To Interested University Students & Faculty:

The Request for Proposal for the 37th Annual (2019-2020) Vertical Flight Society’s (VFS) Student Design Competition, sponsored by Leonardo Helicopters, is now posted at www/vtol.org/sdc. Leonardo Helicopters and VFS encourages universities from around the world to form teams and take part in this exciting vertical flight endeavor.

The design competition sponsorship rotates between Airbus, Leonardo Helicopters, The Boeing Company, Bell, Sikorsky Aircraft, a Lockheed Martin Co., and the US Army Research Laboratory.

This year’s Student Design Competition is “Leonardo’s Aerial Screw: 500 Years Later”. Student teams are challenged to design a VTOL vehicle based on Leonard’s Aerial Screw concept, studying and demonstrating the consistency of its physics and potential feasibility. In addition, Advanced Rotorcraft Technology Inc. (ART), are sponsoring a Flight Simulation Model optional bonus task for this year. Refer to the RFP for detailed information.

The sponsors will provide the funds for the awards through the Society and final submissions are judged in four (4) categories:

Undergraduate category:
- 1st place: $2,000
- 2nd place: $1,200
- 3rd place: $750

Graduate category:
- 1st place: $2,500
- 2nd place: $1,800
- 3rd place: $1,000

Best first time entrant:
- $500 (Undergraduate)
- $750 (Graduate)

Weight Optimization Bonus Task sponsored by ART (Optional)
- $1000 awarded to one undergraduate team successfully completing the task, judged independent from the design portion
- $1000 (awarded to one undergraduate team successfully completing the task, judged independent from the design portion)

Important deadline dates:
- Requests for Information no later than February 28, 2020. Responses will be circulated by March 27, 2020 to all participating teams.

The Society recommends that you read the white paper Student Design Competition on Judging. Please address all correspondence to jmgibbs@vtol.org or through my contact information below.

Good Luck,

Julie M. Gibbs
Technical Programs Director
VFS — the Vertical Flight Society
2700 Prosperity Ave., Suite 275
Fairfax, VA 22031
1-703-684-6777 Ext. 103 /jmgibbs@vtol.org