MIT’s design wins SpaceX challenge

Hyperloop pod named ‘best overall design,’ recognized for its feasibility

Ray Wang and Emma Bingham
STAFF WRITERS

A team of 25 MIT students took the Best Overall Design award in the first stage of SpaceX’s Hyperloop Pod competition this weekend. Their design for a pod that will shuttle between San Francisco and LA at prodigious speeds beat those of over 120 teams at the competition’s Design Weekend, held at Texas A&M University.

Hyperloop is a high-speed transportation system that connects cities with low-pressure tubes housing pods that ride on an air cushion. It was first conceptualized by Elon Musk and SpaceX in 2013 and was motivated by what they see as a need for alternative methods of inter-city transportation. Instead of building the Hyperloop himself, Musk outsourced it. Last June, he announced a competition to solicit designs for the Hyperloop pod, targeted at university students as well as independent groups.

John Mayo G, project manager of the MIT Hyperloop Team, was drawn to the engineering challenge of the Hyperloop pod and its potential. “We’re developing some-
Project manager spent 25 hours a week on pod
Students from four majors helped design the MIT team’s winning Hyperloop capsule

The MIT squad had four subteams, in addition to business — vehicle dynamics, electronics and software, aerodynamics, and levitation. While the idea for a train in a vacuum tube has been around for a hundred years, the components haven’t been combined until now.

“The defining things of our pod are the aerodynamic shell, the frame, the levitation skis, the suspension, the lateral control modules, and the braking modules — along with the electronics and software, which is the nervous system,” Mayo said.

The basic science behind the levitation system has been tested, but it hasn’t been applied in quite the same way. “Our levitation skis are a magnet array, which uses the Halbach effect … The pod is being propelled, and that causes the magnets to move over the track … and that makes our pod float,” said Mayo.

After the initial propulsion, which can be as low as 5 to 10 meters per second, the pod needs no energy to stay afloat. “The actual act of levitation takes no power.”

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Fund will accept multiple requests from students
Dean of Engineering hopes fund becomes ‘entrenched … the way UROP or UPOP has’

“so that it can marry well with the way that students develop ideas at MIT, where they don’t always have tons of time to devote to their project,” Waitz said.

Though Waitz and Sandbox Executive Director Jinane Abounadi PhD ’98 have figured out most of the essentials, there is still much that has not yet been decided. For example, no limit has been imposed on the number of individual proposals a single student can submit; the program is considering implementing one if funds become short.

Waitz said he will know if the program is successful if students know about it from other students’ positive experiences. In the future, Waitz hopes that Sandbox becomes “entrenched in the Institute’s culture much in the way UROP or UPOP has.”

Minor in one of 30 HASS fields.

Art, Culture, & Technology
Ancient & Medieval Studies
Anthropology
Applied International Studies
Comparative Media Studies
Economics
History
History of Architecture & Art
International Development
Languages
Chinese
French
German
Japanese
Spanish
Linguistics

Literature
Music
Philosophy
Political Science
Public Policy
Regional Studies
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By adding 2 or 3 subjects to your required HASS Concentration, you can build a 6-subject minor that allows you to explore your field of choice in greater depth. Each year hundreds of MIT students decide to minor in the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences.
Team struggled with levitation and braking system

Will build prototype that will compete on test track at SpaceX headquarters in CA

Hyperloop, from Page 2

claimed Mayo. For the final competition, which is an actual test of a full-scale prototype, SpaceX will provide a propulsion system that will rocket the pod off at 240 miles per hour.

“We were focusing on innovating in a couple areas here. We wanted to build a system that could scale up to a full Hyperloop system, but we also wanted to be sure that it was feasible enough and small enough that we could build this in the spring semester to test it this summer.”

“If it’s too complex, it’s not buildable in that short amount of time,” Mayo said.

With the speeds that the Hyperloop is expected to reach, braking safely is a huge issue that the team had to tackle. “In the actual competition, the track is only a mile long, so we’ve accelerated 2.4Gs. And if you stay at that speed, your run is about 10 seconds, and you need to stop at a similar 2.4Gs to be able not hit the end of the tube and crash,” said Mayo.

“Another big thing is ... a braking system that is hydraulic and spring-powered,” Mayo said. “It’s able to clamp down on the center rail on the SpaceX track and stop us at 2.4 Gs of deceleration. The hydraulic cylinders hold the brakes open, and then springs clamp it shut. If we have any power loss ... it just clamps shut automatically.”

