

The Army FUZE xTech Program – xTech|Disrupt Endurance Competition Announcement

I. Background and Purpose

The U.S. Army is seeking innovative power generation and storage solutions from eligible small and large businesses across the U.S. and allied foreign countries attending the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Annual Meeting & Exposition in Washington, D.C., from October 12-14, 2026, to assist with critical Army priorities through the xTech|Disrupt Endurance competition. This platform offers participants the opportunity to engage with the U.S. Department of War (DoW), earn prize money and potentially receive a contract award or agreement.

The U.S. Army FUZE xTech Program, managed under the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ASA(ALT)), is delivering the xTech|Disrupt Endurance competition. Recognizing the need to reach beyond traditional defense partners, the U.S. Army is actively expanding its engagement with the commercial sector through dynamic platforms such as live pitch competitions – creating new opportunities for industry to directly shape the future of national security. This initiative aims to (1) understand the spectrum of 'world-class' technologies being developed commercially with potential U.S. DoW applications; (2) actively integrate the sector of non-traditional innovators into the U.S. DoW Science and Technology (S&T) ecosystem; and (3) provide expertise and feedback to accelerate, mature, and transition technologies of interest to the U.S. DoW.

The xTech|Disrupt Endurance competition will consist of two (2) rounds with additional opportunities:

- (1) On-site registration for elevator pitch (on a first-come, first-serve basis); and
- (2) Live pitch event.

The competition will award up to \$500,000 in cash prizes to selected participants. **Up to 18 applicants will be selected on-site at the 2026 AUSA Annual Meeting & Exposition on October 12 - 13, 2026 to present their technology concepts to a live panel of U.S. Army and DoW subject matter experts (SMEs) on October 13, 2026.** The U.S. Army intends to select up to five (5) winners to receive a cash prize of \$100,000 each. Additional details on prize structure can be found in Section VII.

Registration will take place on-site at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Exhibit Hall A in the U.S. Army FUZE xTech Program booth # 1617 **on October 12, 2026, from 11:00 AM – 3:30 PM ET and October 13, 2026, from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM ET** on a first come, first serve basis *(dates and locations are subject to change without notice)*.

All eligible entities will be required to complete a registration form and deliver a **60-second elevator pitch** that clearly outlines their technology concept and how it aligns with the identified problem statement. This is required to ensure alignment with the U.S. Army's operational needs and priorities. Additional details on the registration process can be found in Section IV.

All presentations will be conducted in front of a public audience.

In addition to non-dilutive cash prizes, participants may have the opportunity to engage with U.S. Army and DoW experts attending the 2026 AUSA Annual Meeting & Exposition, receiving valuable feedback on their innovations.

The xTech|Disrupt Endurance competition is conducted in accordance with 10 U.S.C. § 4025,

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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

Government organizations may 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|Disrupt Endurance competition may generate interest by another U.S. Army, DoW or United States 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. Winners 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.

The U.S. 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 may not respond to questions or inquiries regarding this feedback.

II. Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for this competition, entities must be a small to large business attending the 2026 AUSA Annual Meeting & Exposition in Washington, D.C.

Each eligible entity:

- Must be able to obtain a CAGE code (U.S. businesses) and/or NCAGE code (international businesses) to process payments (CAGE codes are not required during registration);
- Shall be incorporated in, and maintain, a primary place of business in the U.S. or a foreign country;

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- May not be a U.S. federal or foreign government entity or employ a U.S. federal employee acting within the scope of their employment;
- May not be a company or person controlled by, funded by, or under the jurisdiction or direction of foreign adversaries; and
- Must not be based in a foreign country of concern (FCOC), directly funded by an FCOC-government or FCOC-government-subsidized guidance fund or be under the influence of an FCOC-based government in any way. Failure to meet these requirements will result in ineligibility for award.

The U.S. Army FUZE xTech Program will not provide travel or registration funding for eligible entities to attend the 2026 AUSA Annual Meeting & Exposition.

