to build and prepare your flight-ready solution. NOTE: Although the total possible prize amount is up to \$500,000, this amount may be more than, less than, or equal to that value.

Budget

Provide specific line items for your proposed budget. You may include any cost categories, including contingencies for risk mitigation, that support the development of your solution. You are welcome to organize this by phases.

NOTE: Although the total possible award amount is up to \$500,000, the total amount may be more than, less than, or equal to that value.

Budget narrative

200 words

If needed, you may further describe your budget here. If your total cost to develop your technology and solution exceeds \$500,000, explain how you plan to fund the remaining costs. If your total cost does not exceed \$500,000 and/or you have no further information to share about your budget, you may enter "Not applicable."

☐ I have not received government funding for the aspects of the proposed solution I aim to develop as part of this challenge.

If you or your employer is receiving government funding for similar projects in which you are developing a flight-ready solution, you or your employer are not eligible for an award under this challenge. Confirm below that you have not received government funding for the aspects of the proposed solution you aim to develop as part of this challenge.

If you are identified as a potential winner, you will be asked to provide the following prior to any award:

- If you are an individual: Proof of citizenship or permanent residency.
- If you are an organization: Proof that your location of business is in the United States.
- Proof of \$250,000 liability insurance or otherwise demonstrate financial responsibility for that amount. (See the [insurance guidelines](#) for additional details about this requirement.)
- Details of any other funding for which this technology or a closely related technology is being considered.
- A signed Payment Form, [Space Act Agreement](#), and any other required documentation.

Once your eligibility has been verified and you have been named a winner, please note the following:

- You will be invited to develop your flight-ready solution according to this submission within eight months.
- You will receive an initial award of \$200,000.
- During Phase 2, winners will have the opportunity to compete for an additional award of \$200,000 each. Field judges will conduct site visits in early 2027 to evaluate the progress each winner has made.
- During Phase 3, winners will have the opportunity to compete for an additional award of \$100,000 each. Field judges will conduct site visits in Summer 2027 to evaluate the progress each winner has made.
- NASA intends to offer an opportunity for a flight test aboard a commercial spacecraft at no cost to winner(s) of Phase 3.
- A timeline with specific dates for each element of the remaining phases will be provided to each winner prior to the start of Phase 2.
- Once the flight test has completed, each Winner will submit a final report, discussing results, lessons learned, and future plans for the technology.

☐ I have read and understand the official rules, terms, and conditions, and fully agree to them.

☐ I am an individual, represent a team of individuals, or represent a legal entity that meets all eligibility criteria as stated in the official rules, terms, and conditions.

☐ I did not receive assistance from challenge sponsors, judges, or any other individuals associated with the challenge in preparing this submission.

☐ All team members have agreed to be included in the challenge submission.