

Tohoku University

# Windnauts

(Human-Powered Aircraft Club)

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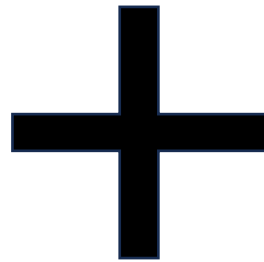
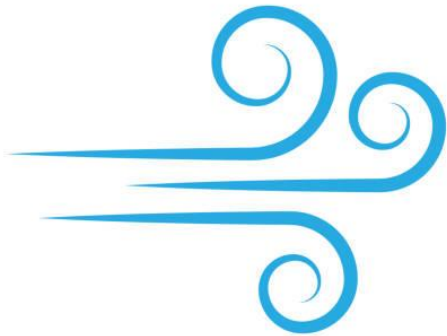
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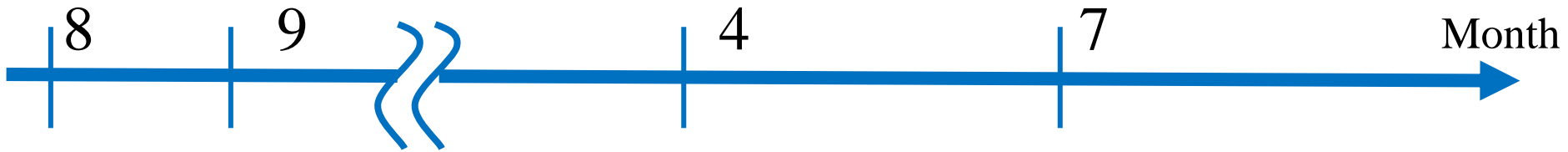
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- “Windnauts” is a coined word combining “Wind” and “nauts” (sailors), meaning “Sailors of the Wind”.
- Currently, about 50 students are belong to this club.





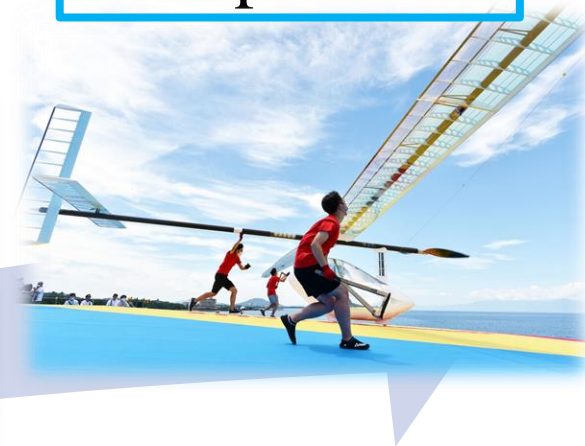
# How do we make HPA?