So, how did they beat out over 120 other teams, representing 27 states and 20 countries? Mayo notes that they won Best Overall Design, not Most Innovative. “I think the best thing that stood out about our design is the fact that it is feasible and buildable. One of our main focuses was something we could build and physically test in this competition scope.”

“They will now begin building a prototype of their pod to be tested this summer on a one-mile track under construction at SpaceX headquarters.

“While we’re recapping, we’re looking at our designs, being sure that all the nuts and bolts fit,” said Mayo. “We’re gonna start building some parts, getting a lot of parts outsourced and machined ... After that, we will start assembling the pod and testing the individual subsystems — doing things like being sure our brakes apply the correct force, being sure the frame can handle the loads it’ll see, building a small model of the levitation system.”

Ideally, they’d like to put their pod together by the first week of May, and possibly go out the Hyperloop track in California and test it. Twenty-two other teams that qualified from the design stage will also be testing their prototypes.
The Tech printed its first issue in 1881, in the year of the twentieth anniversary of MIT's founding. The founding board of editors set a mission for the fledgling publication, brought into being by “public spirit.” The Tech would provide “an avenue for the expression of public opinion.”

Their aim was tied intimately to the mission of editors set a mission for the newspaper into being by “public spirit:” to make discoveries, to create new knowledge, and to share that knowledge and propagate that knowledge, and to share new knowledge, and to share questions about self-governance, and stories of activism that challenge our self-definition as a community.

Yet just as important, if not more so, to the founding board of editors, was the newspaper’s commitment to the students, their readership. The Tech, they proclaimed, “will exercise a guiding and supervising influence on the members of the school, protecting the Freshman, catering the Sophomore, correcting the Junior, and supporting the Senior in his old age.”

As a newspaper, our goal is to inform, provoke, and challenge.

It is also to ensure, as the board of the first volume put it, that “the efforts we make are stepping-stones to further attainments.”

As we move forward, I want to revisit our commitment to our readership and ask for your input in shaping the future direction of The Tech.

What should a newspaper, supporting MIT students for the broad MIT community, be doing today?

Katherine Nazemi
Editor in Chief
An orchestral tribute concert to David Bowie was held last Friday in Kresge Auditorium. The event was presented by MIT Music and Theater Arts in collaboration with Orange Mountain Music and Richard Guerin. All proceeds went to support the Koch Institute Frontier Research Fund for cancer research at MIT.

Judicial Board, from Page 1

coming year.

She said that another proposed amendment would make it easier for the rest of the UA to override any very unpopular decisions the board might issue together with the president’s approval, the supermajority needed to amend the constitution would be able to do so without the extant restriction that the amendment must “lie on the table for at least one meeting.”

Our decisions “are uncontestable and must be acted on immediately,” she said. “We don’t want to lower the bar [for overriding a decision] to below an amendment, [but] we can make it faster.”

Brode-Roger also said that a more specific structure for the board has been proposed as an amendment. She said the proposed structure would allocate the board’s three seats to a sophomore, a junior, and a senior. Council would be able to choose each year, by a simple majority vote, to either promote each member to the next seat or remove the member from the board; those serving in the senior position would automatically be removed, even if they were to continue another year as an undergraduate.

Brode-Roger hopes that the new structure would improve the board’s continuity. These amendments are among those coming out of the UA’s Bylaws Committee. That committee, UA Vice President Sophia Liu ’17 said, is tasked with reviewing the UA’s governing documents.

Besides constitutional amendments, Brode-Roger is also thinking about ways to better publicize the Judicial Review Board. She plans to make the board more well-known by visiting each undergraduate dormitory during a house meeting and discussing “how the UA is on a constitutional level.”

Since the summertime, Brode-Roger has also been looking at better ways for undergraduates to submit complaints to the board. At a meeting last summer, she discussed the possibility of creating an RT Queue to track complaints. Yesterday, she said that she might ask IS&T to provide an instance of the queue so that the UA would not have to maintain the software itself.

— William Navarro

A sampling of people you’ll meet during a typical dinner at The Tech:

Lenny, Course 2
Michelle, Course 3
Jeddo, Course 6
Patricia, Course 8
Vivien, Course 9
Amy, Course 10
Vince, Course 12
Fiona, Course 14
Samir, Course 16
Katherine, Course 17
Claire, Course 18
Jack, Course 19
Tara, Course 20
Miry, Course 21
Karleigh, CMS
Alex, Course 22

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MTG Presents
9 to 5

Violet Newstead (Hallie N. Voulgaris '17) shows Judy Bernly (Carrie M. Fowle '18) the ropes on Judy's first day at the office.

