

Testimonial



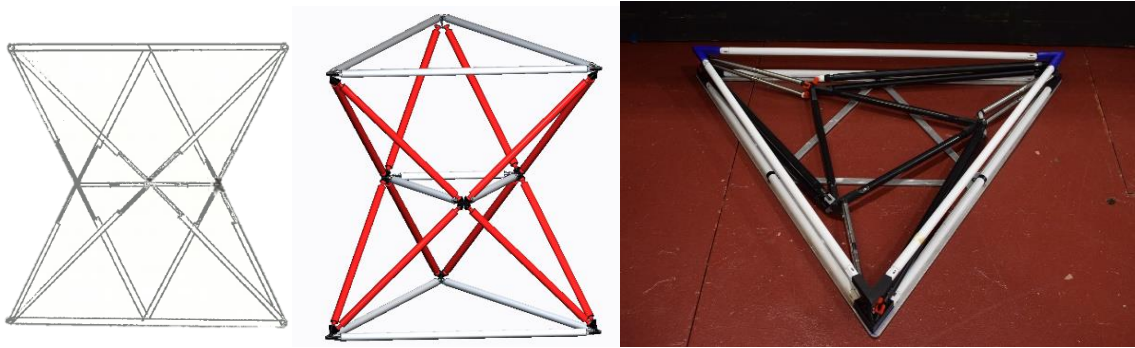
Team Sol Invictus at the Awards Ceremony

Hello, my name is Ryan and I was part of team Sol Invictus for the 2017 BIG Idea Challenge. As a senior aerospace engineering student at University of Maryland, one of my professors tasked my capstone design class with participating in this project. After viewing the rules and outline for the challenge, I got together with the rest of my team to come up with a design. We soon realized that the competition was a very stressful but rewarding experience. It was the first time as a student that I really was able to see everything I've learned as an aerospace engineer come together and culminate into one project. The process of designing the spacecraft allowed my teammates and I the chance to create something from scratch using everything we've learned, giving us a taste of what it could be like in the real world and it gave me a renewed passion for aerospace engineering. The BIG Idea Challenge really changed my whole life as winning the internship gave me something to do as a job for the summer after graduation, this internship taught me a lot about 3D printing, design of trusses and robots.



Our BIG Idea project, SMO-FlaKe

The summer internship started with my fellow interns and I being tasked with developing deployable models of trusses that would be used in the in-space assembly of telescopes. We took our design from drawings, to CAD, to 3D printed models, and eventually it will be aluminum. Our internship gave us the opportunity to show off to our mentors and they liked our work so much that our mentors extended our internship into the fall. Throughout the internship, I developed my skills in 3D printing, going from knowing nothing to taking apart the printers and fixing them, as well as becoming the go to for any issues on 3D printing.



The Deployable truss design, from sketch to physical model