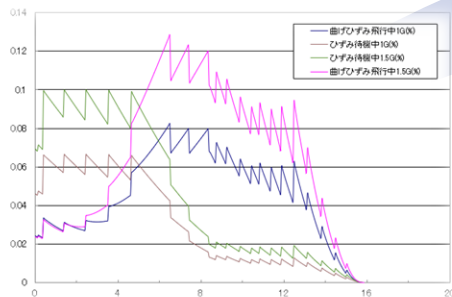
Producing



Testing



Competition



Designing

# ~ Designing ~

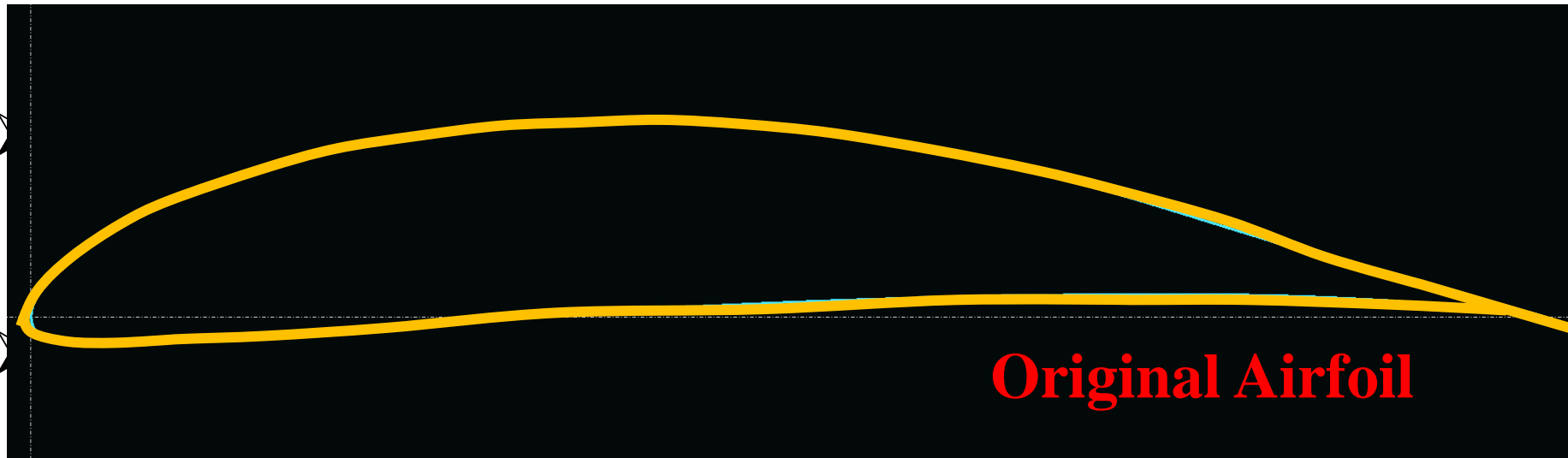
## Concept

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

# ~ Designing ~

## Specification

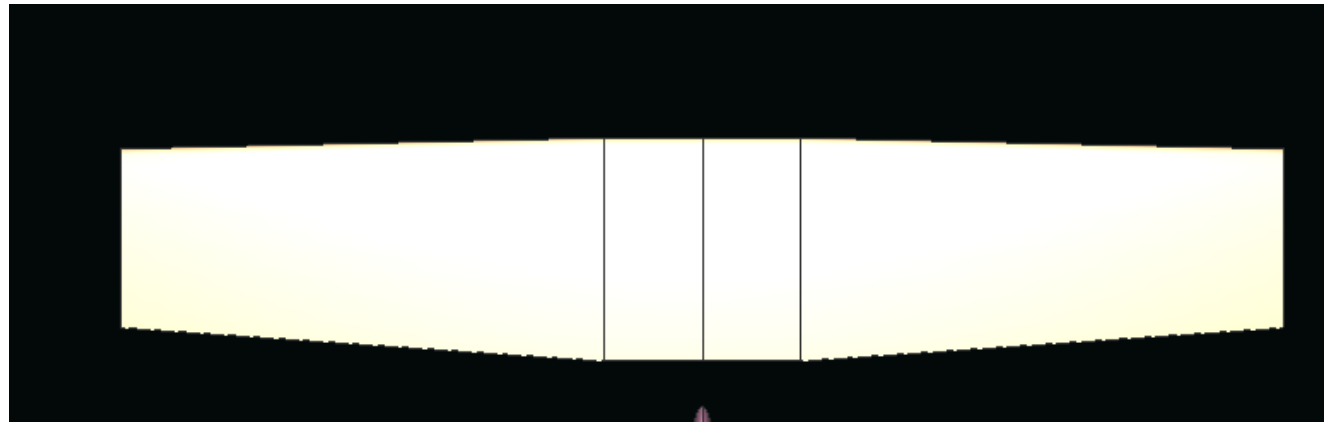
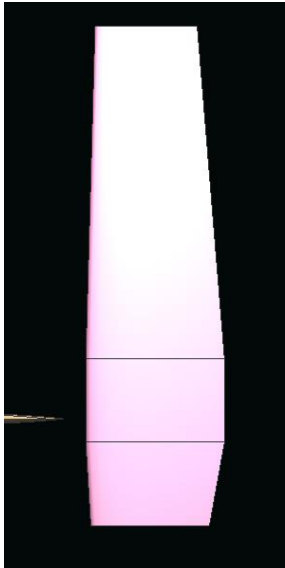
- Wings that are efficient in **high-speed regions**