Doralee Rhodes (Chamille J. Lescott '16) confronts her boss Frank Hart (Geoffrey W. Hegg '16) after learning that he's been spreading rumors about a relationship between them.

Noelle A. Colant '17 as Roz Keith during "Heart to Hart".

The ensemble (Kristina S. Kim '17, Jeremy T. Wright '17, Sienna A. Ramos '18, Leigh-Ana Rossitto '18, Amanda J. Liu '17) happily watches as Violet Newstead (Hallie N. Voulgaris '17) prepares a potion to make Frank Hart (Geoffrey W. Hegg '16) disappear during a dream sequence.

The musical's heroines: Judy Bernly, Violet Newstead, and Doralee Rhodes (Carrie M. Fowle '18, Hallie N. Voulgaris '17, and Chamille J. Lescott '16 respectively) sing during the finale.

Carrie M. Fowle '18 sings as Judy Bernly during the opening of "9 to 5." At the start of the story, Judy Bernly has been forced to get a job because her husband has run off with his secretary.

In an unplanned turn of events, Frank Hart (Geoffrey W. Hegg '16) confronts the people that have been controlling his company after kidnapping him.

Doralee Rhodes (Chamille J. Lescott '16) rides on top of Frank Hart (Geoffrey W. Hegg '16) during a dream sequence.
Sudoku
Solution, page 11

3 9 5 7
2 5 3
1 5 2 9
7 5
1 3 9 2
6 2
6 2 1 5
8 4
9 1 8 3

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Techdoku
Solution, page 11

72× 360×
24× 7+
4 5 12+
15+
8× 60×
3× 8×
5
6
1

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1-6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

Giant Techdoku
Solution, page 11

2+ 1− 23+ 12× 7
26+ 320× 4 1−
32+ 16× 9× 27×
22+ 7+ 63× 2−
8 23+ 96× 7×
5 6× 2− 1
12× 18× 15+ 240×
3 2 35×

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1-9. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.
Belly Workout by Gail Grabowski

Solution, page 11

ACROSS
1 Peaceful
5 Airplane tracking device
10 Writing tablets
14 Three-layer cookie
16 Girl in Wonderland
18 Brother of Cain
19 Reclined
21 "Wait a minute . . . ”
25 "For sure!
27 "Keep quiet!
30 Cummerbund, for instance
36 Read Across America Day
39 Name of the Howard
43 Manning stats
44 Bahrain leader
46 How villains behave
47 Sleep study acronym
51 Inspiration
52 __-edged (best-quality)
53 Inspiration
55 Unfrozen, as
61 __ board (manicurist’s tool)
64 Beverly Hillbillies star
67 Crawls (with)
68 Dons judge’s garb
36 Beijing, in Chinese
39 Florida major leaguers
40 Loudspeakers, for short
42 React to a joke
44 Chinese bearlike beasts
45 Prate flag images
47 In separate pieces
48 Result of poor cafe service
50 Plentyful supply
51 Omen interpreter
52 Cuban base, familiarly
55 Statistical diagram
56 __ or less (approximately)
57 Alternative to suspenders
58 Ward off
59 Wicked
60 Puts into words
61 __ board (manicurist’s tool)
62 Small bits of paint
63 Anaheim, Calif.
64 Chinese bearlike beasts
65 Indelible-ink design, for
66 Michael Keaton film of '88
67 Response to a bailiff
68 Go sprawling
69 Title given to Poitier
70 Go sprawling
71 Allah, for short
72 Blue jeans
73 Prefix for “coil”
74 Loves "Bravo!"
76 "Isn’t it?"
77 Airplane tracking device
78 French fragrance firm
79 At the ready
80 Telephone trio
81 Telephone trio
82 Definitely
83 Snooty people
84 A little open
85事件
86 Brother of Cain
87 Baby’s bed
89 Color of Santa’s suit
90 Joker or jack
91 Paycheck
92 Film-studio production
93 Flexing
94 Japanese planter
95 Coat of arms
96 Pulls a rabbit out of a hat
97 Unfrozen, as
98 Actor’s part
99 Hues
crossword
100 Appearance
101 French fragrance firm
102 Conclusion
103 All too imperfect
104 Share of a peanut
105 Bedtime story
106 As a child
107 Capitalist
108 Pennies
109 San Francisco
110 Elsewhere

