



The International Hydrofoil Society (IHS)
2026 Mandles Prize for Hydrofoil Excellence - Announcement of Awards
3 September 2026
Congratulations to This Year's Winners!

Final Results

First Prize (\$2,500)

“Efficient Hydrodynamic Shape Optimization Using Artificial Neural Network- Based Surrogate Model with Adaptive Sampling Strategy”

By: Nayma Hassan Emu, Tayyib Ahsan, Md. Abdul Kader, Muztaba Rafid Rhythm,
Tajimur Rafi, Md Ebrahim Hossen
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Zobair Ibn Awal
Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Dhaka, Bangladesh

Honorable Mention (\$1,000)

“Network Informed Hydrofoil Optimization Pipeline”

By: Andrew Vallent, Alyson Zhang, Jess Irvin Peleo, Benedict Martinez,
John Carlo Figueras
Faculty Adviser: Dr. Muhammad Hajj
Stevens Institute of Technology (SIT), Hoboken, New Jersey

Background on This Year's Competition

These entries for the 2026 Mandles Prize both involved the use of neural networks in hydrofoil-related research and technology. We are fortunate to have an outstanding panel of judges to review the entries, and they determined that this year's First Prize winner is the team led by Nayma Hassan Emu from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Dhaka, Bangladesh.

An Honorable Mention award is being presented to the team led by Andrew Vallent from the Stevens Institute of Technology (SIT), Hoboken, New Jersey. The winning papers will be posted to the IHS website (www.foils.org) within the next several weeks.

Our appreciation and thanks go to the many prominent schools of the previous (2014-2025) and 2026 Mandles Prize cycles and the students and faculty advisors that have competed. They include: Australian Maritime College, University of Tasmania; Cedarville University; Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland; Florida Institute of Technology; Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Stevens Institute of Technology; Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology; University of Florida, Ghent University, Hamburg University of Technology, Hamburg Germany, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology; Technical University of Delft, the Netherlands; Tolani Maritime Institute, India; University of Genoa, Italy; University of New Orleans; University of New South Wales, Australia; University of Southampton, United Kingdom; Newcastle University, United Kingdom; United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland; Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland; Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Webb Institute, Glen Cove, New York, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, Texas A&M University, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, University of British Columbia, Canada, College of the Florida Keys, and University of Florida.

The International Hydrofoil Society thanks entrants for their interest in hydrofoil technology and for their excellent work. We wish all of you the best in your professional careers and sincerely hope that you will continue to participate in activities of the IHS. By virtue of applying for the 2026 IHS Mandles Prize, all students and their faculty advisors are now members of the International Hydrofoil Society. We invite them and anyone who is interested to volunteer for our not-for-profit efforts encouraging hydrofoil research, development, and applications.

Now, with the 2026 IHS Mandles Prize in the record books, it's time to think ahead to the 2027 competition, and there is great news! Mr. & Mrs. Connie Mandles are increasing the 1st Prize award from \$2,500 to \$5,000, with up to two Honorable Mention awards of \$1,000 each. The Announcement and Rules for 2027 will be posted on www.foils.org within the next several weeks. The sooner preparations begin, the greater the chances of submitting winning entries. Note that the 2027 Rules will request students to send IHS (email to markbebar334231@gmail.com) an informal expression of interest in competing by 4 Dec 2026. Those who have decided to submit an entry must submit a Competition Application Form (included in the Rules) by 19 Feb 2027.

Good luck to all and we look forward to welcoming all of you and those who follow in your footsteps next year. Finally, as we enter the 14th year of the Mandles Prize for Hydrofoil Excellence, we want to express our sincere appreciation to Mr. & Mrs. Mandles, the benefactors and namesakes of the IHS Mandles Prize.

Sincerely,

Ray Vellinga, President, International Hydrofoil Society
email: ihspresident2016@gmail.com

Mark Bebar, Vice-President, International Hydrofoil Society
email: markbebar334231@gmail.com