

Tohoku University

Windnauts

(Human-Powered Aircraft Club)

February 20, 2025

Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
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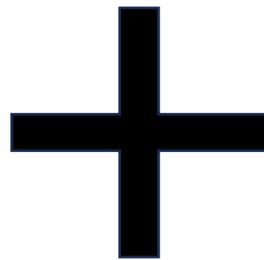
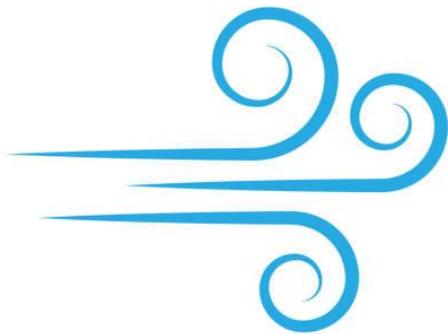
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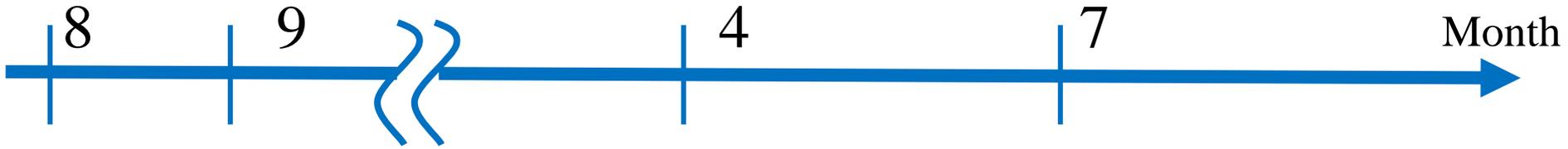


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- “Windnauts” is a coined word combining “Wind” and “nauts” (sailors), meaning “Sailors of the Wind”.
- Currently, about 50 students are belong to this club.



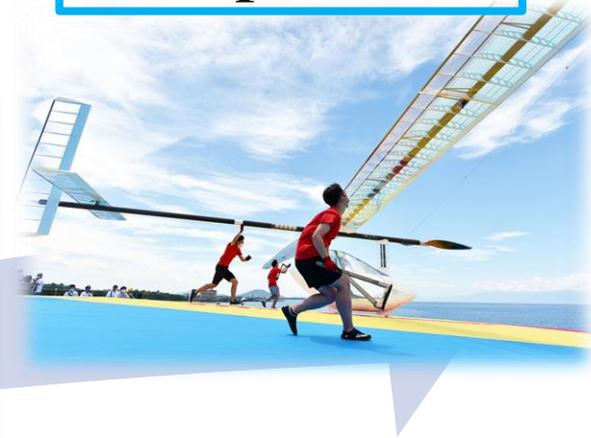
How do we make HPA?



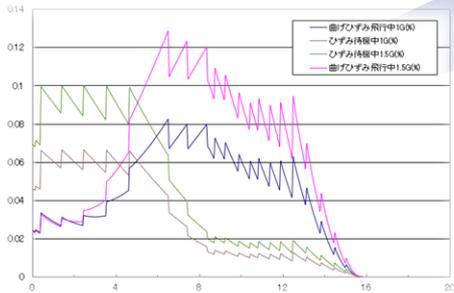
Producing



Testing



Competition



Designing

~ Designing ~

Concept

“An aircraft that can aim for victory in any situations”

~ Designing ~

Specification

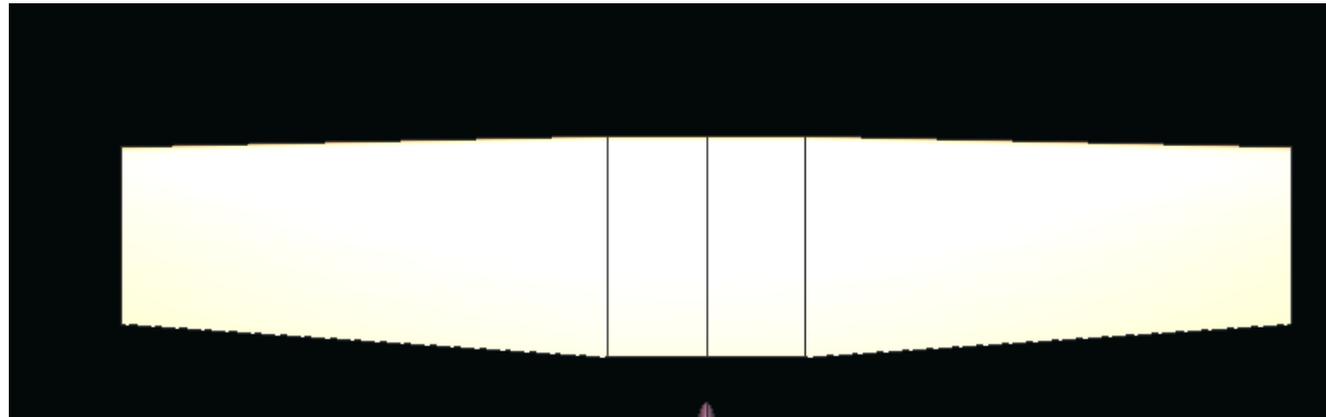
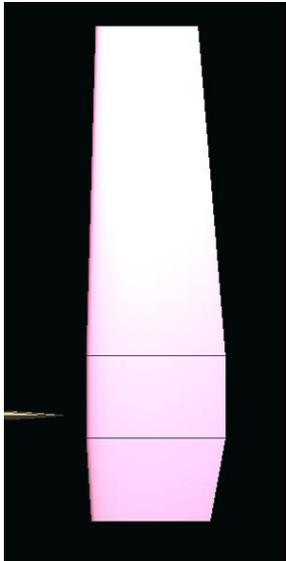
- Wings that are efficient in **high-speed regions**