# ~ Designing ~

## Specification

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





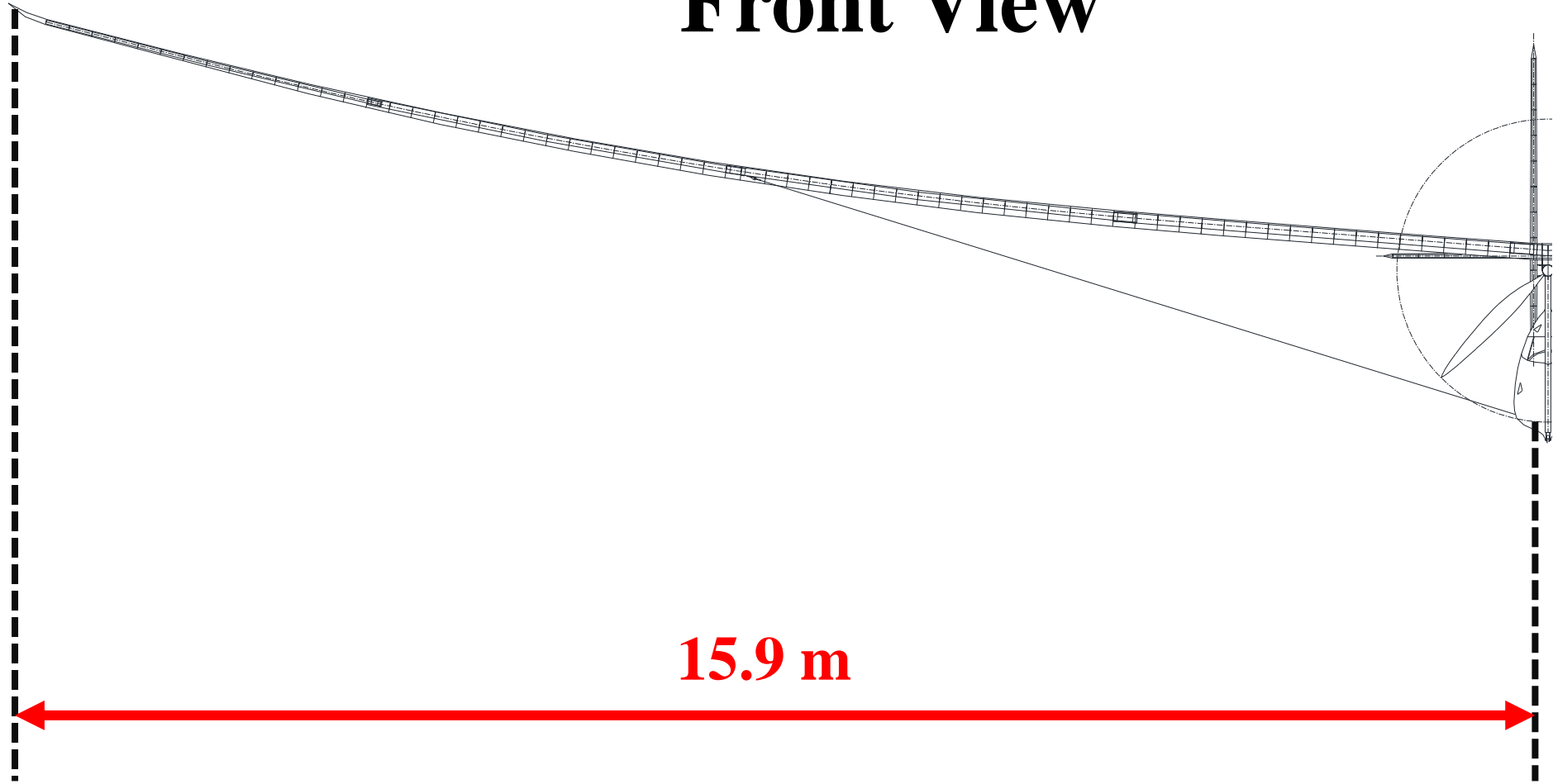
# ~ Designing ~

## 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

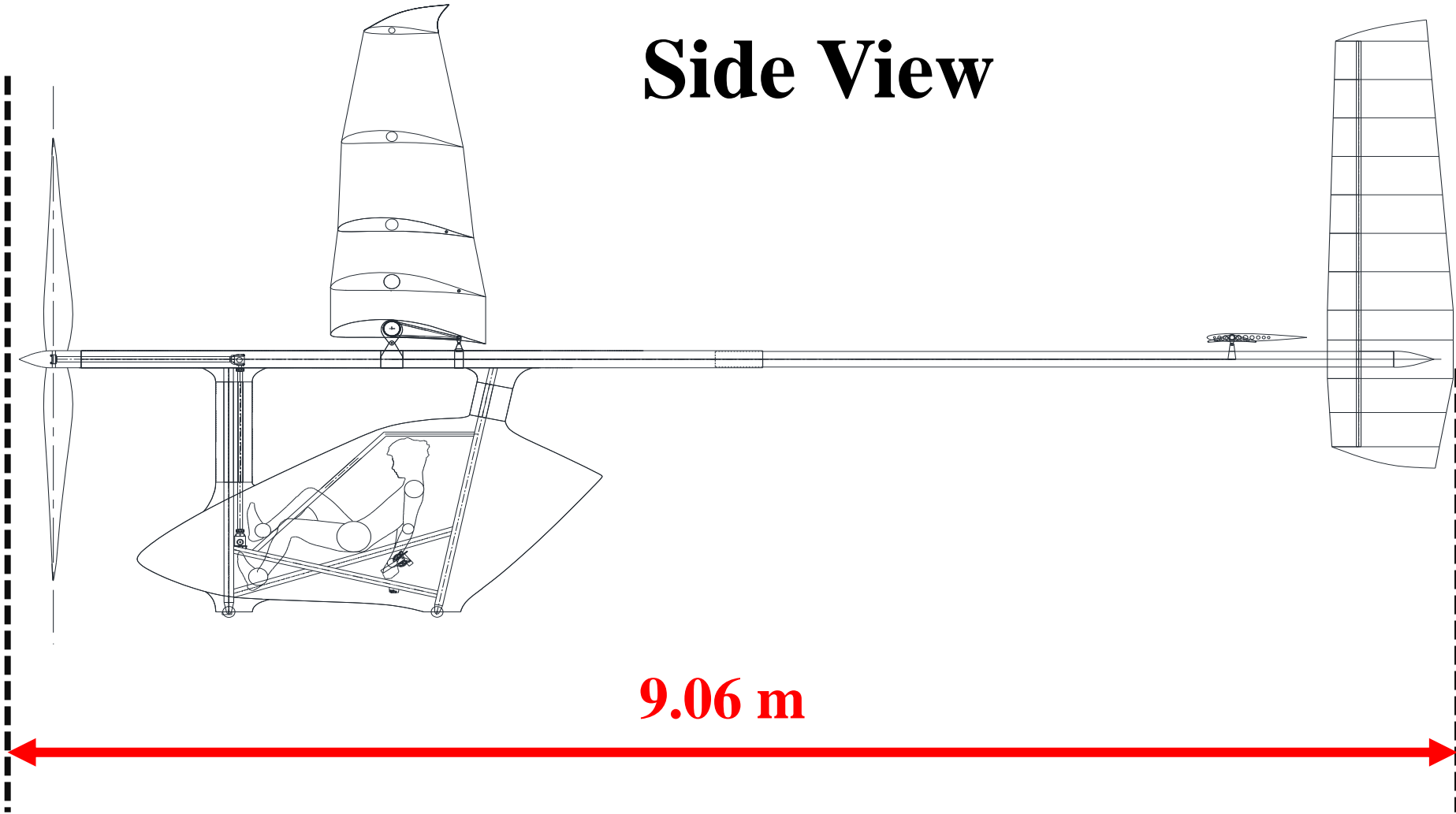
~Producing~