DOWN
1 Coke or Pepsi
2 The typical Jordanian
3 Luau garlands
4 State west of North Dakota
5 Uncommon occurrence
6 Without help
7 Pungens into a pool
8 Scored 100% on
9 Color of Santa’s suit
10 Inmate’s early release
11 On the up-and-up
12 Sandwich shops
13 Frozen rain
14 Down peaks
15 Boy or man
16 Furry or feathered friends
17 "Keep quiet!
18 "For sure!
19 Pickle veggie
20 Vituperate
21 Marine: Abbr.
22 Film excerpt
23 Potted plant
24 Lightest in color
25 Crudely built hut
26 "Keep quiet!
27 "For sure!
28 ____
29 Faulty
30 Pink Panther collectibles
31 Long
32 Liquid for frying
33 Site of confusion
34 Loudspeakers, for short
35 Letter before tee
36 Doesn’t have
37 Alias letters
38 Attend Eton, e.g.
39 Old West search party
40 Medical remedies
41 Unalterable
42 React to a joke
43 Manning stats
44 Chinese bearlike beasts
45 Prate flag images
47 In separate pieces
48 Result of poor cafe service
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105 Bedtime story
106 As a child
107 Capitalist
108 Pennies
109 San Francisco
110 Elsewhere

Orange Bowl by Fred Piscop

Solution, page 11

ACROSS
1 Last stop before home
6 Chamber music group
13 Peaceful
15 Oslo native’s homeland
16 Chamber music group
17 Addendum
18 "Uh-huh"
19 In-flight stat.
20 "For sure!
21 "Keep quiet!
22 Dutch songbird
23 In-flight stat.
24 Last stop before home
25 "Keep quiet!
26 "For sure!
27 "Keep quiet!
28 "For sure!
29 "Keep quiet!
30 "Keep quiet!
31 "Keep quiet!
32 "Keep quiet!
33 "Keep quiet!
34 "Keep quiet!
35 "Keep quiet!
36 "Keep quiet!
37 "Keep quiet!
38 "Keep quiet!
39 "Keep quiet!
40 "Keep quiet!
41 "Keep quiet!
42 "Keep quiet!
43 "Keep quiet!
44 Chinese bearlike beasts
45 Prate flag images
47 In separate pieces
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97 Unfrozen, as
98 Actor’s part
99 Hues

Brad Stevens’ coaching has been a big reason for the Boston Celtics’ success this season

Close games have been a worry for the C’s; as the regular season reaches its climax and playoff spots are on the line, the margin of error gets increasingly narrower. Close games have not been kind to the Celtics up to this point. When it comes down to the wire, the team has not been able to pull away or keep up with their opponents. It’s not because the energy and effort is not there. It’s not that they are not getting great looks. Shots just have not fallen for them. Outside of Isaiah Thomas, the team does not really have anyone to get them good isolation baskets at the end of the game. And as gifted as he is, sometimes your five-foot-nine point guard taking a fadeaway mid-range jumper just is not enough to get the job done. To his credit, he hits them at a high enough rate for me to instinctively consider it a good look. When it gets close, the transition baskets and usefulness of rotations diminish, exposing the limitations of this roster. They can hunker down defensively, but that can only do so much if they are clunking shots on the other end. Brad Stevens has drawn up some terrific plays that have gotten them key, clutch baskets (most recently a game-winning layup by Jae Crowder against the Wizards) so the potential is there. It’s on the players to perform better in these intense situations. The coach can draw you up a look, but if you can’t hit the shot it’s not going to do you any good.

COACHING: A-
Brad Stevens has done an excellent job with his team once again. The Celtics have gotten better each season he has been here, and while the improved talent on the roster also contributes to that, he has no doubt gotten a bunch of average players to play collectively at an above-average level. The rotations that have made this team so great defensively are no doubt his doing. They run some great offensive sets after timeouts and at the end of games that have gotten them great looks, even if they do not always fall. The future only seems bright.

OVERALL: B+

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Celtics, from Page 12
they just did not have the size to be a good defensive team. Fans have salivated at the prospect of finding that huge center to clog the middle and provide the shot blocking this team has lacked for a long while. Given the individual liabilities one would expect from players like Kelly Olynyk and Isaiah Thomas, this team seemed to be a recipe for defensive disaster. But that has yet to be the case.

Right now, the C’s are second in the league in points allowed per 100 possessions, trailing only the Spurs. Crisp rotations and the incredible energy fuel a typical small Boston lineup. They end of the court, making fans all have been huge on this Marcus Smart, and Amir Johnson contest every shot. Jae Crowder, work hard, force turnovers, and Marcus Smart very aggressively blocking this team has lacked for a long while. Given the individual liabilities one would expect (sometimes even good), making him a much more well-rounded player than we have seen in the past.