~ Designing ~

Specification

- Wings that are efficient in **high-speed regions**
- Tail wings designed for **quick response** to pilot commands



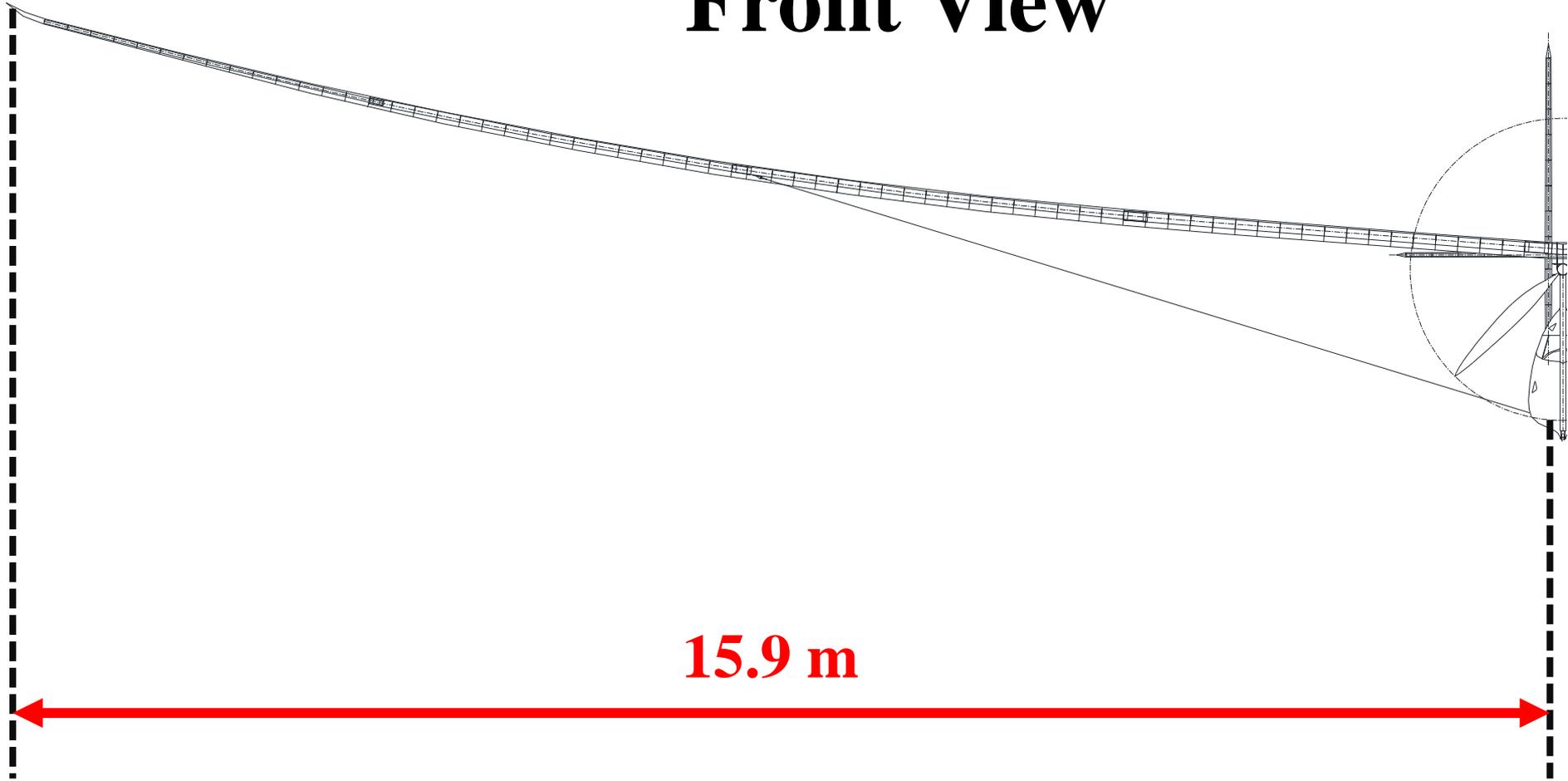
~ Designing ~

Specification

- Wings that are efficient in **high-speed regions**
- Tail wings designed for **quick response** to pilot commands
- **Lower power** to avoid exhaustion of the pilot

