

Johns Hopkins

DESIGN BUILD FLY

2026-2027



Photo Courtesy of Bob Phelan, Missouri S&T

A Letter From Our Leadership Team

Dear Prospective Sponsors,

Our names are Allison and Delna and we have the honor of jointly serving as the President and Treasurer respectively for the 2026-2027 Design, Build, Fly (DBF) team at Johns Hopkins University.

In just the past year, our team has shown incredible progress. Despite operating on a smaller budget than our competitors, we have continued to improve our aircraft's performance with a stronger design process and heightened technical capabilities of team members. From placing 49th out of 159 teams in 2025 to placing 17th out of 175 teams this past year, our team has shown passion and dedication, as well as our ability to deliver results despite limited resources.

With additional support, we believe we can push our success even further. We would be capable of investing in better materials, expand testing capabilities, and enable more students to participate on this hands-on engineering project. Not only would your support allow us to compete at a higher level, but it would contribute in developing the next generation of aerospace innovators.

We greatly appreciate any support you can provide. Our team relies entirely on the monetary and material donations from organizations like yours to offer opportunities and experiences to the next generation of doers. We would be honored to partner with you and showcase your support on our aircraft, team apparel, and promotional materials. Thank you for considering this opportunity on behalf of the DBF team at JHU.

Warm Regards,
Allison Chuang (President)
Delna Thomas (Treasurer)



What is JHU DBF?

The Design, Build, Fly team at Johns Hopkins University is a student-led group dedicated to the field of aeronautical engineering. The team designs and builds a remote-controlled airplane that competes in the AIAA Design, Build, Fly competition against 100+ other collegiate teams worldwide. This competition mirrors the real-world aerospace industry, guiding students through the entire process of aircraft design, manufacturing, and flight testing.

JHU DBF excels through its multidisciplinary approach, bringing together students from various fields such as Mechanical Engineering, Physics, Computer Science, Neuroscience, Chemical Engineering, etc. This diverse expertise allows for a rich, collaborative environment where different perspectives converge to drive innovation and achieve excellence.

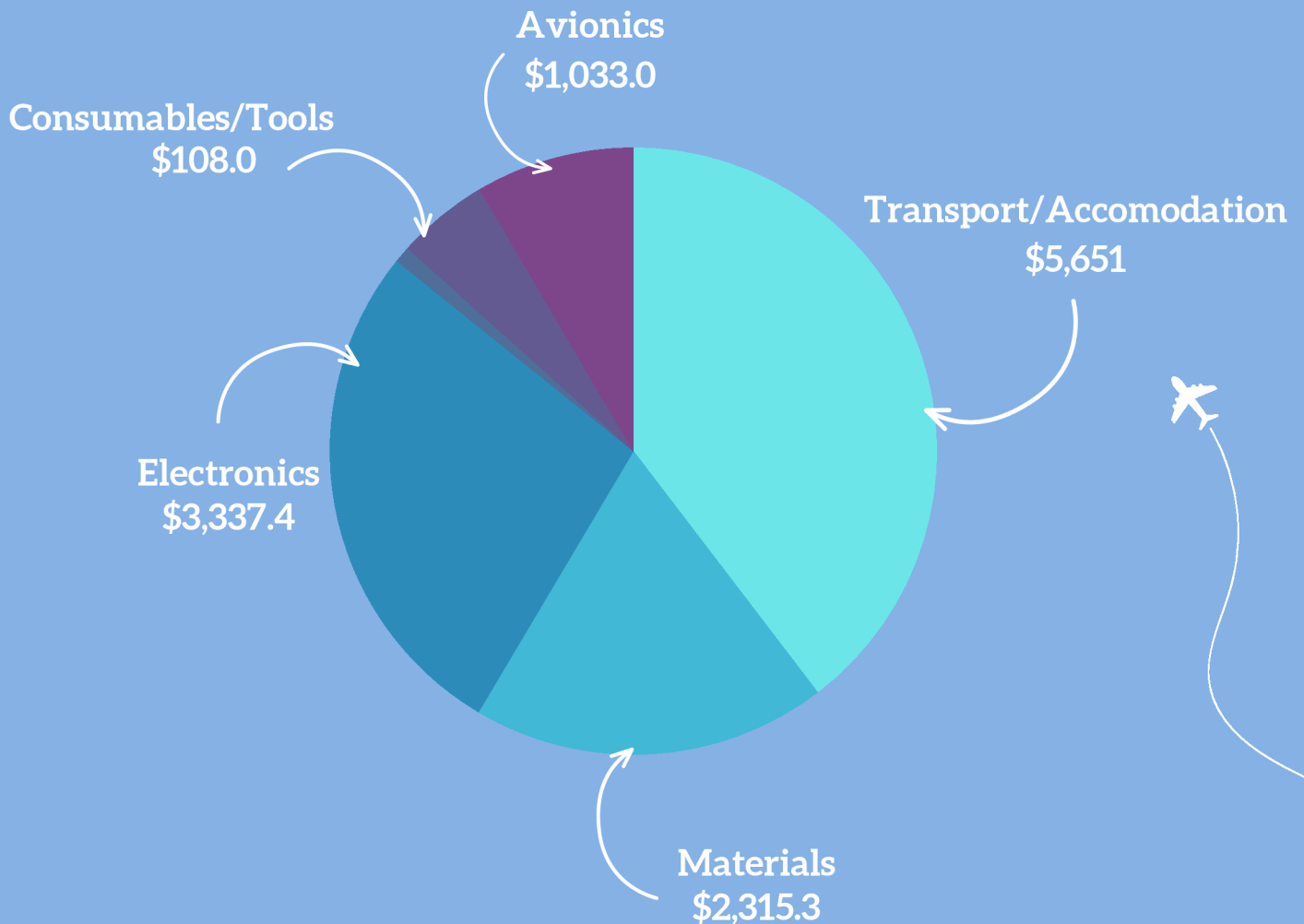
Our team is committed to ensuring that students of all academic backgrounds and experience levels can contribute meaningfully to our projects. Participation in DBF JHU provides members with invaluable practical experience, preparing them for future careers in aerospace and related industries.



