

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

I. Background and Purpose

The U.S. Army is seeking innovative low-cost, medium range cruise missile and uncrewed aerial system interceptors for the Integrated Fires Protection Capability (IFPC) system from eligible small and large businesses across the U.S. through the xTech|Disrupt Fires competition. This platform offers participants the opportunity to engage with the U.S. Department of War (DoW), earn prize money and potentially receive a follow-on 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 partnering with Capability Program Executive (CPE) Defensive Fires to deliver the xTech|Disrupt Fires 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|Disrupt Fires competition will consist of three (3) rounds:

- (1) Call for concept white papers;
- (2) Semifinals technology pitch event at the 2026 Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Annual Meeting & Exposition; and
- (3) Finals demonstration event.

The competition will award up to \$20,000,000 in cash prizes throughout the competition to selected participants. The award structure is as follows:

- **Semifinalists (Part 1):** Up to **nine (9) semifinalists** will be selected at the conclusion of the Part 1 submission evaluation period for an opportunity to conduct a pitch of their solution to a panel of Army and DoW subject matter experts (SMEs) at the 2026 AUSA Annual Meeting & Exposition in Washington, D.C. in October 2026.
- **Finalists (Part 2):** Up to **four (4) finalists** will be selected at the conclusion of the semifinals to receive a cash prize of **\$1,000,000 each** and an opportunity to demonstrate their solution to a panel of Army and DoW SMEs, anticipated to occur in Q4 2027.
- **Winners (Part 3):** Following the finals, up to **four (4) winners** will be selected to receive an additional cash prize of **\$4,000,000 each** 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|Disrupt Fires 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

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- 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 and Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs

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|Disrupt Fires 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|Disrupt Fires competition submissions may be reviewed by Government personnel and authorized nongovernmental evaluators supporting the competition. Nongovernmental evaluators will be subject to applicable nondisclosure, conflict-of-interest, access-control, and use restrictions. The Government will not disclose properly marked proprietary information outside the Government except as authorized by law and the participant's submission agreement. Information will not be disclosed to a foreign government or foreign person unless the disclosure is separately authorized and consistent with applicable export control, security, and foreign-disclosure requirements.

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 a U.S. Army end-user by providing insight into the best applications for the technology, suggestions for product improvement for U.S. Army use and recommended next steps for development. However, the Government will not respond to inquiries regarding this feedback.

II. Eligibility Requirements

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

Each eligible entity:

- Must be able to obtain a CAGE code to process payments and receive follow-on awards;

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- Shall be incorporated in, and maintain, a primary place of business in the U.S.;
- Shall not be a U.S. Federal Government entity, foreign 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 in the region under the same use case to the Government for work described in the problem statement;
- Ability to process classified U.S. Federal Government materials by November 2026. This includes IT Systems, personnel, and facilities cleared to handle and process certain classified materials.

III. Topic 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, the U.S. Army is seeking an integrated missile system, including an All-Up Round and modular canister design that is compatible with the Integrated Fires Protection Capability (IFPC) Increment 2 launcher. The interceptor must be lethal against advanced threats, including cruise missiles, uncrewed aerial systems, and fixed and rotary winged threats. The interceptor system must integrate with the IFPC system of systems, including the Army's Integrated Air and Missile Defense Battle Command System (IBCS), and the Sentinel A4 radar.

Further details will be provided to selected finalists approved to receive controlled information.

IV. Program Submission

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

The registration information and submission upload must be received by **5:00 PM ET on Wednesday, September 23, 2026**. Submissions received after the deadline will not be considered.

Register now by selecting the xTech|Disrupt Fires competition image at:

<https://www.xtech.army.mil/>

V. xTech|Disrupt Fires Competition Structure

Part 1: Concept White Paper

All eligible entities shall submit a **three (3)-page concept white paper** and an *optional pre-recorded video of up to five (5) minutes* outlining the solution's missile capabilities, system integration, system maturity and risks, cost and producibility, and compliance matters. 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**  registration page, "Template_ xTech_Disrupt Fires_White_Paper.docx". **Any proposals submitted in a format other than that provided by the template will not be**

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reviewed.

- For the optional video, provide a URL 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, country 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 U.S. Army.
- Proposals by offerors should describe their approach to accomplishment of the expectations using concise narratives.

Evaluators will review and score concept submissions using the following scoring criteria (further details on each scoring dimension can be found on the xTech|Disrupt Fires competition registration page):

Criterion	Weight
Introduction	7%
Missile Capabilities	20%
System Integration	20%
System Maturity & Risks	20%
Cost & Producibility	20%
Compliance Matters	10%
Submission Quality	3%

Upon conclusion of the concept white paper evaluation period, the Army FUZE xTech Program will select **up to nine (9) semifinalists to advance to Part 2: Technology Pitches.**

Part 2: Technology Pitches

Selected semifinalists from Part 1 will conduct an in-person pitch of their solution to a panel of Army and DoW SMEs at the **2026 AUSA Annual Meeting & Exposition in Washington, D.C. between October 12-14, 2026.**

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.***

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

Upon conclusion of the technology pitches, the Army FUZE xTech Program intends to select **up to four (4) finalists to receive a cash prize of \$1,000,000 each** and advance to Part 3: Finals.

Part 3: Finals

Selected finalists from Part 2 will participate in a live technology demonstration with a panel of Army and DoW SMEs at a USG testing facility in Q4 2027. Prior to the demonstration, finalists will have the opportunity to engage with Army and DoW SMEs to prepare and discuss finals demonstration expectations.

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

Upon conclusion of the finals, the Army FUZE xTech Program intends to select **up to four (4) final winners of the competition to receive an additional cash prize of \$4,000,000 each** 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
September 23, 2026	Part 1: Concept white paper submissions end
October 6, 2026	Semifinalists announced
October 12-14, 2026	Part 2: Technology pitches
October 14, 2026	Finalists announced
FY27 Q4	Part 3: Finals demonstration event
FY27 Q4	Final winners announced

VII. Prizes and Incentives

Prizes will be offered under 10 U.S.C. § 4025 (Prize competitions). The total prize pool is \$20,000,000. **Follow-on contract award/agreements, if issued, will be separate from the prize competition.** Other non-monetary incentives are provided through the xTech|Disrupt Fires competition to help industry engage with the U.S. Army.

Phase	Winners	Prize
Part 1: Concept White Paper	Up to 9	N/A
Part 2: Technology Pitches	Up to 4	\$1,000,000 each
Part 3: Finals	Up to 4	\$4,000,000 each
	Total	Up to \$20,000,000

VIII. Disclaimers

Registered participants shall be required to assume any and all risks and waive claims against the Federal Government 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 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 DoW.

For the xTech|Disrupt Fires competition:

- The Federal Government may not gain an interest in IP developed by a participant without the written consent of the participant;

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- Nothing in this xTech|Disrupt Fires 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|Disrupt Fires prize competition, or is entitled to, under any other Government agreement or contract, or is otherwise entitled to under law; and
- The Federal Government may negotiate a license for the use of IP developed by a registered participant in the prize competition.

Register now by selecting the xTech|Disrupt Fires competition tile at:

<https://www.xtech.army.mil/>

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/>