## Front View



~Producing~

## Side View



# ~Producing~

## Propelle



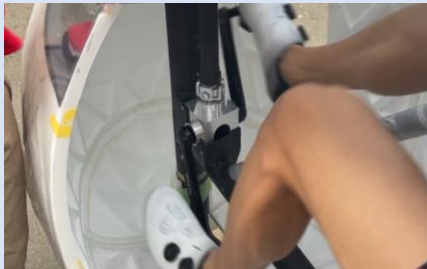
## Wing



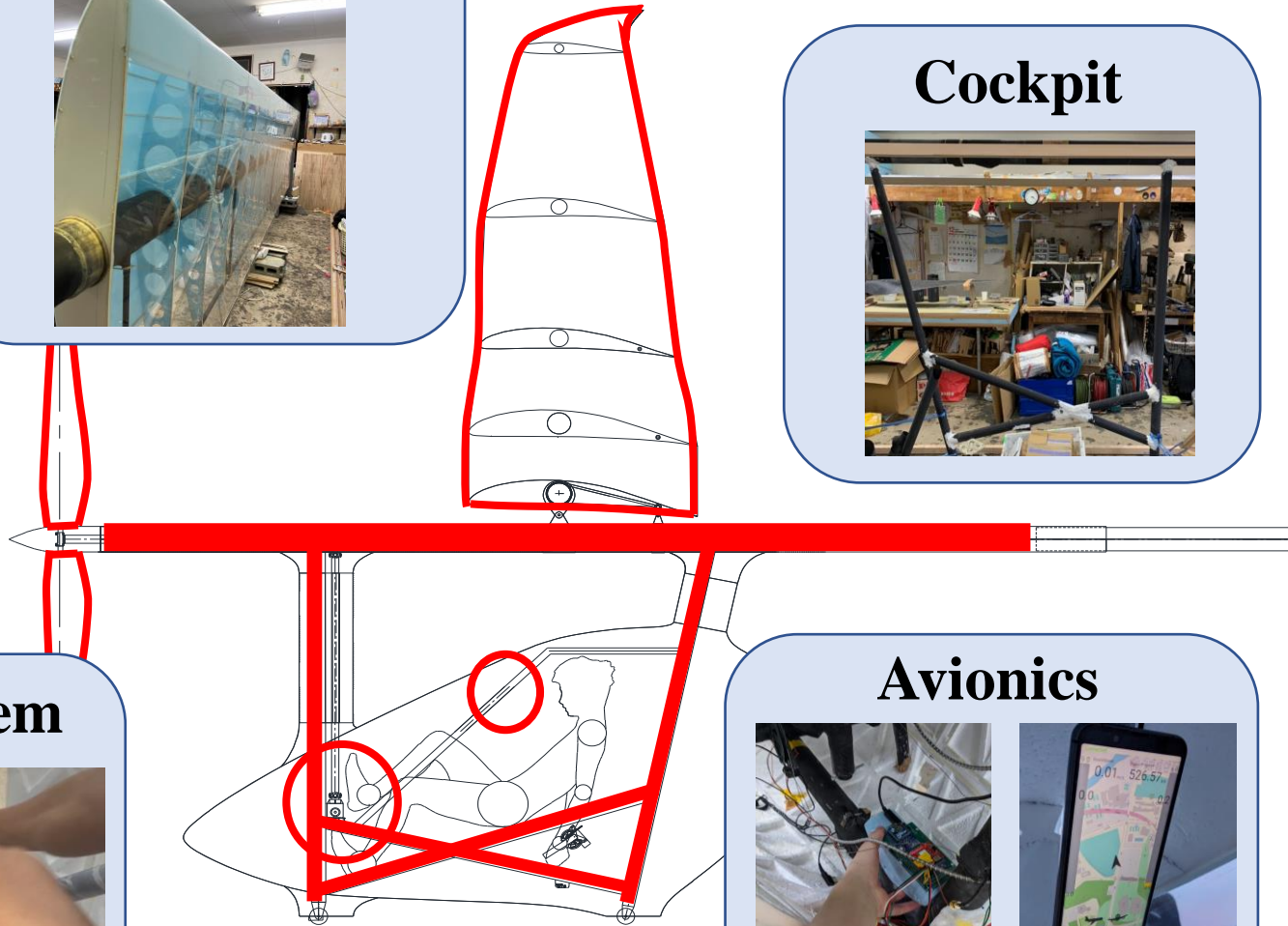
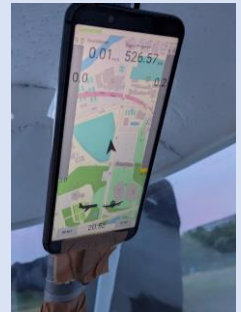
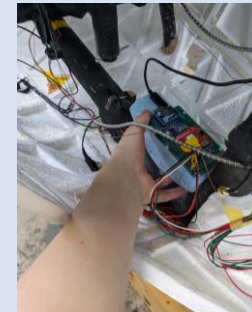
## Cockpit