Goals and Budget

Goal: \$12,300

Below is a breakdown of our 2026-2027 budget:



- Gain at least **5 sponsors**
- Upgrade **electronics, materials, and manufacturing methods**
- Accommodate team **travel**
- Allow for more **complex designs and projects**
- Increase **club member count**



Photo Courtesy of Bob Phelan, Missouri S&T

Why Your Support Matters

Until now, much of our design process has relied on manual analysis and intuition. This year, we're aiming to change that. With your support, we plan to invest in both the tools and materials that allow us to simulate, validate, and refine our designs before fabrication.

Your contribution will directly support:

- **Carbon Fiber and Composite Materials** – essential for lightweight, durable aircraft structures
- **Motors, Avionics, and Servos** – for propulsion, control, and onboard systems
- **Foam core and Plywood** – for prototyping and airframe construction
- **CNC Hot Wire Cutter and Machining Tools** - to enable precision part manufacturing

These investments will help us transition from guesswork to evidence-backed engineering, fine-tuning our aircraft based on data, not just intuition. Your support helps us move from concept to competition, ensuring every student gains the real-world engineering experience they came here to learn.

Sponsorships typically range from \$1,000 to \$5,000. All contributions make a difference.



What Sponsors Receive

By supporting JHU DBF, you'll receive:

- Logo placement on our aircraft
- Your brand featured on team apparel and banners
- Recognition on our website and social media
- Visibility at competition events and demos
- A direct connection to top student talent

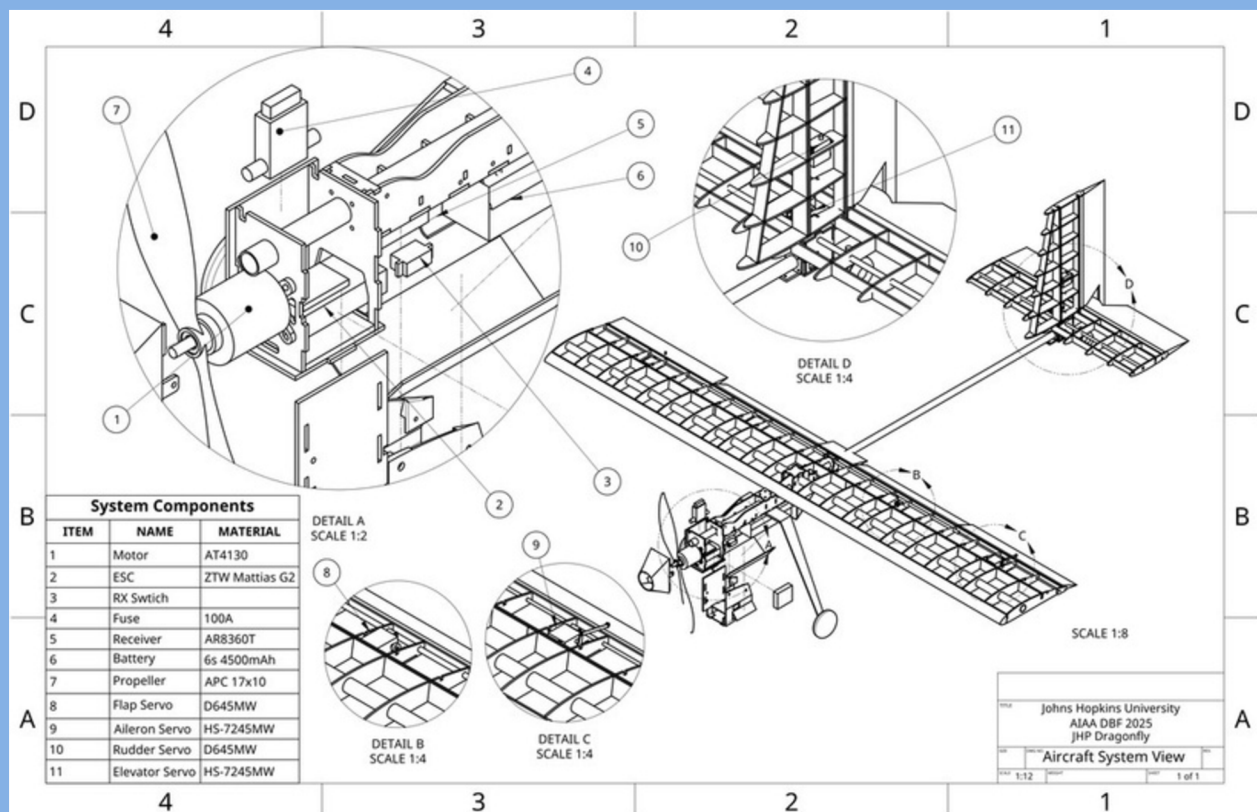
Note: We're also happy to tailor sponsorship visibility based on your company's goals.



How to Support Us

Below are the directions to make a generous donation to our club.

1. Follow this link: <https://secure.jhu.edu/form/eng>
2. Select “**Other**” for the amount and enter your desired donation
3. In the gift designation dropdown, select “Other” and type “**Design Build Fly**”
4. Choose the frequency you’re comfortable with



Contact Us



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