SPACE SYSTEMS COMMAND
Media Release

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Office of Public Affairs (SSC/PA)
483 N. Aviation Blvd.
El Segundo, Calif. 90245-2808

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Contact: Media Relations Division
Phone: (310) 653-3145
sscpa.media@spaceforce.mil

Space Systems Command awards Data Exploitation Technology Transition I contract to Lockheed Martin

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. – Space Systems Command's (SSC) Space Enterprise Consortium (SpEC) recently awarded an Overhead Persistent Infrared (OPIR) Data Exploitation Technology Transition I (ODETT I) Typing and Characterization Algorithms contract to Lockheed Martin Corporation - Advanced Technology Center. At a cost of $5.2M and four-year performance period, the contract will be directed by SSC's Tools Applications Processing (TAP) Lab in Boulder, Colorado.

"This is our first SpEC ODETT award, and it represents a major step forward in TAP Lab's efforts to improve our missile warning processes," said Steve Polliard, TAP Lab director. "The progress we will gain as a result of this work, will directly inform our warfighter and contribute to our nation's safety."

TAP Lab aims to create enhanced software, algorithms, and applications that will support data discovery by more effectively and rapidly interpreting incoming OPIR data, while seamlessly incorporating with current mission software – a necessary capability to help optimize the ability to correctly classify OPIR events while minimizing response times.

Foundational to the execution of the OPIR mission, SSC's missile warning and tracking constellations collect data that is usually analyzed manually. Due to the vast amount of information that is collected and processed, this traditional method can take a great amount of time and resources. This can lead to a longer window in providing vital data to end users and warfighters, affecting response times to critical events, such as enemy missile launches.

"To carry out OPIR missions effectively, it's crucial to quickly and accurately identify interesting space events from the data our operators receive," Polliard said. "Currently, USSF space operators support three constellations of OPIR satellites for the purpose of conducting strategic and theater missile warning. They provide crucial intel to missile defense forces, battlespace awareness to Combatant Commanders, and technical intelligence for further analysis."

SpEC connects the Department of Defense units with a network of innovators and creators across the most sought-after emerging technology fields as they research and develop space-related prototypes. SpEC was established in 2017 by then Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center and is an alternative to traditional contracting vehicles. It has minimized barriers to entry for many non-traditional vendors while expediting idea-to-execution timelines by upwards of 60 percent. It is currently managed by the National Security Technology Accelerator (NSTXL).

About Space Systems Command

Space Systems Command (SSC) is the U.S. Space Force field command responsible for acquiring and delivering resilient war fighting capabilities to protect our nation's strategic advantage in and from space. SSC manages a $15 billion space acquisition budget for the Department of Defense and works in partnership with joint forces, industry, government agencies, academic and allied organizations to accelerate innovation and outpace emerging threats. Our actions today are making the world a better space for tomorrow.

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Media representatives can submit questions for response regarding this topic by sending an e-mail to sscpa.media@spaceforce.mil

The sixth and final Space Based Infrared System Geosynchronous Earth Orbit (SBIRS-GEO) satellite sits atop an Atlas V rocket for launch on Aug. 4, 2022 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Fl. SBIRS is one of three constellations of OPIR systems that supports several USSF missions: missile early warning, missile defense, battlespace awareness and technical intelligence. Counting this launch of SBIRS GEO-6, a total of 12 satellites carrying SBIRS-GEO have been launched since May 2011. (Courtesy photo by United Launch Alliance)