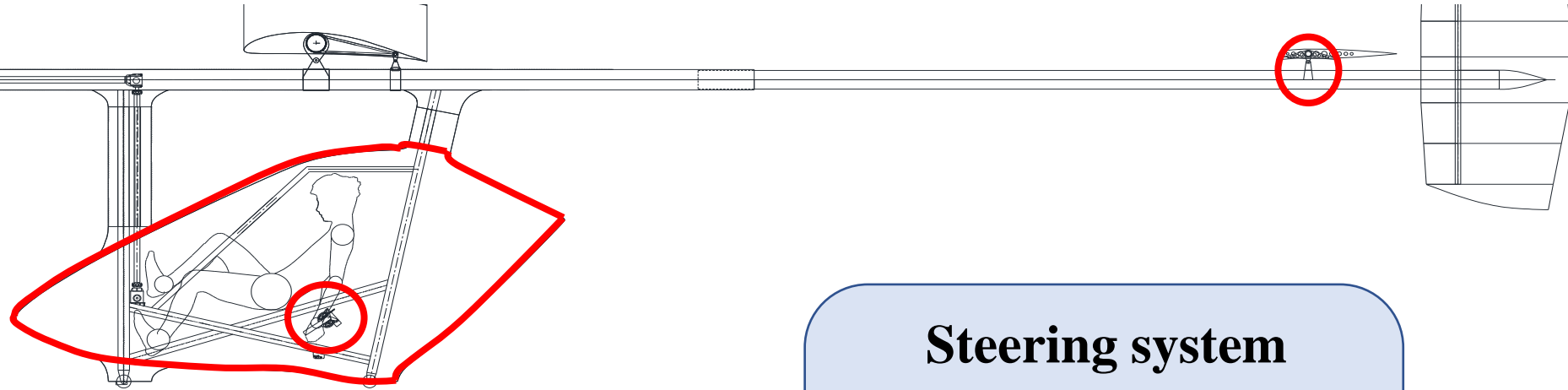
## Drive system



## Avionics



# ~Producing~



## Faring

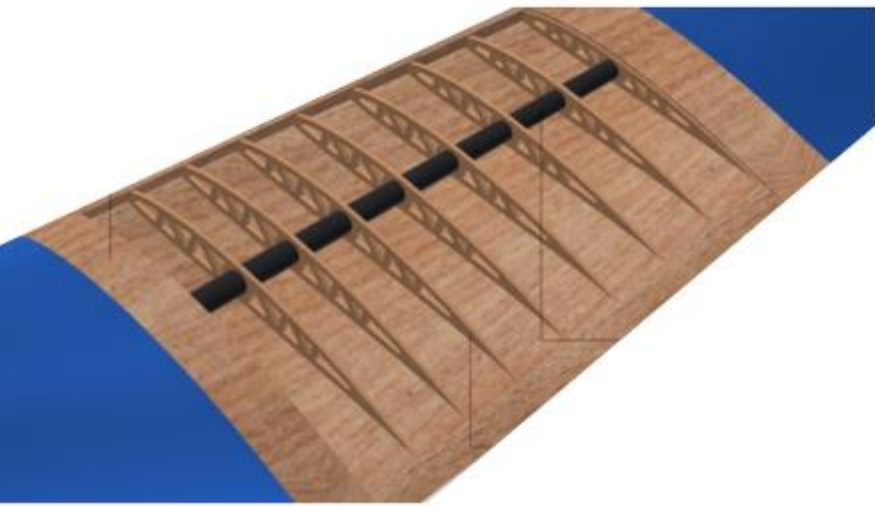


## Steering system

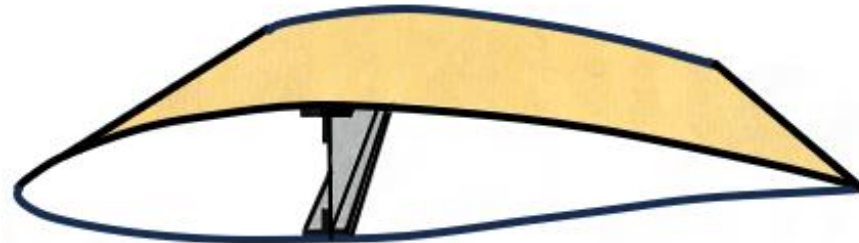
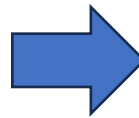


