



Call for Presentations

2025 Federal Design-Build Symposium



August 20-21, 2025 | Hyatt Regency Reston | Reston, VA

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: February 21, 2025

Design-build is the fastest growing and most commonly used collaborative project delivery method. Nearly half of all design and construction projects in the United States are being delivered using some form of design-build. It is widely used for both private and public sector (federal, state and municipal) projects and across all project types, including vertical (building) construction, transportation and water/wastewater markets.

Subject matter experts with direct experience in design-build in the federal sector or public sector projects using federal funds are invited to submit session proposals on topics including, but not limited to, best practices with a focus on lessons learned, managing risk and expectations in federal projects, the evolution of collaboration/teaming and making the essential mental shift for success and the all-important facets of developing a successful acquisition strategy. Proposals that demonstrate these topics via case studies are strongly encouraged.

Other public (i.e., state and local) agencies that would benefit from federal design-build lessons learned and/or that have lessons that could benefit the federal sector are encouraged to submit abstracts and attend the Symposium.

Other areas of interest:

I. Managing Risk and Expectations in a Complex Market

- Key trends and leading practices
- Owner's role in managing risk
- The role of effective teaming in risk management
- Obstacles and pitfalls to effectively managing risk
- Effectively assessing and assigning risk
- Improving efficiency and effectiveness with design-build
- Risk management for mega projects
- Assessing and mitigating cost volatility

II. Owner Considerations in Developing an Acquisition Strategy

- Determining the appropriate project delivery and procurement methods
- Writing an effective RFQ/RFP
- Communicating Design Excellence goals
- Selecting/structuring a dynamic design-build team
- Strategies to maximize the advantages of design-build
- Incentive contracting
- Effective use of stipends and award fees
- Positioning an agency as an "Owner of Choice"

III. Effective Teaming, Collaboration and Making the Mental Shift

- Developing the leadership skills required for Design-Build Done Right®
- The how and why of early engagement of the team (designer, specialty trades, etc.)
- Meaningful and effective DEI and UBE utilization and engagement
- Strategic and effective Owner Advisor engagement
- Using Virtual Design and Construction (VDC), BIM and other technologies and methods to enhance outcomes
- The important role of procurement and legal professionals

IV. Unique Challenges in the Federal Sector

- Navigating the FAR/DFAR and design-build
- Complexities of high security projects
- How Federal funding including specific programs, specialized or repurposed funding are driving design-build

August 20-21, 2025 | Hyatt Regency Reston | Reston, VA

Submitting Your Presentation Idea

All submissions must be completed online. Incomplete submissions will not be accepted. As part of the submission process, you will be asked to answer the questions below. Only those who answer “yes” to the following questions need respond:

1. Can you and any additional panelists, if selected, commit to travel to present in a timeslot to be determined on August 20-21, in Reston, VA (just outside of Washington, DC)?
2. Is your content current and highly relevant to the successful execution of design-build within the context of the Federal marketplace?

STEP 1: Contact Information

1. **Select your role** (submitter only or submitter and speaker)
2. **Provide your contact information** (name, title, credentials, company, email, etc.)
3. **Experience Presenting the Topic** – Has the presenter conducted a similar topic at a DBIA or any other industry event?
4. **Attestation** – submitters must review and attest to their understanding of the points below:
 - a) I agree that, if selected, I will submit a copy of my DRAFT PowerPoint presentation to be used during the conference to DBIA by July 11, 2025.
 - b) I agree that, if selected, I will submit a copy of my FINAL PowerPoint presentation to be used during the conference to DBIA by Aug. 6, 2025. DBIA will withdraw session presenters from the program if we do not receive final presentations by the Aug. 6 deadline.
 - c) Registration and applicable travel fees are my responsibility.
 - d) At this time, DBIA cannot accommodate the use of Wi-Fi based polling software such as Mentimeter in our concurrent (track) programming. DBIA is investigating how to incorporate such tools into our concurrent programming and will reach out to presentation teams if and when these tools can be accommodated.
5. **Provide DBIA Certification status**

STEP 2: Proposal Information — Presenter Details

1. **Select presenter composition:** Are you a single presenter or do you have a panel?
2. **List the individuals to participate in this session, if selected — Information must include presenter(s):**
 - Name
 - Title
 - Credentials
 - Company
3. **Bio required:** Include a bio of no more than **75 words**. If selected, this bio will be used as part of your introduction at the conference
4. **Panel Representation:** DBIA believes a diversity of voices and perspectives (e.g., gender, race, age, disability, underutilized businesses, geography, etc.) is a core component of high-quality programming. Please provide a brief description (no more than 300 words) of how your panel represents a diversity of voices and perspectives, and how diversity and/or inclusion on your team impacted project outcomes.

