

# **U.S. Army Awards \$50 Million for Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning**

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The Army Small Business Innovation Research Program supports Soldiers with advanced and reliable decision-making capabilities.





In December 2022, the Army SBIR Program, led by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, requested small and nontraditional businesses to submit proposals for its AI/ML open topic solicitation – an effort prioritizing the development of Automated Data Labeling, Automated Detection and Prevention, Biometrics, Natural Language Processing, Supply Chain Resilience and Synthetic Data Generation via AI/ML.





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*With the evolving complexity of Army systems, AI/ML-based technologies such as autonomous vehicles, decision-support systems and surveillance offer the Army a way to enhance human-machine teaming. At the same time, AI/ML solutions enhance Soldiers' performance by providing effective and timely intelligence.*

**Dr. Matt Willis**

Director of Army Prize Competitions and the Army SBIR Program

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Through 39 Phase I Army SBIR contracts announced in April 2023, small businesses each received nearly \$150,000 — for a total of nearly \$6 million — in funding. As part of the Army SBIR Program's investment, Army experts assessed firms' concepts based on their commercial potential, feasibility and technical merit.





Now, the Army will fund 26 of these small businesses at nearly \$2 million each — for a total of over \$50 million in investments — to apply their Phase I concepts into prototype solutions in Phase II SBIR contracts.

These prototypes could transition to Programs of Record and with Army customers such as PEO IEW&S (Project Linchpin); PEO STRI; DEVCOM C5ISR; and DEVCOM GVSC.





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*These collaborations and investments in AI/ML solutions will support the security, reliability and capability of critical Army systems, ranging from natural language processing to data analysis and labeling. Beyond driving the use of AI/ML across the Army, these advanced technologies can reinforce these businesses' data management and generation offerings in the commercial sector.*

## **Blaise Zandoli**

Army SBIR Program's Portfolio Manager for AI/ML and Clean Tech

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The Army's efforts to bolster its AI/ML capabilities go beyond the Army SBIR Program. Recently, the ASA(ALT)-led xTech Program launched xTechScalable AI 2 – a competition prioritizing the discovery of novel AI/ML solutions via \$603,000 in cash prizes and an opportunity for vendors to apply for Phase I and Direct to Phase II Army SBIR contracts.





Visit the U.S. Army SBIR and xTech websites for more information on how these programs are transforming technology concepts into equipment in the hands of Soldiers.

[www.armysbir.army.mil](http://www.armysbir.army.mil)

[www.xtech.army.mil](http://www.xtech.army.mil)