~Producing~

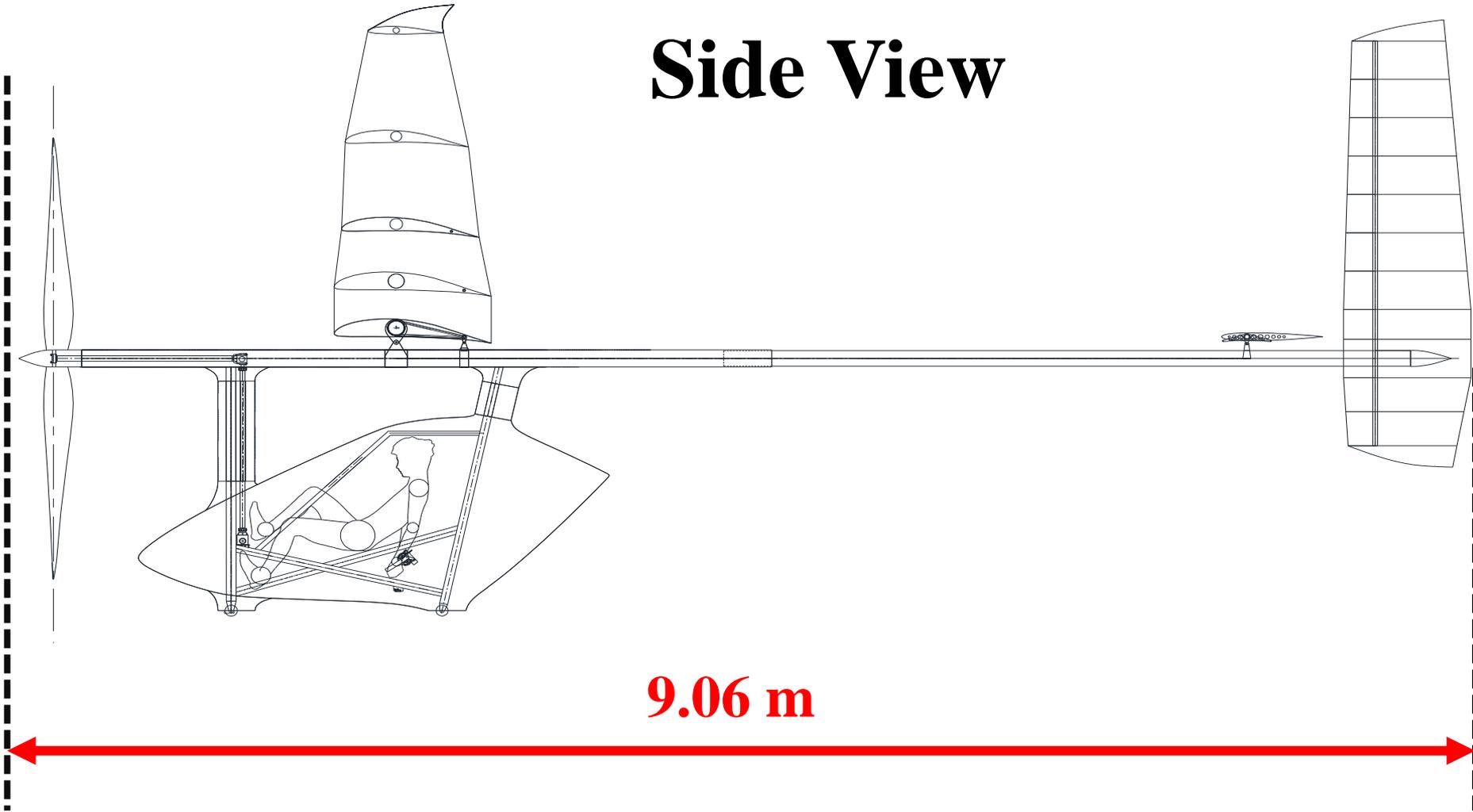
Front View



15.9 m

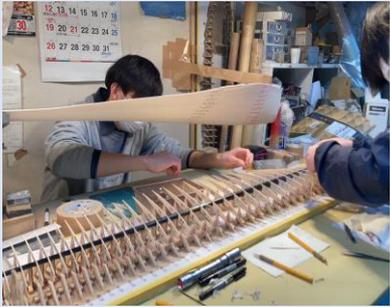
~Producing~

Side View



~Producing~

Propelle



Wing



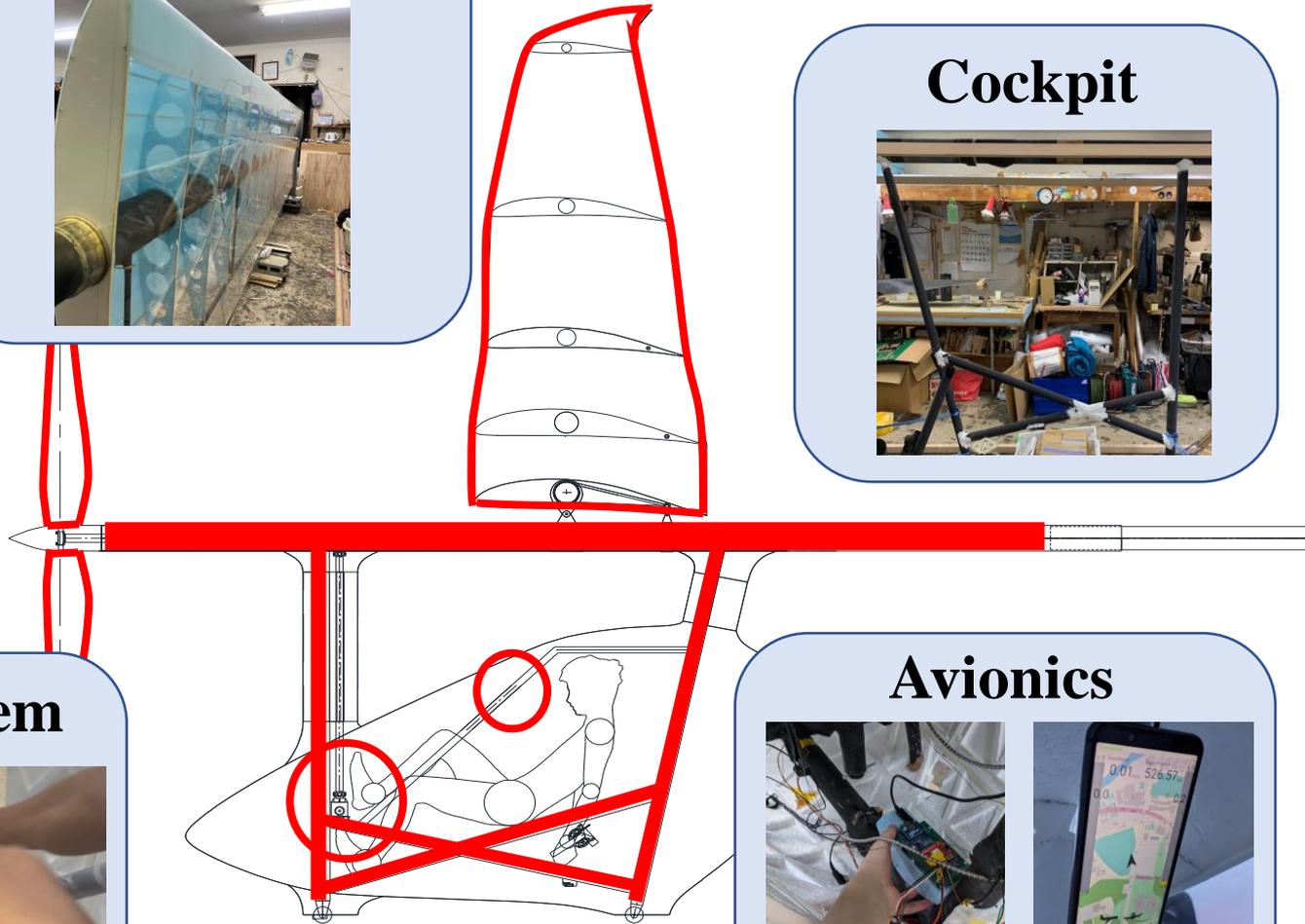
