Race to Inspect

Official Rules · Autonomous multi-device pole capture

Experimental programs. Rules, prizes and dates are subject to innovation. Any change will be posted at alamoairborne.com/race-to-inspect and sent to registered teams. The version posted online governs.

1. Sponsor

Alamo Automation Group LLC, doing business as Alamo Airborne, San Antonio, Texas ("Alamo Airborne"). Contact: fpv@alamoairborne.com.

2. Key dates

Registration and preliminary concept due	December 4, 2026, 2:00 PM Eastern
Acceptance notices	By December 11, 2026, 2:00 PM Eastern
Final submission deadline	January 15, 2027, 2:00 PM Eastern. The contest closes at this time. Late submissions are not accepted.
Judging	Remote only, after the deadline. There is no live event.
Winners announced	To be announced

3. Who may enter

- Anyone 18 years or older, as an individual or a team. There is no limit on team size.
- One registrant of record per team, who is the contact for all notices. One entry per team. A person may belong to more than one team.
- Finalists must be U.S.-eligible: able to enter a binding agreement, receive the prize, and comply with U.S. export control and sanctions law.
- Employees of Alamo Airborne and their immediate family are not eligible for prizes.

4. What to build

Only complete systems are evaluated. Software alone, hardware alone and concepts alone are not evaluated.

- **A system** is two or more autonomous collection devices working together, with no upper limit. Devices are not limited to aircraft. Ground robots, crawlers, tethered units and anything else that works are welcome.
- **The course** is a minimum of two poles and the span between them. The system should work continuously: when the checklist for one asset is complete, it continues to the next. The swarm goes from pole to pole, collecting, analyzing, self-correcting and continuing.
- **The output** is a complete evidence package that an engineer can use without a return trip to the field.
- **The benchmark to beat** is the current Alamo Airborne collection: LiDAR, RGB, thermal and optional UV (corona emissions). Show how your system matches or exceeds it on accuracy, thoroughness, speed and cost.

5. Stage 1: Registration and preliminary concept

Complete the registration form by December 4, 2026, 2:00 PM Eastern. Provide:

- Team name, registrant of record, team members and contact details.
- A preliminary concept, written, as a PDF of no more than 2 pages: the devices, how they coordinate, how the system moves from pole to pole, how it checks its own work, and what the output looks like.
- Current build status: concept, prototype or working system.

Alamo Airborne accepts teams based on completeness and credibility of a working build. Accepted teams are notified by December 11, 2026, 2:00 PM Eastern. Only accepted teams may submit in Stage 2.

6. Stage 2: Final submission

Upload the five items below through the submission form by January 15, 2027, 2:00 PM Eastern. Items 1 to 4 are required. Item 5 is optional.

1. System description	PDF, up to 10 pages. Devices and roles, autonomy and coordination logic, pole-to-pole sequencing, self-checking and self-correction, measurement method and stated uncertainty, operating limits, and cost to operate.
2. Demo video	Up to 10 minutes. Shows the complete system running at least two poles and the span between them, end to end, without manual intervention beyond start and stop. Record on any safe real or mock pole that carries real pole loads. The output data must match the recorded collection. Provide an unlisted link or upload an MP4 file.
3. Sample evidence package	The complete output of the demo collection: images or point data, the completed checklist, and measurements with stated uncertainty. ZIP file.
4. Sample output data	Data from the demo collection in engineering formats: PLS-CADD, SPIDAcalc, O-Calc Pro, Katapult, and JSON. Provide as many of the named formats as the system supports. JSON is required. Include a short field guide to the JSON schema.
5. Hardware and sourcing list (optional)	Devices, major components, and country of origin. NDAA-compliant sourcing is a stated goal of this program. A system is not penalized for omitting this list, and NDAA-compliant systems are viewed favorably.

Upload limits are shown on the form. If a file exceeds the limit, provide a download link that remains active through March 31, 2027.

7. How entries are judged (draft weights)

Coverage – 35	Every view and data point an engineer needs, captured on every pole and span in the course.
Measurement accuracy – 25	Agreement of the data with ground truth and with the benchmark, with honest stated uncertainty.
Self-checking – 15	The system finds its own gaps and fixes them. Claiming a pass on missing or bad data (a false green) is penalized.
Time to package – 15	Elapsed time from start to a complete, usable package.
Coordination – 10	Quality of cooperation between devices and continuous pole-to-pole operation.

Judging is remote, by a panel selected by Alamo Airborne. Alamo Airborne may ask a team for additional data, source files or a live remote demonstration. Decisions of the panel are final. Weights may be adjusted by notice before January 15, 2027.

8. Prizes

There may be multiple winners. The prize is a go-to-market (GTM) strategy for the winning system, including equity in a new venture and retention of IP. Equity terms and the shared IP structure of the venture will be published before registration opens and are agreed in a written agreement with each winner. No cash value is offered unless stated in that agreement. Taxes are the responsibility of the winner.

9. Intellectual property and confidentiality

- You retain ownership of your designs and IP. Entering the contest does not transfer any rights to Alamo Airborne.
- You grant Alamo Airborne a limited, non-exclusive license to use your submission only to evaluate it and to communicate about the contest.
- Submissions are kept confidential and are shared only with judges and Alamo Airborne personnel bound by confidentiality. Alamo Airborne may publicly name winners with their consent.
- A winning team that accepts the prize enters the venture agreement. Shared IP in the venture is governed by that agreement.
- You confirm that your submission is yours, does not infringe the rights of others, and contains no information you are not permitted to share.

10. Safety and compliance

- You are responsible for all testing and recording of your demo, including compliance with FAA Part 107 and other applicable law, site permission, and safe practice.
- Do not take any action that endangers people, property or the electric system. Alamo Airborne may disqualify an entry that reflects unsafe practice.
- Alamo Airborne does not operate, supervise or assume responsibility for your testing. Alamo Airborne pilots and sites may be offered to accepted teams on terms to be announced.

11. Disqualification, changes and liability

- Alamo Airborne may disqualify any entry that is incomplete, late, misleading, fabricated, unsafe or in breach of these rules. Demo data must come from the recorded collection.
- Alamo Airborne may modify, suspend or cancel the contest, in whole or in part, if circumstances require, by notice to registered teams.
- To the fullest extent permitted by law, Alamo Airborne is not liable for loss or damage arising from participation. Entrants release Alamo Airborne from claims related to their own testing.
- These rules are governed by the laws of the State of Texas. Disputes are resolved in the courts located in Bexar County, Texas.

12. Privacy

Information collected through the forms is used to run the contest, evaluate entries and communicate with teams. It is not sold. Alamo Airborne may retain it for up to three years. Request deletion at fpv@alamoairborne.com.

Questions: fpv@alamoairborne.com