III. Topic and Problem Statement

In large-scale combat operations, dispersed formations depend on continuous and reliable power to sustain mission command systems, sensors, and uncrewed platforms while operating in contested areas with constrained fuel distribution. **The Army requires interoperable tactical platforms and autonomous systems with low-signature power generation, storage, and distribution capabilities with open standard electrical, mechanical, and data interfaces to support energy planning and optimization during extended, distributed operations in an environment that limits resupply frequency and logistical footprints.**

For a detailed topic description, see [Appendix A](#), for detailed judging rubric see [Appendix B](#).

IV. Program Submission and Competition Structure

The xTech|Disrupt Endurance competition is voluntary and open to all entities that meet the eligibility requirements listed in Section II. **Only one (1) submission per eligible entity is permitted.**

All entities must complete a registration form using the Valid Eval platform, which includes the following information: company address, primary contact's information, CAGE and/or NCAGE (optional), prior demonstrations with DoW or allied/partner nations, and previous U.S. Army and DoW awards—including Army SBIR contracts. **New participants must have access to a current, active email address to create an account in Valid Eval.** Email verification is **required** during the registration process.

Failure to meet submission requirements may result in disqualification from participation in the pitch event.

Registration and 60-Second Elevator Pitch

All eligible entities must register on-site at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Exhibit Hall A in the U.S. Army FUZE xTech Program booth # 1617 **on October 12, 2026, from 11:00 AM – 3:30 PM ET and October 13, 2026, from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM ET** on a first come, first serve basis *(dates and locations are subject to change without notice)*.

Applicants will deliver a **timed 60-second elevator pitch** of their technology concept – addressing the identified problem statement – to a panel of U.S. Army and DoW technical experts. **Follow-up questions may be asked**, and participants must be prepared to provide a **concise 30-second response**.

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Please note: Selection for pitch presentations is **at the sole discretion of the U.S. Army**. While companies may believe their technology aligns with the stated topic, **final determinations will be made exclusively by the Army** based on the content and clarity of the **60-second elevator pitch** and alignment with the **Army's priorities as defined in this announcement**.

The Army FUZE xTech Program will **select up to 18 applicants on-site following the elevator pitches** to present their technology concepts to a live panel of U.S. Army and DoW SMEs. Selected participants will be scheduled for a live pitch presentation time slot on **October 13, 2026, between 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM ET**.

Live Pitch Presentation

All presentations will be conducted in front of a public audience. By participating in this event, applicants consent to being photographed, recorded, and/or filmed.

Each selected participant will conduct a timed, **five (5)-minute pitch, followed by a five (5) - minute question and answer session with the judging panel**. Participants may bring physical prototypes and printed materials to support their presentation. No presentation software/applications may be utilized.

All xTech|Disrupt Endurance competition pitches will be evaluated by government employees, designated support contractors, and select industry or venture capital representatives exclusively for the purposes of evaluation and program support.

The Army FUZE xTech Program will select **up to five (5) participants** as the final winners of the competition. Winners will be announced live on the **U.S. Army FUZE xTech Program booth stage at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, time to be announced on-site** to receive a **cash prize \$100,000 each**. The Army FUZE xTech Program intends to select up to five participants as winners, subject to satisfaction of the applicable prize-payment conditions described below.

All competition participants should plan to be present during the winners announcement.

Event details, dates, times and location are subject to change.

Each selected winner must satisfy the applicable Army API Marketplace requirement within 30 calendar days after the winner announcement. For solutions containing software-accessible controls, configuration, tasking, status, or data functions, the winner must complete the registration and publication requirements. Additional details will be provided to finalists on-site at AUSA. Successful completion of the applicable requirement is a condition for payment of the \$100,000 cash prize.

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V. Proposed Schedule

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

Date	Activity
October 12, 2026	On-Site Registration (11:00 AM – 3:30 PM ET)
October 13, 2026	Live Technology Pitches (9:30 AM – 4:00 PM ET) On-Site Registration (11:00 AM – 1:00 PM ET)
October 14, 2026	Live Winner Announcement (TBD)

VI. Prizes and Incentives

Prizes will be offered under 10 U.S.C. § 4025 (Prize competitions). The total prize pool is \$500,000. **Follow-on contract award/agreements, if issued, will be separate from the prize competition.** Other non-monetary incentives are provided through the xTech competition to help industry engage with the U.S. Army.

