

The Army FUZE xTech Program – xTech|Apex Intercept Competition Announcement

I. Background and Purpose

The U.S. Army is seeking innovative, low-cost interceptor solutions from eligible small, medium, and large businesses across the U.S. and allied foreign countries to augment the current PATRIOT Air and Missile Defense mission against Air Breathing Threats (ABT), Cruise Missiles, Close-Range Ballistic Missiles (CRBM) and Short-Range Ballistic Missiles (SRBM). This platform offers participants the opportunity to engage with the Department of War (DoW), earn prize money and potentially receive a follow-on contract award or agreement.

The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ASA(ALT)) is partnering with Capability Program Executive (CPE) Defensive Fires to deliver the xTech|Apex Intercept competition. The Army recognizes that the DoW must enhance engagements with industry by (1) understanding the spectrum of world-class technologies being developed commercially that may benefit the DoW; (2) integrating the sector of non-traditional innovators into the DoW Science and Technology (S&T) ecosystem; and (3) providing expertise and feedback to accelerate, mature, transition, and scale technologies of interest to the DoW.

The xTech|Apex Intercept competition will consist of two (2) rounds:

- (1) Call for concept white papers; and
- (2) Finals demonstration event.

The competition will award up to \$8,000,000 in cash prizes throughout the competition to selected participants. **Up to 30 finalists will receive a cash prize of \$25,000 each and an opportunity to demonstrate their innovative technology solution to a panel of Army and DoW subject matter experts (SMEs) and end-users in October/November 2026.** The Army intends to select up to 18 final winners of the competition to receive an additional cash prize of up to \$1,000,000 each for Topic 1 and up to \$750,000 each for Topics 2-4 and may be considered for potential follow-on agreements and contracting opportunities. Additional details on prize structure can be found in Section VII.

In addition to non-dilutive cash prizes, participants will have the opportunity to engage with Army and DoW representatives through information-sharing and networking opportunities.

The xTech|Apex Intercept competition is conducted in accordance with 10 U.S.C. § 4025, which authorizes the use of prize competitions to stimulate innovation and identify promising technologies for national security applications. Requirements for competition under 10 U.S.C. § 3201 are satisfied upon completion of the challenge and use of prize authority. As such, this competition serves as a competitive down select mechanism that enables government organizations to engage with finalists and winners through a variety of follow-on acquisition pathways, including but not limited to:

- 10 U.S.C. § 4114 – Selection of contractors for prototype projects
- 10 U.S.C. § 4022 – Prototype projects
- 10 U.S.C. § 4023 – Procurement for experimental purposes
- 10 U.S.C. § 4001 – Research and development
- 10 U.S.C. § 4021 – Other Transaction Authority (OTA)
- 10 U.S.C. § 3458 – Authority to acquire innovative commercial products and commercial services using general solicitation competitive procedures
- 15 U.S.C. § 3703 – Technology innovation partnerships
- 15 U.S.C. § 638 – Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs

The Army FUZE xTech Program – xTech|Apex Intercept Competition Announcement

Government organizations are encouraged to consider leveraging these statutory authorities to pursue follow-on awards with companies identified through the xTech competition process. This approach supports rapid technology maturation, accelerates the transition of innovative capabilities to the field, and promotes collaboration with non-traditional and small business performers.

While the authority of this program is 10 U.S.C. § 4025, the xTech|Apex Intercept competition may generate interest by another U.S. Army, DoW or U.S. Government (USG) organization for a funding opportunity outside of this program (e.g., submission of a proposal under a Broad Agency Announcement). The interested organization may contact the participant to provide additional information or ask for a request for proposal in a separate solicitation. Finalists of the prize competition may be invited to submit a separate proposal for further development of their proposed technology solution based on the needs of the Army. The Army may use a contract mechanism of their choice and will notify the participants accordingly. No license to any U.S. Government-owned IP is granted by virtue of participation in or winning the prize competition.

All xTech|Apex Intercept competition submissions are treated as privileged information, and contents may be disclosed to employees of the USG, governments of allied nations, designated support contractors at the USG's discretion for the purpose of evaluation, program support, potential inclusion in Army or DoW marketplaces, and potential follow-on opportunities.

The Army FUZE xTech Program intends to provide feedback from evaluators to participants during each part of the competition. The purpose of providing this feedback is to help accelerate the transition of the technology to an Army end-user by providing insight into the best applications for the technology, suggestions for product improvement for Army use and recommended next steps for development. However, the Government is not required to respond to questions or inquiries regarding this feedback.

II. Eligibility Requirements

Eligible entities include nonprofit organizations, for-profit organizations (i.e., large and small businesses) both domestic and foreign.