# New Challenge

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



The conventional structure



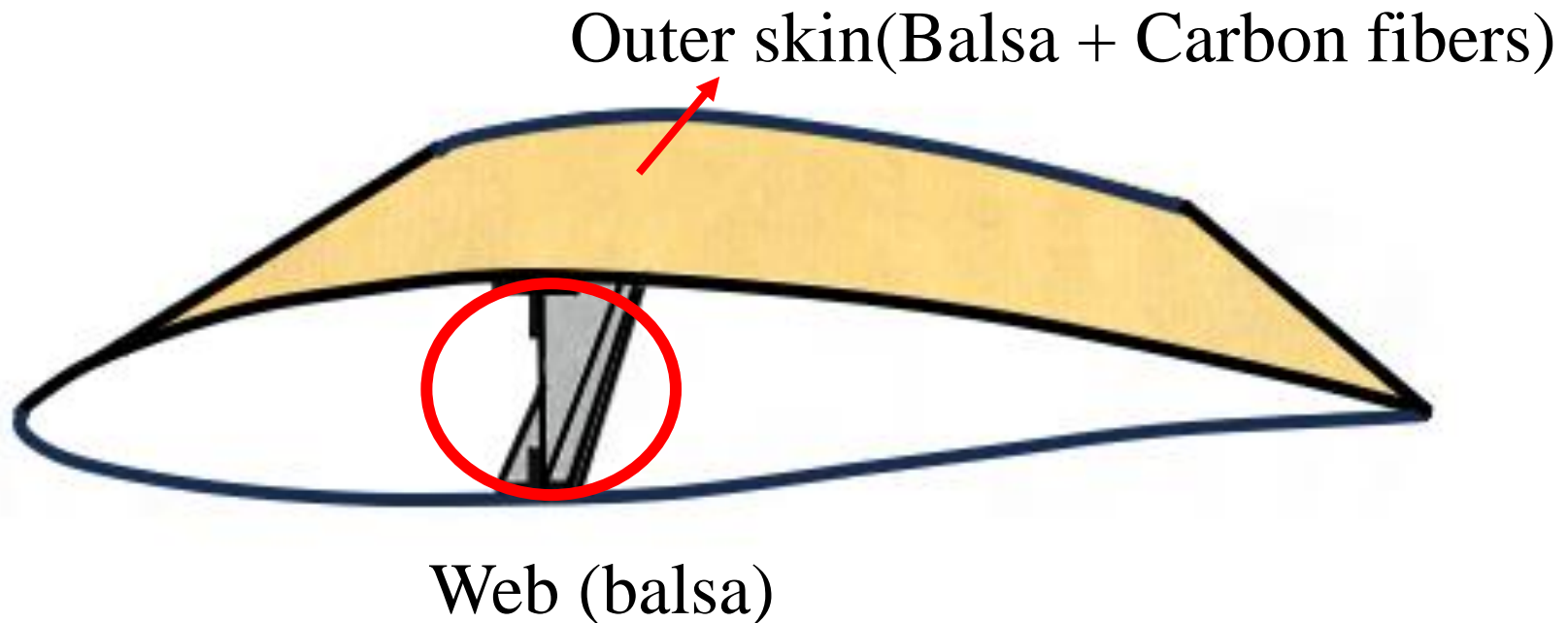
A semi monocoque  
(stressed skin structure)

# 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**.

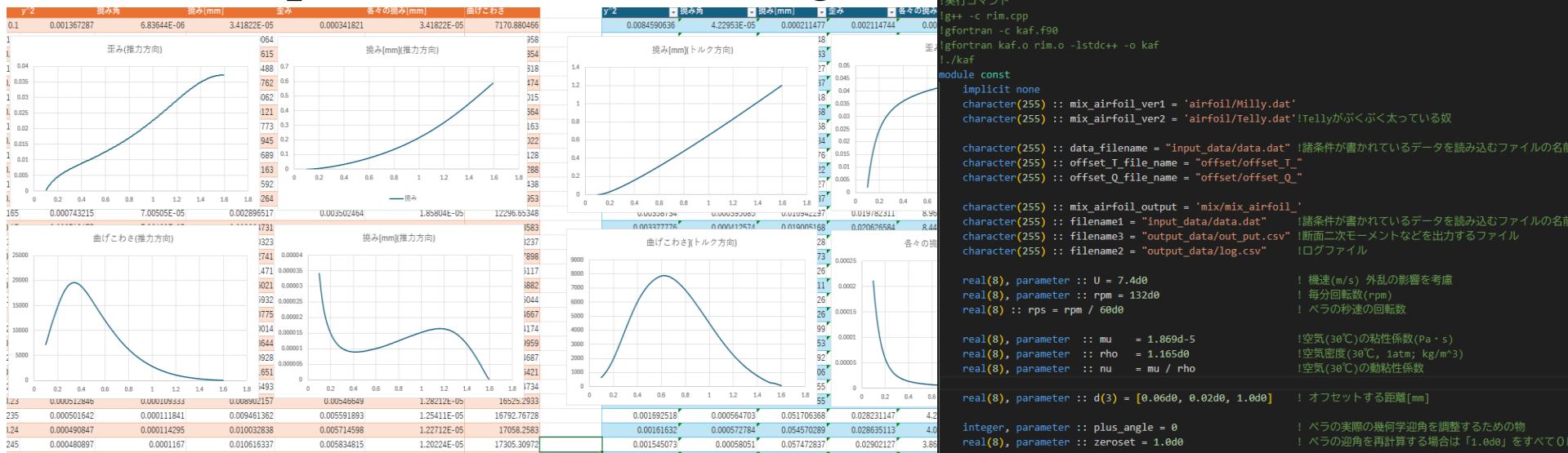
(About 400 g → About 200 g)