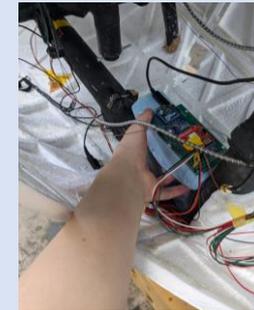
Cockpit



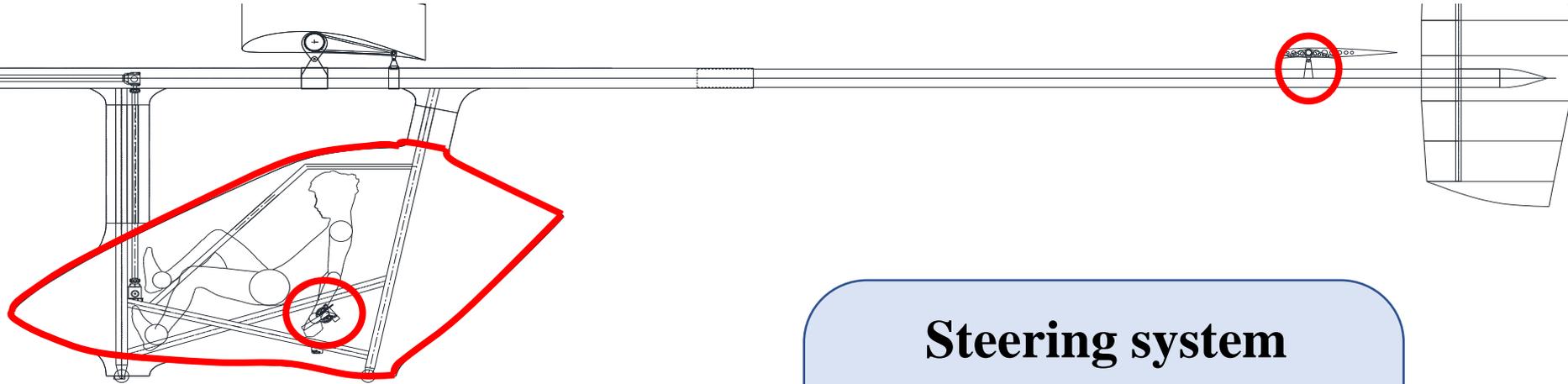
Drive system



Avionics



~Producing~



Faring



Steering system

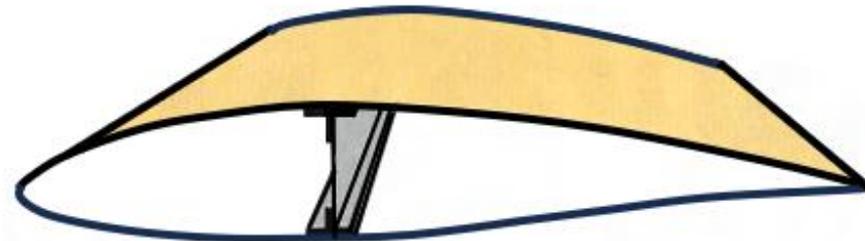
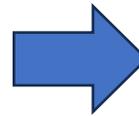