Each eligible entity:

- Must be able to obtain a CAGE code (U.S. businesses) or NCAGE code (international businesses) to process payments and receive follow-on awards;
- Shall be incorporated in, and maintain, a primary place of business in the U.S. or an allied foreign country;
- Shall not be a U.S. Federal Government entity or employ a U.S. Federal Employee acting within the scope of their employment;
- Shall not be currently under contract, agreement or other providing similar capabilities to the Government for work described in the problem statement;
- Must not be based in a Foreign Country of Concern (FCOC), directly funded by an FCOC government or government-subsidized guidance fund, or under the influence of an FCOC government in any form.
- Shall be at the sole discretion of the Government.

The Army FUZE xTech Program – xTech|Apex Intercept Competition Announcement

III. Topics and Problem Statement

The U.S. Army is interested in cutting-edge technology solutions that will drive significant advancements in military capabilities while addressing complex challenges and enhancing national security. Specifically in identifying existing capability for All-Up Rounds (AUR) as well as low-cost components (e.g. seeker, solid rocket motor, fire control, etc.). The competition consists of four (4) distinct topics to support Air and Missile Defense (AMD) operations in highly contested environments:

- **Topic 1:** [Low-Cost Interceptor AUR and Fire Control](#)
- **Topic 2:** [Low-Cost Solid Rocket Motor](#)
- **Topic 3:** [Low-Cost Seeker](#)
- **Topic 4:** [Fire Control and Flight Guidance Implementation](#)

Topic descriptions can be found in [Appendix A](#) of this solicitation.

IV. Program Submission

The xTech|Apex Intercept competition is voluntary and open to all entities that meet eligibility requirements listed in Section II (Eligibility Requirements). **Only one (1) submission per topic, per eligible entity is permitted; if submitting an application to more than one (1) topic, the technology solution must be different.**

The registration information and submission upload must be received by **5:00 PM ET on July 24, 2026**. Submissions received after the deadline will not be considered.

Register by selecting the xTech|Apex Intercept competition image at:
<https://www.xtech.army.mil/>

V. xTech|Apex Intercept Competition Structure

Part 1: Concept White Paper

All eligible entities shall submit a concept white paper of **up to five (5) pages** and an *optional pre-recorded video of up to five (5) minutes* outlining their technical concept, mission alignment, cost plan, schedule plan and architecture approach. Submissions will be evaluated by DoW experts across the S&T ecosystem including Warfighter, acquisition, and research and development SMEs.

All concept white papers and optional videos must adhere to the following requirements:

- Concept white papers **must be submitted using the template found on the [Valid Eval registration page](#)**, "Template_xTech_Apex_Intercept_White_Paper.docx". **Any proposals submitted in a format other than the template provided will not be reviewed.**
- For the optional video, provide a URL on the contest registration linking to the video (preferably hosted on Vimeo). Video production quality will not influence evaluation scores. Videos should serve to clarify or illustrate concepts from the white paper and must not exceed five (5) minutes in length.
- List your company name and proposal title **EXACTLY** how you would like them to appear in any contest marketing materials. Use a clear and concise proposal title to give readers and potential stakeholders an understanding of how your technology would benefit the Army.

The Army FUZE xTech Program – xTech|Apex Intercept Competition Announcement

- Proposals by offerors should describe their approach to accomplishment of the expectations using concise narratives.
- For the optional video, provide a URL on the contest registration linking to the video (preferably hosted on Vimeo). Video production quality will not influence evaluation scores. Videos should serve to clarify or illustrate concepts from the white paper and must not exceed five (5) minutes in length.

Evaluators will review and score concept white papers using the following scoring criteria (further details on each scoring dimension can be found on the xTech|Apex Intercept competition website registration page):

Criterion	Weight
Introduction	5%
AMD Mission Alignment	15%
Technical Approach	25%
Cost	15%
Time to Scale	25%
Integration & Open Architecture	10%
Proposal Quality	5%

Upon conclusion of the concept white paper evaluation period, the Army FUZE xTech Program will select **up to 30 applicants to receive a prize of \$25,000 each** and advance to Part 2: Finals.

Part 2: Finals

Topic 1: Selected participants from Part 1 will conduct an in-person demonstration of their solution to a panel of Army and DoW SMEs and end-users at the **U.S. Army White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico in October 2026**.

Topics 2-4: Selected participants from Part 1 will conduct an in-person demonstration of their solution to a panel of Army and DoW SMEs and end-users at a **location identified by the participant in October/November 2026. Participants are responsible for identifying a location to test their technology, to include their own testing facility.**

The Army FUZE xTech Program will provide additional instructions and the detailed evaluation criteria at a later date. ***Event details, location, and dates are subject to change.***

Upon conclusion of the in-person finals, the Army FUZE xTech Program intends to select **up to 18 final winners of the competition**. Final winners will receive cash prizes in accordance with the award structure described in **Section VII (Prizes and Incentives)** and may also have a potential opportunity to submit for a follow-on contract or agreement.

VI. Proposed Schedule

The proposed schedule is outlined below and subject to change without notice.