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

# New Challenge

## The current progress

### ① Propeller Structural Design

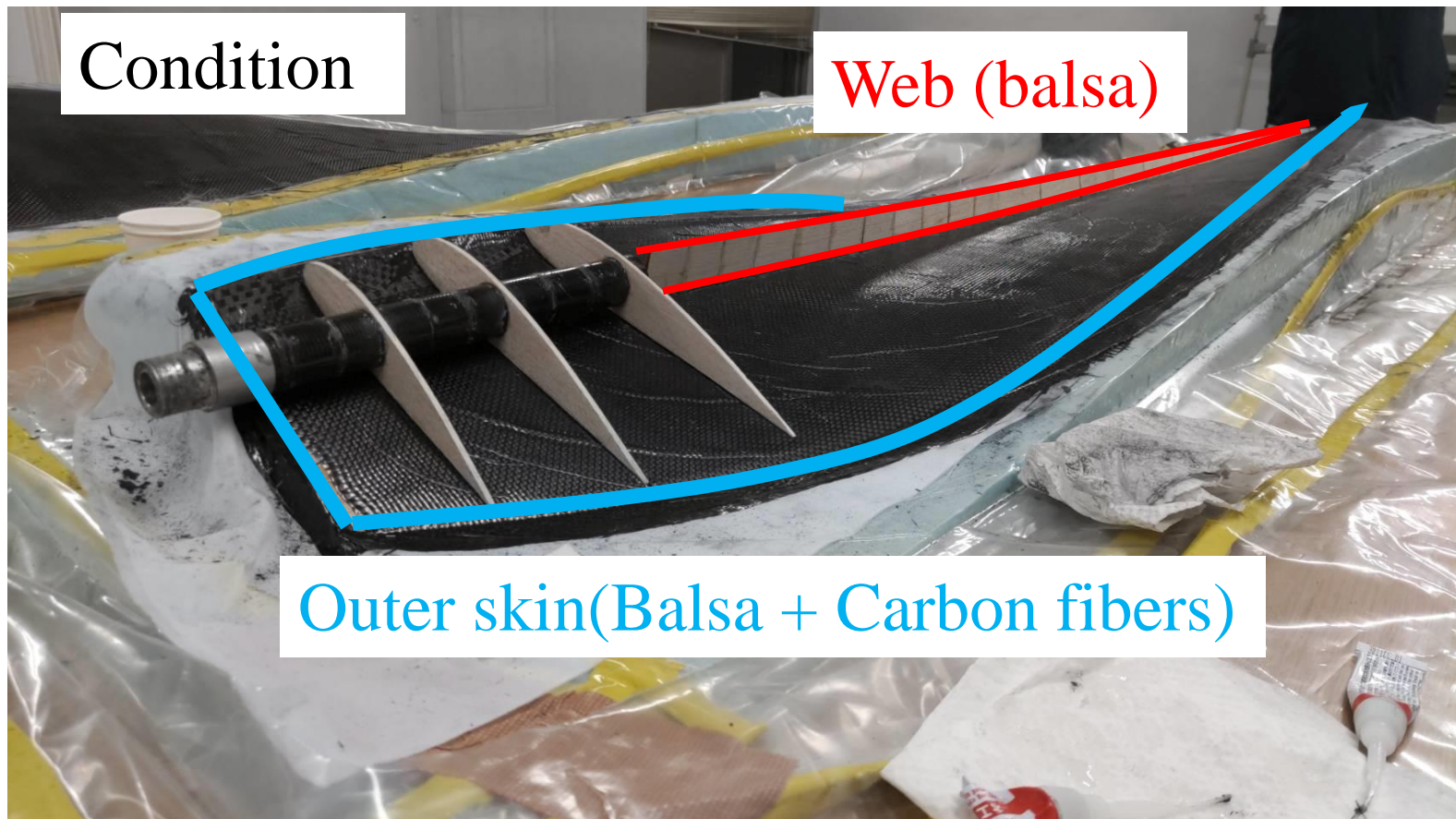


## Deflection calculation analysis

# 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

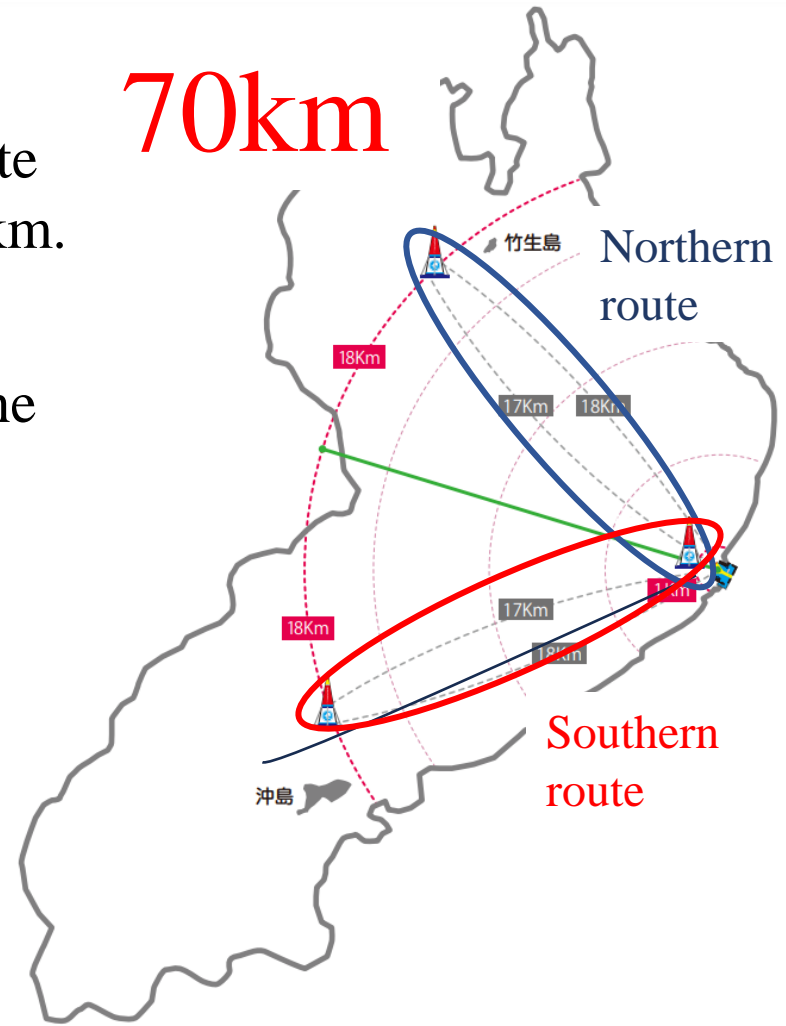


<https://youtu.be/7L-SvsYsy2Q?t=442>

# Competition

## Rules (2022~)

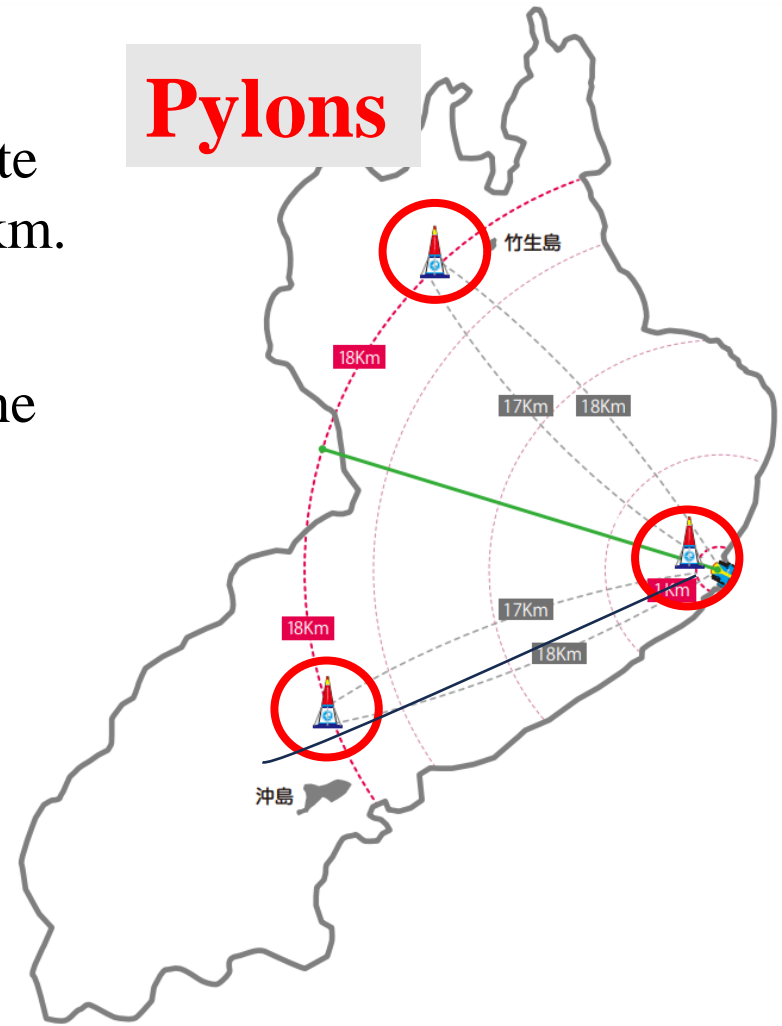
- ✓ The goal is to complete the southern route and the northern route, for a total of 70 km.
- ✓ Pilots can choose whether to complete the southern or northern route first.
- ✓ Pilots must circle the pylons when turning around.
- ✓ If either route is cleared, the pilot have to then take the other route.



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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

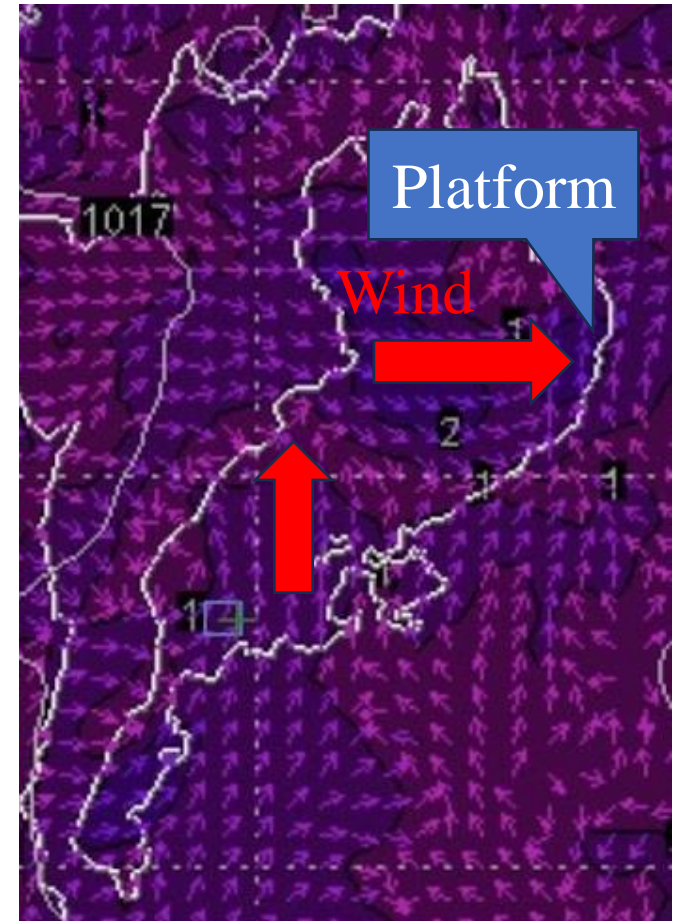
The wind is strong at the center of the lake

→ Plan1

Winds as forecast or weaker than forecast

→ Plan2

6:00 a.m.