New Challenge

Developing a **semi monocoque carbon propeller**
from the current propeller



The conventional structure



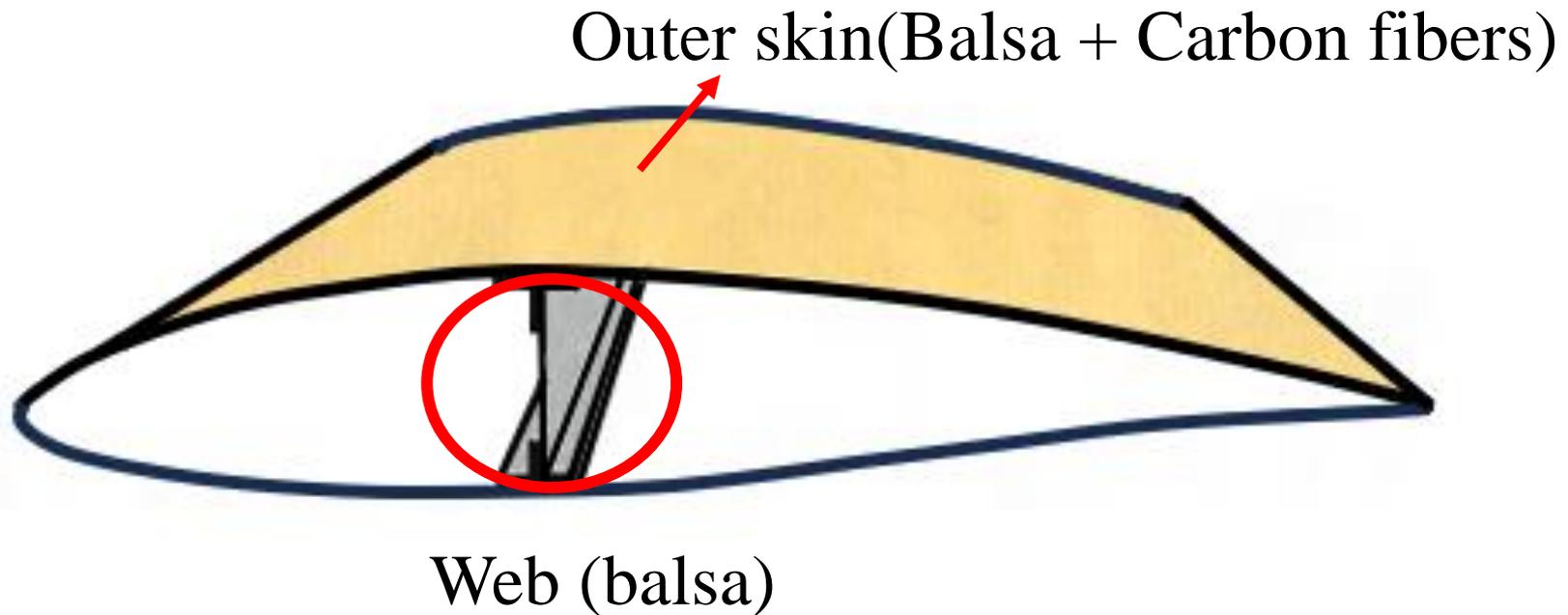
A semi monocoque
(stressed skin structure)

New Challenge

A carbon semi monocoque propeller

The structure ··· Outer skin and Web

The materials ··· Balsa and Carbon fibers



New Challenge

The advantage

It is possible to **reduce weight.**

(About 400 g → About 200 g)

Improving its **surface quality,**
air resistance can be minimized.

New Challenge

The current progress

② Prototype a carbon propeller



New Challenge

The current progress

③ Rotation Test

Condition

Output Power 600 W

Setting angle 0 deg

Test time 30 sec



~Testing~

Load test

Ensured airworthiness of wing structure (1.5 G)



Drive system test

Check operation of drive system and propeller



Steering system test

Check and adjust operation of control stick and tailplanes



~Testing~

Test Flights

Purpose

- **Training** of the pilot and the members
 - Check-up of **assembly** correctness and parts
- High quality test flights are the key to fly safely in the competition.

Location

- at Kawauchi Campus (GTF)
- at Kakuda Airfield (KTF)

Kawauchi Campus



Kakuda Airfield



~Testing~

At Kawauchi Campus

Menu

- ✓ Assembly test
- ✓ Running test
- ✓ Adjustment of center of gravity
- ✓ Elevator test
- ✓ Steady flight



Good points

- On **weekdays**
- Many times
- **Free**

Bad points

- Short runway (100 m)
- **Slow airspeed**
- Large angle of attack

~Testing~

At Kakuda Airfield

Menu

- ✓ Adjustment of center of gravity (design airspeed)
- ✓ Elevator test
- ✓ Steady flight
- ✓ Rudder test
- ✓ Advanced flight

Good points

- Long runway (400 m)

Bad points

- Only on **weekends**
- High cost



In this year, this test was conducted **the most times** in our history!

