# Dossier: ABL SPACE SYSTEMS COMPANY

## SBIR Award Details

**Award Title:** N/A

**Amount:** $14,999,988.00

**Award Date:** 2023-09-15

**Branch:** USAF

## AI-Generated Intelligence Summary

**Company Overview:**

ABL Space Systems is a US-based aerospace company focused on providing low-cost and rapid access to space through fully integrated launch vehicles and infrastructure. Their core mission is to significantly reduce the complexity, time, and cost associated with launching payloads into orbit, enabling wider access to space for commercial and government entities. They aim to solve the limitations imposed by traditional launch providers, which often involve long lead times, high costs, and inflexible launch schedules. ABL's unique value proposition lies in its integrated, vertically designed launch system, including the RS1 rocket and the GS0 mobile launch system, designed for rapid deployment and minimal infrastructure requirements, allowing launches from a wider range of locations.

**Technology Focus:**

* RS1 Rocket:\*\* A two-stage, liquid-fueled launch vehicle designed to deliver up to 1,350 kg to Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
* GS0 Launch System:\*\* A mobile launch platform capable of autonomous operations, designed to be transportable via standard shipping containers and set up quickly at a variety of locations.

**Recent Developments & Traction:**

* October 2023:\*\* ABL Space was one of the companies awarded a contract with the U.S. Space Force under the Orbital Services Program (OSP) On-Ramp 3 (OR3) contract. The contract award covers a variety of launch needs between 2024 and 2028.
* January 2023:\*\* Attempted launch of RS1 from Kodiak Spaceport, Alaska, failed. The launch vehicle suffered an anomaly shortly after liftoff.
* November 2021:\*\* Secured a $135 million Series B funding round led by T. Rowe Price Associates.

**Leadership & Team:**

* Harry O'Hanley (CEO):\*\* Formerly a propulsion engineer at SpaceX, contributing to the development of the Merlin engines.
* Dan Piemont (President):\*\* Prior experience at SpaceX, involved in business operations and strategic partnerships.

**Competitive Landscape:**

* Relativity Space:\*\* Similar focus on rapid access to space and integrated launch systems, but differentiates with its 3D-printed Terran 1 rocket (now Terran R).
* Rocket Lab:\*\* Focuses on small satellite launches using the Electron rocket, offering dedicated and rideshare launch services from its own launch site. ABL aims to offer a similar dedicated service with larger payload capacity.

**Sources:**

* [https://www.ablspacesystems.com/](https://www.ablspacesystems.com/)
* [https://spacenews.com/abl-space-systems-secures-135-million-in-series-b-funding/](https://spacenews.com/abl-space-systems-secures-135-million-in-series-b-funding/)
* [https://www.defensedaily.com/space-force-awards-orbital-services-program-on-ramp-3-contracts/space/](https://www.defensedaily.com/space-force-awards-orbital-services-program-on-ramp-3-contracts/space/)
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