Phase	Winners	Prize
Live Technology Pitches	Up to 5	\$100,000 each
	Total	Up to \$500,000

VII. 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.

VIII. Intellectual Property

The U.S. Army is a strong proponent of deliberate intellectual property (IP) rights and management by the private sector and U.S. DoW. For the xTech|Disrupt Endurance competition:

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

IX. 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 – Problem Statement Descriptions

Capability: Interoperable Power Generation and Storage

Problem Statement: In large-scale combat operations, dispersed formations depend on continuous and reliable power to sustain mission command systems, sensors, and uncrewed platforms while operating in contested areas with constrained fuel distribution. **The Army requires tactical platforms and autonomous systems with low-signature power generation, storage, and distribution capabilities with open standard electrical, mechanical, and data interfaces to support energy planning and optimization during extended, distributed operations in an environment that limits resupply frequency and logistical footprints.**

Capabilities submitted for evaluation shall meet the following criteria:

- **Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 5+.**
- **API Delivery and Publication Requirements.** Within 30 days of winner announcement, winning entities (if applicable-see below) must have APIs published in the US Army API Marketplace (API specification files such as OpenAPI/Swagger or AsyncAPI documents, including JSON, YAML or Protocol Buffer files, etc.). Additional details on the API marketplace process will be provided on-site at AUSA.
 - This requirement would not apply to purely mechanical or hardware-only systems with no software-accessible control or data layer.
 - However, if a system can be operated, configured, tasked, monitored, or queried through onboard software, those software-defined functions should be made available through an open, documented interface.

Desired characteristics:

- **Batteries:** MIL-STD 3078, Sec 842 FY26 NDAA compliant, non-proprietary interfaces. Compliant with Navy battery safety transportation standards.
- **Power Systems Interoperability:** Tactical Microgrid Standard (TMS) (MIL-STD 3071) or TMS over CAN compliant; NATO standard power (e.g., STANAG 4007), open standard / non-proprietary connectors and chargers, Hardware Interface Control Documents (ICDs)
- **Transportability:** On existing Army and NATO vehicles and systems and can be integrated on such.
- **Inverters:** Sec 847 FY26NDAA compliant
- **Signature reduction:** Acoustic, thermal, and electromagnetic (>50%)
- **Fuel:** Available via supply system (JP-8 or packaged fuel), locally procured or generated

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Appendix B – xTech|Disrupt Endurance Valid Eval Judging Rubrics

xTech|Disrupt Endurance – One-Min Pitch v1-0 – Prompts



Dimension	Subdimension	Definition / Prompt
ONE MINUTE PITCH weight 100%	Concept of Operations	Deliver a clear, concise description of your solution's concept of operations (CONOPS). Briefly address what problem(s) you will solve and the advantages of your approach.
	Topic Alignment	Argue your solution is aligned with the xTech Disrupt Endurance topic: innovative power generation and/or energy storage solutions that reduce signatures at the tactical edge. Solutions should be complete, integrated systems — not single components — capable of continuous operation across full environmental range (arctic to tropical). Explain how your solution delivers operational power at platoon scale or above while reducing logistic burden.
	Signature Reduction	Describe your solution's impact on acoustic, thermal, and electromagnetic signatures compared to current fielded systems. Acoustic reduction is the top priority, followed by thermal, then electromagnetic. Quantify where you can, but prioritize clarity over precision in this short format. This is the most important aspect of the mission.
	Army API Marketplace	State your willingness and ability to meet the U.S. Army's open architecture requirements and register your technology in the U.S. Army API Marketplace within 30 days of award. (This is a requirement from the Army Chief Technology Officer (CTO) and Platform Integration Team (PIT) Director.)