Test Flights at Kakuda Airfield

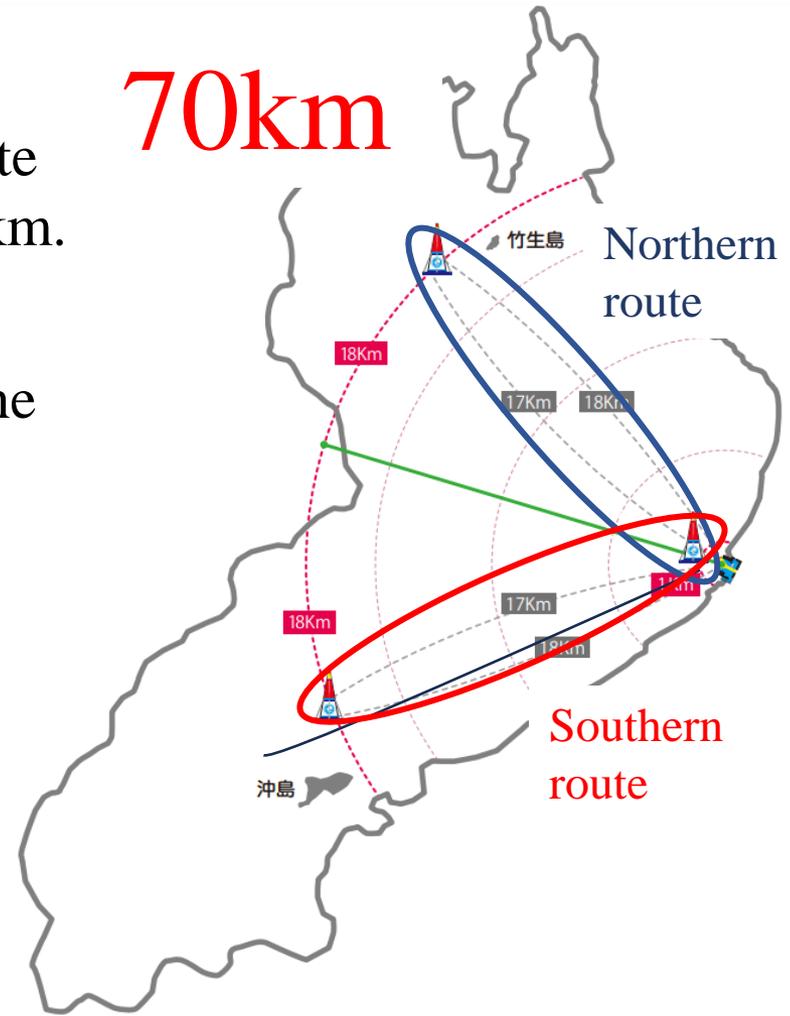


<https://youtu.be/7L-SvsYsy2Q?t=442>

Competition

Rules (2022~)

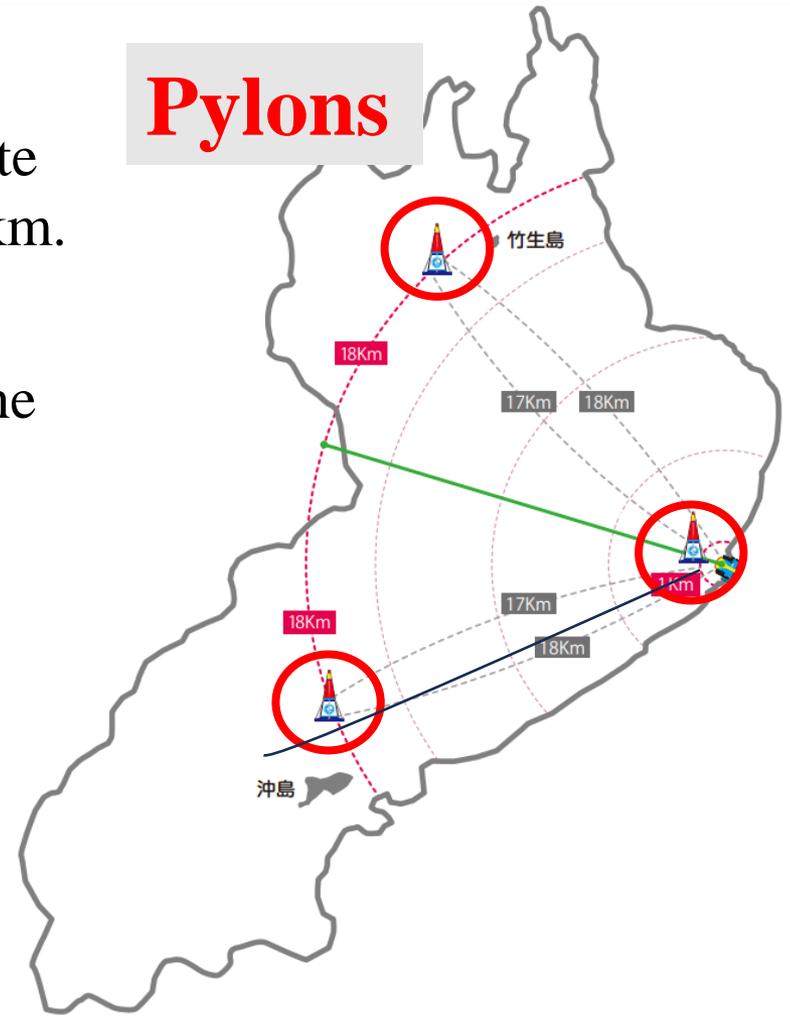
- ✓ The goal is to complete the southern route and the northern route, for a total of 70 km.
- ✓ Pilots can choose whether to complete the southern or northern route first.
- ✓ Pilots must circle the pylons when turning around.
- ✓ If either route is cleared, the pilot have to then take the other route.



Competition

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Competition

Forecast

6 : 00 a.m.

The center of the lake : West wind

The south of the lake : South wind

8 : 30 a.m.