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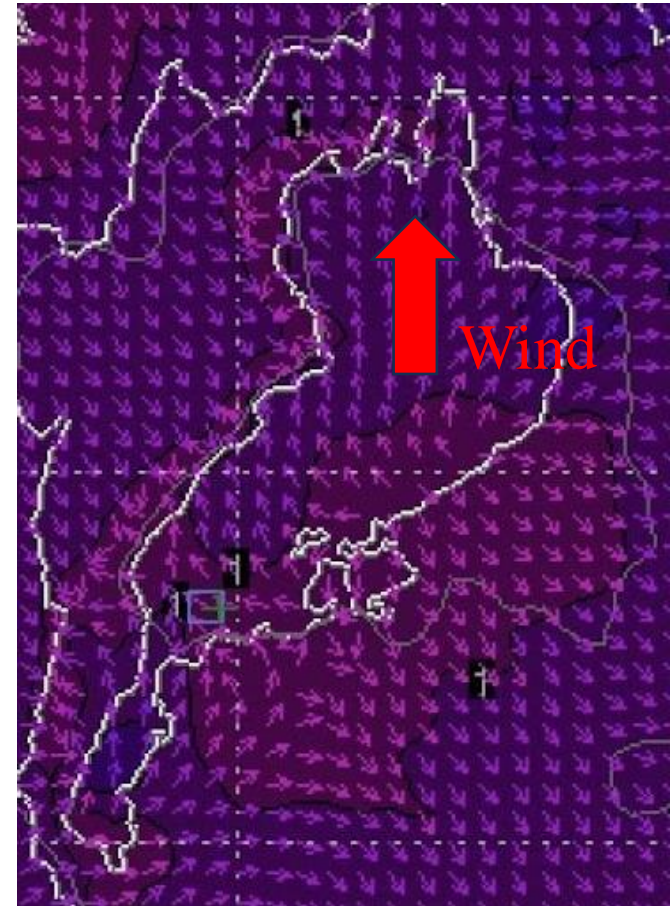
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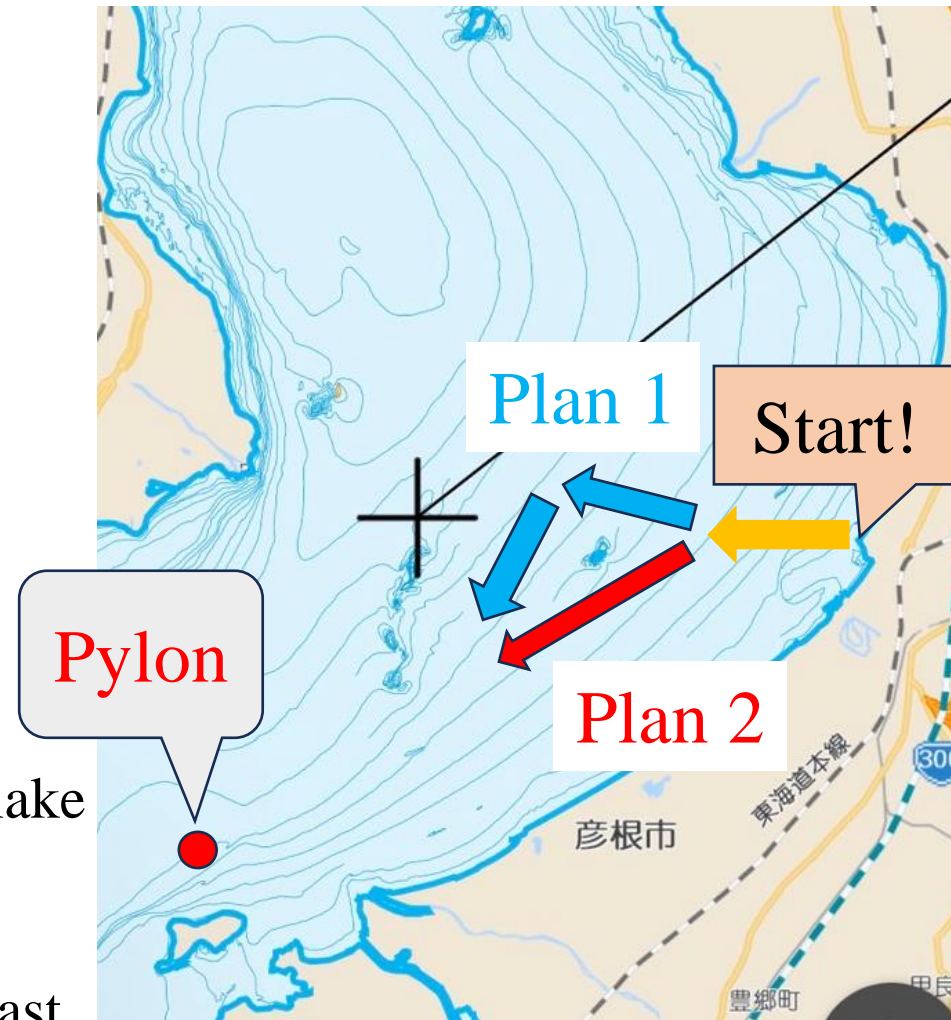
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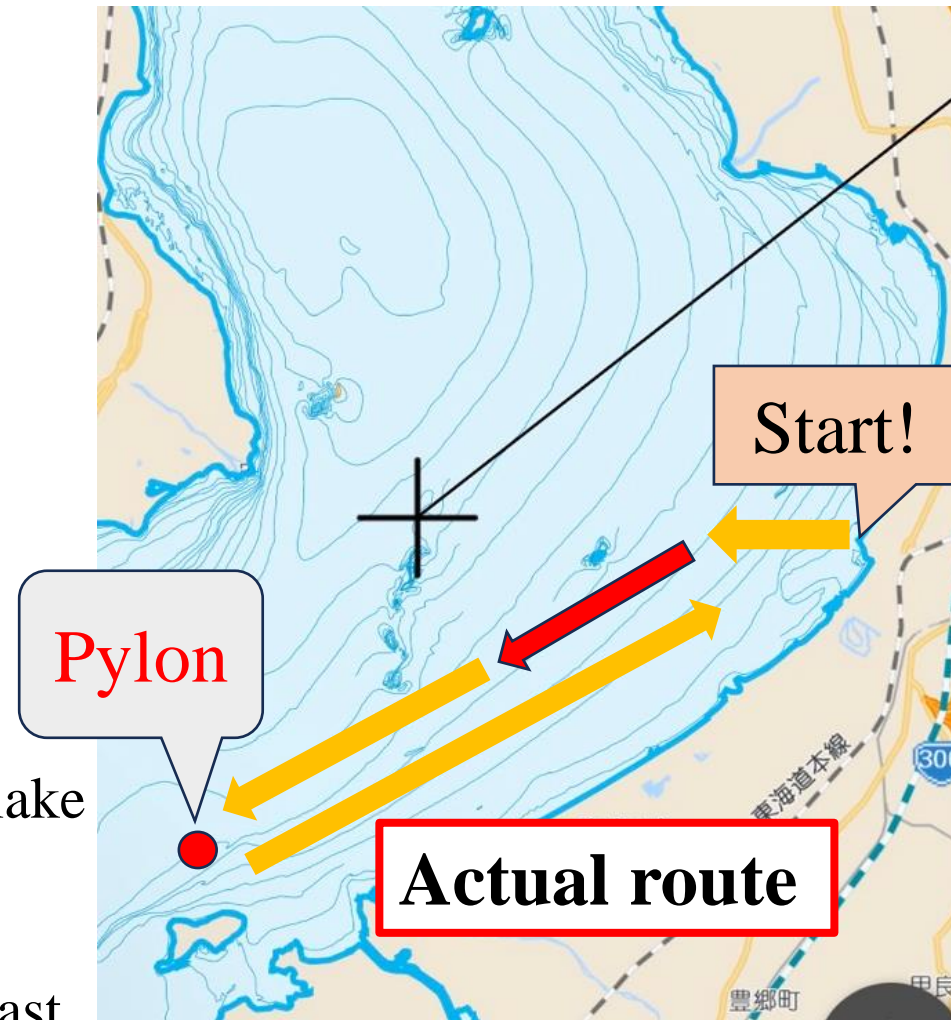
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# Competition

## 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.**

A large group of people, mostly wearing red shirts, are gathered on a sandy beach. Many of them have their arms raised in the air, suggesting a celebration or a group cheer. The background shows a clear blue sky and a calm sea. The overall atmosphere is one of joy and accomplishment.