xTech|Disrupt Endurance – One-Min Pitch v1-0 – Rubric



Dimension	Subdimension	Unsatisfactory	Marginal	Satisfactory	Superior
ONE MINUTE PITCH weight 100%	Concept of Operations	Unclear or missing CONOPS summary. Solution's purpose and value not conveyed.	Basic CONOPS summary. Conveyed solution's purpose and value but lacked clarity or structure.	Effective CONOPS summary. Systematically conveys solution's purpose and value.	Exceptional CONOPS summary. Immediately conveys solution's purpose and value.
	Topic Alignment	Technology not aligned with the Endurance power generation/storage mission.	Technology loosely aligned; addresses power but not as an integrated system or misses signature reduction.	Technology aligned; presents an integrated power system addressing signature reduction and tactical edge use at platoon scale or above.	Technology precisely aligned; integrated power system with clear signature reduction, environmental resilience, and tactical edge fit at platoon scale or above.
	Signature Reduction	No meaningful signature reduction claimed or addressed.	Asserts signature reduction in one or more domains but without specificity or quantification.	Credibly argues significant signature reduction across multiple domains with some quantification.	Convincingly argues major signature reduction prioritizing acoustic, with credible quantification across multiple domains.
	Army API Marketplace	No acknowledgment of U.S. Army API Marketplace registration requirement.	--	Positively asserts willingness to register in the U.S. Army API Marketplace within 30 days of award.	--

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xTech|Disrupt Endurance - 5-min pitch - v1-0 – Prompts



Dimension	Subdimension	Definition / Prompt
INTRODUCTION weight 5%	Concept of Operations	Deliver a clear, concise description of your solution's concept of operations (CONOPS). Briefly address what problem(s) you will solve and the advantages of your approach.
	Topic Alignment	Argue your solution is aligned with the xTech Disrupt Endurance topic: innovative power generation and/or energy storage solutions that reduce signatures at the tactical edge. Solutions should be complete, integrated systems — not single components — capable of continuous operation across full environmental range (arctic to tropical). Explain how your solution delivers operational power at platoon scale or above while reducing logistic burden.
SIGNATURE REDUCTION weight 40%	Acoustic Signature	Describe your solution's acoustic signature compared to currently fielded tactical power systems. Quantify the reduction where possible and explain how you measured or modeled it. Acoustic reduction is the top priority for this competition.
	Thermal and Electromagnetic Signatures	Describe your solution's impact on thermal and electromagnetic (EM) signatures compared to currently fielded tactical power systems. Thermal reduction is the second priority after acoustic; EM is third. Quantify where you can and explain your measurement or modeling approach.
SUSTAINMENT BURDEN weight 25%	Sustainment & Serviceability	Describe how your solution reduces the sustainment burden at the tactical edge compared to currently fielded power systems. Address fuel logistics (JP-8/JPA dependence or elimination), maintenance requirements, resupply frequency, and ability to operate across environmental extremes (arctic to tropical). Explain who can maintain and repair your system — the Army requires systems serviceable at the 10-level by non-military-occupational-specialty-specific (non-MOS-specific) soldiers using standard tools. Solutions requiring a contractor field service representative (FSR) or specialized mechanic for routine maintenance are less competitive. Quantify improvements where possible.
TECHNICAL MATURITY & RISK weight 15%	Technology Readiness Level	State your solution's current Technology Readiness Level (TRL) and support that claim with evidence. Describe the most demanding test or demonstration your system has completed. What environment was it tested in and what were the results?
	Technical Risks	Identify the most significant technical risks remaining in your solution's development. For each risk, describe your mitigation plan, timeline, and any evidence that you are actively retiring risk.
TRANSITION READINESS weight 10%	Field Demonstration Readiness	Describe your readiness to conduct a field demonstration with an Army unit. Address both technical readiness (hardware, software, logistics) and Army regulatory readiness (safety certifications, approvals). Be specific about what is ready now and what gaps remain.
	API Marketplace Readiness	State your willingness and ability to register your technology in the U.S. Army Application Programming Interface (API) Marketplace within 30 days of award. This is a requirement from the Army Chief Technology Officer (CTO) and the Pathway for Innovation and Technology (PIT) Director.
PITCH DELIVERY weight 5%	Presentation Quality	Present your solution clearly and persuasively within the five-minute time limit. Open with a concise concept of operations (CONOPS) that frames your system, the problem it solves, and its tactical context. Use your remaining time to address signature reduction, technical maturity, sustainment, and transition readiness. Visual aids, charts, and demonstrations are encouraged.