Date	Activity
July 7-24, 2026	Part 1: Concept white paper submission period

The Army FUZE xTech Program – xTech|Apex Intercept Competition Announcement

August 21, 2026	Finalists announced
October 1-30, 2026	Part 2: Finals demonstration event (Topic 1)
October/November 2026	Part 2: Finals demonstration event (Topics 2-4)
December 2026	Final winners announced

VII. Prizes and Incentives

Prizes will be offered under 10 U.S.C. §4025 (Prize Competitions). The total prize pool is \$8,000,000. **Follow-on contract award/agreements, if issued, will be separate from the prize competition.** Other non-monetary incentives are provided through the xTech|Apex Intercept competition to help businesses engage with the Army.

Phase	Winners	Prize
Part 1: Concept White Paper	Up to 30	\$25,000 each
Part 2: Finals	Up to 18 (up to 3 for Topic 1; up to 5 per topic for Topics 2-4)	Topic 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st place: \$100,000,000 • 2nd place: \$750,000 • 3rd place: \$550,000 Topics 2-4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st place: \$750,000 • 2nd place: \$500,000 • 3rd place: \$250,000 • 4th place: \$100,000 • 5th place: \$50,000
	Total	Up to \$8,000,000

VIII. Disclaimers

Registered participants are required to assume any and all risks and waive claims against the USG and its related entities, except in the case of willful misconduct, for any injury, death, damage, or loss of property, revenue, or profits, whether direct, indirect, or consequential, arising from their participation in this prize competition, whether the injury, death, damage, or loss arises through negligence or otherwise.

IX. Intellectual Property

The Army is a strong proponent of deliberate IP rights and management by the private sector and the DoW.

For the xTech|Apex Intercept competition:

- The Federal Government may not gain an interest in IP developed by a participant without the written consent of the participant;
- Nothing in this xTech|Apex Intercept prize competition shall diminish the government's rights in patents, technical data, technical information, computer software, computer databases, and computer software documentation that the government had prior to this xTech|Apex Intercept prize competition, or is entitled to, under any other government agreement or contract, or is otherwise entitled to under law;
- The Federal Government may negotiate a license for the use of IP developed by a registered participant in the prize competition.

The Army FUZE xTech Program – xTech|Apex Intercept Competition Announcement

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X. Point of Contact

The U.S. Army FUZE xTech Program Office
Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, Research and Technology
Email: usarmy.xtech@army.mil
Website: <https://www.xtech.army.mil/>

APPENDIX A – Topic Objectives

Topic 1: Low-Cost Interceptor AUR and Fire Control

The Government seeks a complete All-Up Round (AUR) and fire control solution capable of defeating ABT, Cruise Missiles, CRBM, and SRBM. The proposed solution must integrate with the M903 launch station, Integrated Battle Command System (IBCS), and must perform as an integrated component within the Integrated Fires Air and Missile Defense Capability. Vendors should also describe the kill mechanism for their candidate, e.g., hit-to-kill, blast-frag warhead, etc. The solution must also be mature enough to support capability demonstrations in 1QFY27. Vendors who cannot integrate with required components for 1QFY27 are encouraged to provide information and capabilities as to relevant solutions and proposed alternative near-term execution approaches. The critical threshold for this problem statement is an AUR with a total cost of less than \$1,000,000 at the prototype or production unit level.

Topic 2: Low-Cost Solid Rocket Motor

The Government seeks a component-level solid rocket motor (SRM) capable of meeting the rigorous kinetic and kinematic requirements necessary for an AMD interceptor and capable of being integrated as part of a MOSA AMD interceptor. Respondents should outline the motor's demonstrated performance characteristics, safety compliance (e.g., MIL-STD-1901, Insensitive Munitions requirements, etc.), and maturity for a 1QFY27 static or integrated demonstration. The critical threshold for this problem statement is an SRM maximum cost of \$250,000 at the prototype or production unit level.

Topic 3: Low-Cost Seeker

The Government seeks a component-level seeker capable of threat acquisition, tracking, and terminal guidance in support of AMD missions against the stated threat sets within contested and degraded environments (e.g., active electronic warfare, harsh weather, cluttered terrain, etc.). Responses must address open-architecture integration parameters, data output formats, and readiness for a 1QFY27 demonstration (e.g., captive carry, string test, etc.). The critical threshold for this problem statement is a seeker maximum cost of \$250,000 at the prototype or production unit level.

Topic 4: Fire Control and Flight Guidance Implementation

The Government seeks a component-level fire control and flight guidance implementation capable of providing engageability options to the IBCS and providing post-launch management of interceptor flight and communications messaging. Solutions must highlight their open-architecture compatibility, specifically addressing interoperability/integration with the IBCS architecture, and readiness for 1QFY27 Hardware-in-the-Loop (HWIL) or synthetic evaluation. The critical threshold for this problem statement is a fire control component maximum cost of \$250,000 at the prototype or production unit level.