Throughout the lake : South wind

Strategy

Go straight to the heart of the lake

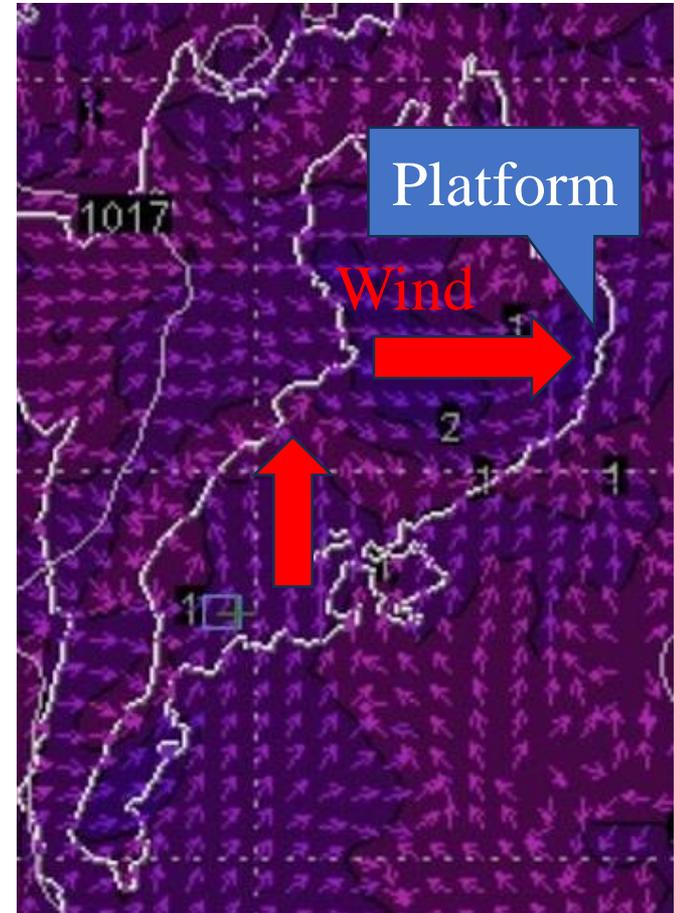
The wind is strong at the center of the lake

→ Plan1

Winds as forecast or weaker than forecast

→ Plan2

6:00 a.m.