Presenter names, titles and credentials will be listed exactly as submitted if selected, so please confirm this information with fellow panelists. Please note, there is a maximum of 4 panelists allowed for each session. Should you wish to have more than 4 panelists, please contact conferences@dbia.org to discuss whether or not additional panelists can be accommodated.

August 20-21, 2025 | Hyatt Regency Reston | Reston, VA

STEP 3: Proposal Information — Presentation Overview:

1. **Presentation Title:** Title should capture the essence of the topic to be discussed and should not exceed 12 words. (DBIA reserves the right to modify the title; submitters will be notified). Please be sure to use title case.
2. **Presentation Summary:** Please provide an overview of the session intent and why the topic is relevant to successful integrated delivery. The summary statement should not exceed 200 words and may be used for marketing purposes should your presentation be selected.
3. **Presentation Learning Objectives:** Submitters will be asked to provide four learning objectives that clearly expresses what the attendee will be able to do after taking a course.
4. **Connection to Best Practice:**
 - a. Please select the Federal Sector Best Practices emphasized in your presentation (check all that apply).
 - b. In 200 words or less, please explain how your presentation will emphasize and make connections to the Federal Sector Best Practices noted above.
5. **Case Study:** Does your submission focus on a specific case study?
 - a. Our goal is to provide attendees with actionable insights and lessons that they can apply in their own work. If you answered yes above and your submission is a case study, please briefly explain the key takeaways and lessons learned you will provide to the audience. Attendees should walk away with practical insights they can apply — not just a summary of what the project accomplished. (200-word limit)
6. **Presentation Format:** Submitters will be asked to select from: Single Presenter, Panel with Presentation, Panel Discussion without presentation, Other: Please Specify
7. **Presentation Level:** Submitters will be asked to select from: Beginner, Intermediate or Advanced
8. **Intended Audience:** Submitters will be asked to check all that apply: Owners (Procurement/ Pre-Award Professional), Design Professionals, General Contractors, Specialty/Sub Contractors or Other: Please Specify
9. **Logistical Contact: Title and Full Contact Information —** This person must be prepared to serve as DBIA’s main point of contact if selected, including coordination with co-presenters, where applicable.
 - a. Name
 - b. Title
 - c. Email
 - d. Phone
10. **Please check here** to confirm your agreement and understanding that, if selected, DBIA has the right to request modifications to content and to suggest additional panelists as deemed necessary to achieve our conference goals.

STEP 4: Proposal Summary and Submission

Before you submit your final presentation, **submitters will be asked to double-check the following:**

- Review the abstract information by clicking the “Edit Proposal” image in the left column.
- Review the primary author information below by clicking the “Edit Speaker Information” Image in the left column
- Click the “Add Additional Presenter” image in the right column to add additional speakers to this abstract.
- The primary submitter must obtain confirmation that any additional speakers will participate should DBIA accept the submission. DBIA requests that there be no more than three additional presenters.

August 20-21, 2025 | Hyatt Regency Reston | Reston, VA

How Are Presentations Evaluated?

DBIA's goal is to develop a balanced, high-quality, and cutting-edge conference program that reflects the diversity, depth, and strategic priorities of DBIA and the design-build industry. To achieve this, a committee of industry experts evaluates all presentation submissions through a structured review process.

Initial Review & Scoring: Reviewers score each submission based on the criteria below. These scores play a key role in program development. However, final selections are made to ensure a holistic balance of content diversity, presenter representation, and strategic alignment.

Evaluation Criteria:

- **DBIA Credentials:** Submissions where presenters hold the DBIA® or Associate DBIA® credential are given preference (DBIA will verify credentials).
- **Owner Participation:** Panels with Owner participation receive heightened consideration.
- **Diversity of Perspectives:** Presentations showcasing diverse voices and perspectives (e.g., gender, race, geography) are prioritized.
- **Federal Sector Best Practices:** Presentations emphasizing and/or making clear connections to the Federal Sector Best Practices are valued.
- **Timely and Relevant Topics:** Presentations that focus on relevant topics, including but not limited to those mentioned above, are given added consideration.
- **Tangible Takeaways:** Proposals with concrete, actionable takeaways attendees can apply immediately are prioritized.

Additional Considerations: While reviewer scores are a key evaluation mechanism, DBIA's final determination also considers:

- **Content Diversity:** Ensuring a range of topics to avoid over-concentration on specific subjects.
- **Comprehensive Panels:** Panels with key team players (e.g., owner, designer, builder) and depth of expertise as emphasized through panel credentials and biographies are prioritized.
- **Strategic Initiatives:** Aligning content with DBIA's strategic goals to offer relevant, cutting-edge insights.

Note: Submissions promoting specific products or services will not be considered.

DBIA will notify submitters of DBIA's interest in the submitted session concept by April 1st. Additional logistical details will be provided at that time to those selected for the next round of conversations.

Questions regarding the submission process should be directed to:

Emily Eagon
e: eeagon@dbia.org