# Dossier: AIR REFUELING TANKER TRANSPORT (ART2) LLC

## SBIR Award Details

**Award Title:** N/A

**Amount:** $74,982.00

**Award Date:** 2024-01-19

**Branch:** USAF

## AI-Generated Intelligence Summary

**Company Overview:**

AIR REFUELING TANKER TRANSPORT (ART2) LLC, is a joint venture between Airbus US Space & Defense and Lockheed Martin, established to compete for the U.S. Air Force's Next Generation Air-Refueling System (NGAS), also known as KC-Z. The company aims to develop and provide advanced air refueling solutions to the U.S. Air Force, addressing the need for a next-generation tanker aircraft to replace and augment the existing KC-135 fleet. Their unique value proposition centers on offering a tanker aircraft designed from the outset for air refueling, leveraging Airbus's commercial A330 Multi Role Tanker Transport (MRTT) platform and Lockheed Martin's extensive experience in aerospace and defense systems integration and manufacturing. This aims to minimize development risk and costs while providing a highly capable and adaptable tanker solution.

**Technology Focus:**

* ART2's offering is based on a derivative of the Airbus A330 MRTT, a proven platform already in service with several international air forces. It provides a large fuel offload capacity and can carry passengers and cargo simultaneously. The A330 MRTT boasts a maximum fuel capacity of 111 tonnes (245,000 lb).
* Lockheed Martin is responsible for integrating advanced U.S. technologies into the platform, including advanced boom technology, secure communications, and mission systems tailored to U.S. Air Force requirements.

**Recent Developments & Traction:**

* October 2023:\*\* ART2 formally announced its entry into the competition for the KC-Z program, publicly stating the companies' intent to provide the next generation of tanker capabilities to the USAF.
* February 2024:\*\* Publicly stated that the companies are preparing to offer a new and improved version of the A330 MRTT for the KC-Z program. This potentially includes advancements in stealth characteristics and autonomous refueling capabilities.
* Partnership leverages Airbus's experience delivering over 70 A330 MRTT aircraft to international customers.

**Leadership & Team:**

While specific leadership details are currently not widely publicized, the key entities driving ART2 are Airbus US Space & Defense, led by Debra Facktor Lepore (President), and Lockheed Martin, led by James Taiclet (Chairman, President and CEO). This structure ensures access to deep aerospace engineering and defense program management expertise.

**Competitive Landscape:**

The primary competitor is Boeing, who already manufactures the KC-46 Pegasus. ART2's key differentiator is offering a platform based on a proven, in-service commercial derivative with a larger fuel capacity and cargo capability, while leveraging Lockheed Martin's integration and program management expertise to avoid the developmental challenges experienced by the KC-46 program.

**Sources:**

1. [https://www.airbus.com/en/newsroom/stories/art2-airbus-lockheed-martin-ready-to-redefine-air-refueling](https://www.airbus.com/en/newsroom/stories/art2-airbus-lockheed-martin-ready-to-redefine-air-refueling)

2. [https://www.defensenews.com/air/2023/10/06/airbus-lockheed-join-forces-to-compete-for-next-us-air-force-tanker/](https://www.defensenews.com/air/2023/10/06/airbus-lockheed-join-forces-to-compete-for-next-us-air-force-tanker/)

3. [https://breakingdefense.com/2024/02/airbus-lockheed-ready-to-offer-new-version-of-a330-mrtt-for-usaf-tanker-competition/](https://breakingdefense.com/2024/02/airbus-lockheed-ready-to-offer-new-version-of-a330-mrtt-for-usaf-tanker-competition/)