

DARPA Lift Challenge 2026 Broadcast Team



Meet the Hosts

This broadcast portion, featuring the following hosts, coincided with the public access days during the final four days of competition. The Lift Challenge broadcast team guided viewers through the competition: veteran sports broadcaster [Todd Harris](#) as lead commentator, drone educator and content creator [Joshua Bardwell](#) as analyst, and professional drone racing pilot [Elena Buenrostro](#) as field reporter. Together, they led viewers as teams attempt to achieve unprecedented payload-to-weight ratios and compete for up to \$6.5 million in prizes.



Event Commentator
Todd Harris

Harris brings decades of experience calling live sporting events for national television audiences. A longtime NBC Sports commentator, he is widely recognized for his work covering Olympic and action sports and for translating complex athletic competitions into compelling stories for viewers.



Analyst
Joshua Bardwell

Bardwell is an educator, content creator, and product reviewer who has helped make drone flight more accessible. He established his self-titled YouTube channel as a resource for beginners and veteran pilots alike. As an analyst, he will provide insight into aircraft design, flight performance, and the technical innovations competitors bring to the Challenge.



Field Reporter
Elena Buenrostro

A licensed commercial drone pilot and the Founder and CEO of Women Who Drone, Buenrostro also judges drone film festivals and works with the Federal Aviation Administration, DroneDeploy, Columbia University, Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology, and Google. As the field reporter, she'll report from the competition field and interview competitors.

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