REBOUNDING B-
The Celtics are not a huge team and while this hasn’t really hurt them when it comes to forcing misses, they do have a tendency to get beat up on the boards. When the team comes together and collectively rebounds, they do a great job. Marcus Smart very aggressively attacks the ball and Jae Crowder and Evan Turner provide great help on the wings. However, this team sometimes has a tendency to leak out after a shot is put up and this can be costly, giving the other team extra chances they shouldn’t be getting. When the energy and effort is there, this team is perfectly fine securing the ball and can even use its speed to get some offensive rebounds of its own. There have been a few games this season that second-chance points have caused a lot of unnecessary strain, but it’s usually never a nagging issue throughout entire games.

CONSISTENCY C-
Celtics have lacked consistency up to this point in the season. Some nights they come out and absolutely impress. Other times, they are lackluster and lose to a team they are clearly capable of wiping the floor with. When the shots are not falling from the outside, they don’t seem to have a backup plan.

A lot of that makes sense. You do not want to step playing your brand of basketball, but the Celtics have to find other ways to snap out of these funk if they want their record to reflect the work they have done. It can be menacing to see a flurry of threes fall one night only to see it rain bricks the next, but this happens to every team and it should not always determine the fate of the game. Working the ball down low and consistently attacking the basket will do them well in these games in the second half of the season.

On a brighter note, the energy and effort always seem to be there. Their defense always comes to play because they always want to live that way and fight. It’s really better decision-making in these situations, not necessarily effort, that would do them some good.

CLOSING C
Close games have not been kind to the Celtics up to this point. When it comes down to the wire, the team has not been able to pull away or keep up with their opponents. It’s not because the energy and effort is not there. It’s not that they are not getting great looks. Shots just have not fallen for them. Outside of Isaiah Thomas, the team does not really have anyone to get them good isolation baskets at the end of the game. And as gifted as he is, sometimes your five-foot-nine point guard taking a fadeaway mid-range jumper just is not enough to get the job done. To his credit, he hits them at a high enough rate for me to instinctively consider it a good look. When it gets close, the transition baskets and usefulness of rotations diminish, exposing the limitations of this roster. They can hunker down defensively, but that can only
New-look Boston Bruins are looking to make the playoffs after a disappointing 2014-15 season
After major offseason trades, the Bruins’ offense has looked impressive this season; the defense still remains a major worry as the B’s look to punch their playoff tickets

By Yueyang Ying
SPORTS WRITER

At the All-Star break, the Bruins have notched up a solid 57 points, only one point short of second place in their division. Currently, the Boston team occupies one of the two Wild Card positions for the Stanley Cup playoffs in the Eastern Conference.

Don Sweeney, the Bruins General Manager who replaced Peter Chiarelli in the aftermath of a disappointing 2014-15 season, paved the way toward improvement.

His ambition outweighs that of Chiarelli and he is determined to make changes for the future of the team.

This season, even though Milan Lucic, Dougie Hamilton, Carl Soderberg, Reilly Smith, and Gregory Campbell are no longer scoring black and gold jerseys, the trades have not been quite as detrimental as originally thought. While the addition of many draft picks and prospects has given the team more potential for the future, the team currently lacks depth in all four lines.

Against the Columbus Blue Jackets, typical third line center Ryan Spooner moved up to right wing on first line. The new arrangement had its pros and cons: the line ultimately produced 11 out of 34 shots on net. The team scraped a 3-2 win in a final shootout. However, the third and fourth lines fell short, only generating a disappointing four shots on net. Against a team that currently owns the worst record in the history of the NHL, a 3-2 grind is not something to be proud of.

The rookies and draft picks have so far meshed well with the team, stepping up even as newcomers. Jimmy Hayes, Matt Beleskey, and Frank Vatrano have all contributed multiple goals throughout the season.

Nonetheless, the Bruins are far from their 2011 glory. Despite the improving offense, the sharp decline in defense is to blame for the lack of success. Big Z, Zdeno Chara, has visibly slowed — understandably so, as he is now in his 20th year in the NHL. Dennis Seidenberg’s surgery proved harmful as well, limiting the wide skillset he used to possess. Former Sharks player Matt Irwin performed so atrociously that, after two games, he was shipped back to the AHL.

As for the defensive rookies, they have played to the best of their current abilities, but will continue to make rookie mistakes that will only diminish with experience. A playoff appearance is definitely there for the taking, but a run at the Stanley Cup may be asking for too much.

As for the defense, it is all about the forwards and keeping them honest. The taking, but a run at the Stanley Cup appearance is definitely there for the taking, but a run at the Stanley Cup may be asking for too much.

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