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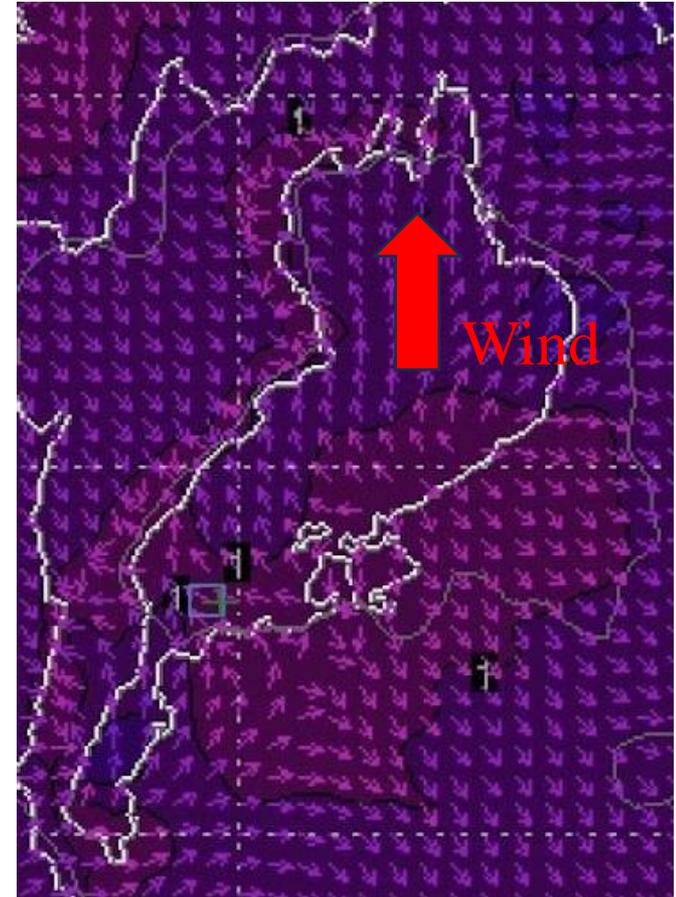
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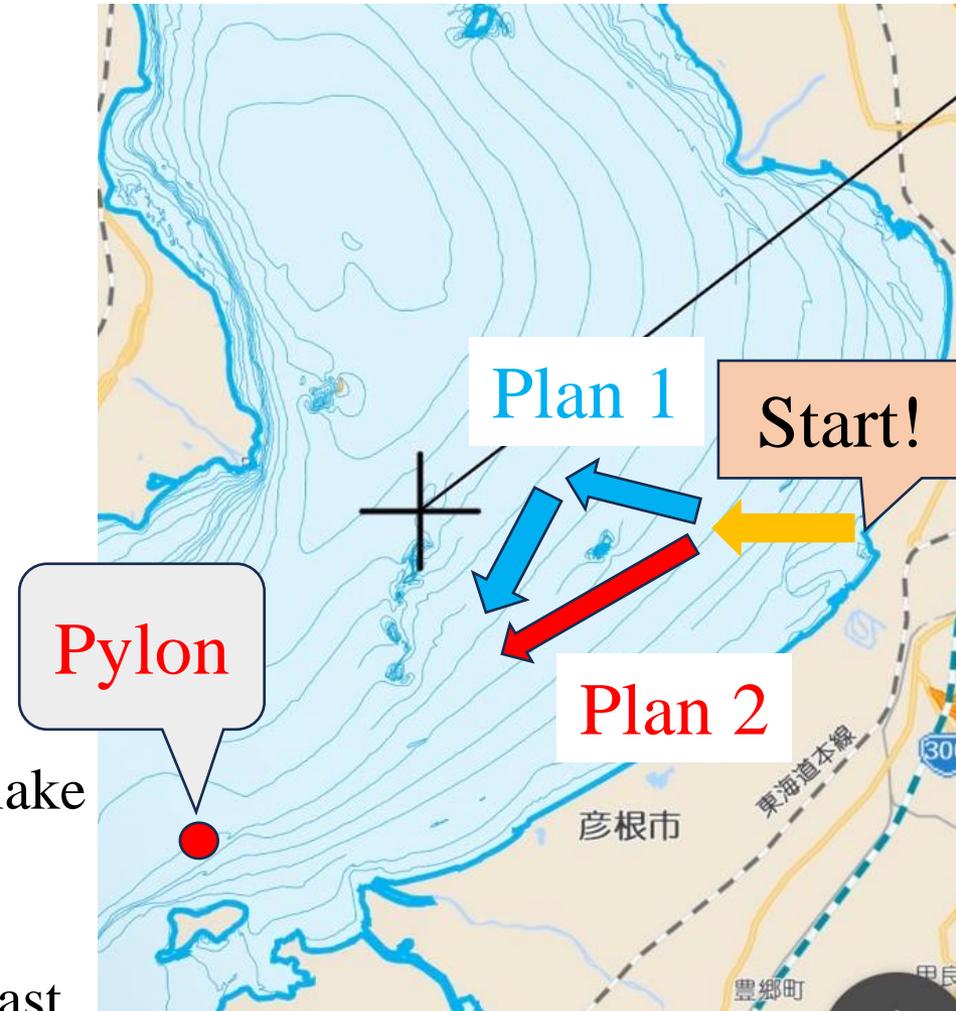
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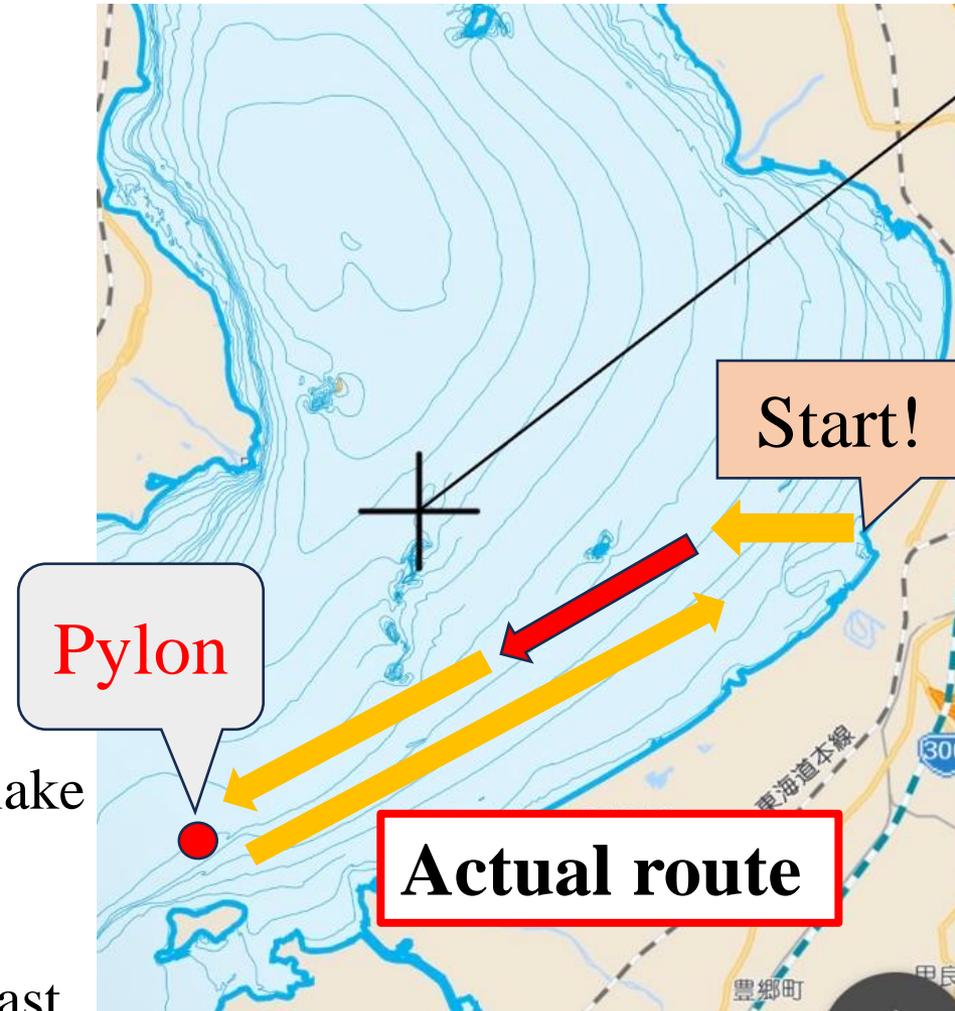
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Competition

Results

We are **champions** in this Birdman Rally!

Details

Flight distance : **21,823.69** m

Flight time : 65 minutes

Achievements

We won for **the seventh time!**



Summary

Main Point

We achieved long flight (21 km) and got the first place!

- ✓ We made the new aircraft in 1 year and participated in Birdman Rally.
- ✓ We cleared various tests (Lord test, Drive system test, Steering system test, etc...) and were able to conduct a sufficient amount of test flights safely.

Gratitude

**Thanks to your support,
we were able to achieve great results.**

