# AMERICAN VELOCITY CHALLENGE

**1 AIR**  **2 WATER**  **3 LAND**
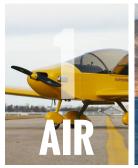
The American Velocity Challenge (AVC) is an event similar in scope to some of the most demanding competitions of our time. While the Iditarod or the Ironman Triathlon might be great displays of physical prowess, the American Velocity Challenge is built around science and engineering skills, bringing together some of the world's brightest young minds for a bold, first of its kind, high-tech adventure race.

This groundbreaking event will challenge contestants to invent and race one-of-a-kind machines over land, water, and air. Think of it as The Amazing Race of STEM: a contest celebrating talent with the winner, in this case, determined by ingenuity, technical innovation, and determination.

The American Velocity Challenge will be a summertime competition between students from America's top universities. Teams consisting of third and fourth year students of engineering and communications will contend with an intensely challenging three-stage racecourse stretching a thousand miles across the western United States. Led by their professors, supported by fellow classmates, and assisted by technical advisors from participating STEM-related corporate sponsors, teams will push the limits of human endeavor.

Like all great competitions, the challenge is at once simple and infinitely complex. Each team, representing a university and its sponsoring corporate partner, will be issued a Sonex AeroVee high-performance engine, a limited amount of fuel (not enough to win the race on engine power alone), and the ability to pick up along the way up to 500-pounds of payload in the form of simulated gold bars. Once acquired, a team cannot offload its payload. The top ranking teams will keep however much "gold" they are able to get across the finish line – a team's payload is its prize money and the winning purse could be substantial.

But there is a catch. Using the engine they've been issued, competitors must design and build machines that can cover huge distances across land, water, and air in fifteen days or less. Along the way, they will be tested by unique physical and mental challenges designed collaboratively by some of America's greatest engineers and adventure race event producers. And all of it will be captured on camera, in social media and across the public dialogue regarding STEM innovation.

The American Velocity Challenge will be a breakthrough event that marries together heart pounding competition with the national conversation around nurturing the next generation of science, technology, engineering and math leaders. It will turn the critical but often inaccessible conversation around STEM education and public policy into a dynamic, human quest for achievement, innovation, and glory. And it will bring together the next generation of technology leaders in the country, the nation's finest universities and the best minds from American corporations into this quest. The Velocity Challenge will humanize, publicize and most importantly magnify and celebrate American ingenuity and technology innovation and bring it to the public in an entirely new and compelling way.