



**AFWERX Announces XTAR Among Top Teams
Selected to exhibit at *EngageSpace* (September 29-30)
The Premier Event for the Space Industry**

(ASHBURN, VA) (September 17, 2020) – [AFWERX](#), the catalyst for fostering innovation within the U.S. Air Force, announced XTAR as one of the 178 top participating teams selected from The AFWERX Space Challenge initiative to exhibit at [EngageSpace](#), a two-day virtual event on September 29-30.

The AFWERX Space Challenge initiative is made up of four challenges targeted at creating integrated space operations leveraging the best in technology while maintaining security, being resilient and increasing agility. Four challenges were run concurrently focused on separate topics – Persistent ISR, DoD Commercial Space Partnerships, Global Space Transport and Delivery and Space Asset Resiliency.

Located in Ashburn, Virginia, XTAR is competing in the DoD Commercial Space Partnerships Challenge alongside a diverse group of teams that represent entrepreneurial startups, small businesses, large enterprises, academic institutions and research labs.

“The solutions submitted for these space challenges represent the bleeding edge of space innovation,” stated Brennan Townley, AFWERX Challenge Collaboration Lead. “We’re excited to highlight these innovators and connect them with opportunities across the Space ecosystem.”

The DoD Commercial Space Partnerships Challenge strives to identify cutting-edge commercial satellite technology and uncover new payload ideas, designs, and prototypes to expand the DoD's capabilities.

XTAR's solution addresses SATCOM resiliency of both space segment and ground infrastructure. With configured commercial ground infrastructure, XTAR provides 'warm ready' access to 1.44 GHz of X-band capacity for path diversity to the DoD SATCOM Enterprise, allowing a quick transition from MILSATCOM to COMSATCOM in minutes, not days or weeks.

The *EngageSpace* event will feature highly engaging opportunities to connect, educate and innovate with other like-minded attendees, industry leaders, individual innovators, academia, investors, as well as military and government leaders. The entire event is designed to transform and accelerate the industry, and enable government buyers to

pursue the most promising innovative solutions to the most pressing and threatening Space scenarios.

Register for the **EngageSpace** event by visiting <https://engage.space>

“The AFWERX Space Challenge provides XTAR the opportunity to showcase a mission-ready capability,” explains Jay Icard, President and CEO. “With our proposed solution, MILSATCOM users simply re-point their current terminals at the XTAR satellites. Low cost and low technical risk seamless roaming is available today and XTAR looks forward to partnering with the U.S. Air Force to make it a reality.”

ABOUT XTAR

XTAR, LLC is a commercial satellite operator providing MILSATCOM-compatible communications exclusively for government and military users. XTAR’s X-band frequency is ideal for military enterprise communications, special operations missions, information gathering and border security. Founded in 2001, XTAR is privately owned by majority shareholder Loral Space & Communications Inc. and minority shareholder Hisdesat Servicios Estratégicos S.A. In 2019, Hisdesat announced that it will construct two additional satellites through which XTAR will provide service in the X, Mil-Ka and UHF frequency bands. For more information, please visit xtar.com

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ABOUT AFWERX

Established in 2017, [AFWERX](#) is a product of the U.S. Air Force, directly envisioned by former Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson. Her vision of AFWERX — to solve some of the toughest challenges that the Air Force faces through innovation and collaboration amongst our nation’s top subject matter experts. AFWERX serves as a catalyst to unleash new approaches for the warfighter through a growing ecosystem of innovators. AFWERX and the U.S. Air Force are committed to exploring viable solutions and partnerships to further strengthen the Air Force, which could lead to additional prototyping, R&D, and follow-on production contracts.

Fast Company named AFWERX [Best Workplaces for Innovators](#) on the 2020 List, honoring the top 100 businesses and organizations that demonstrate a deep commitment to encouraging innovation at all levels. AFWERX, U.S. Air Force’s innovation arm and catalyst for fostering innovation within the Air Force, came in at #16 ranking in the top 20 alongside brands such as Microsoft, Google, and Amazon. [Preview the live announcement](#) with Stephanie Mehta, Editor-in-Chief of *Fast Company*, unveiled during the AFWERX Fusion 2020 Base of the Future Event & Showcase.

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