# Dossier: ASTROBOTIC TECHNOLOGY INC

## SBIR Award Details

**Award Title:** N/A

**Amount:** $189,934.02

**Award Date:** 2024-04-16

**Branch:** USAF

## AI-Generated Intelligence Summary

**Company Overview:**

Astrobotic Technology Inc. is a lunar logistics company focused on enabling affordable and reliable access to the Moon for scientific payloads, resource prospecting, and commercial ventures. Their primary business involves designing, building, and operating lunar landers and related technologies to deliver payloads to the lunar surface for a diverse range of customers, including NASA, commercial companies, and international space agencies. They aim to reduce the cost and complexity of lunar missions, addressing the challenge of high-barrier-to-entry lunar exploration. Their unique value proposition lies in offering a full-service lunar delivery platform, providing end-to-end solutions from payload integration and launch procurement to lunar surface operations.

**Technology Focus:**

* Peregrine Lander:\*\* A lunar lander designed to deliver payloads to the Moon. Peregrine Mission One carried 20 payloads, aiming for a 100-hour mission on the lunar surface. Mass capacity is approximately 90 kg to the lunar surface.
* Griffin Lander:\*\* A larger lunar lander designed for delivering rovers, larger payloads, and facilitating sustained lunar surface presence. Griffin Mission One, supporting the NASA VIPER rover, has a payload capacity of over 500 kg.

**Recent Developments & Traction:**

* Peregrine Mission One (January 2024):\*\* Launched on the inaugural United Launch Alliance (ULA) Vulcan Centaur rocket. Suffered a propellant leak shortly after separation from the second stage, preventing a soft landing on the Moon. Successfully operated in space collecting data.
* NASA VIPER Mission (Griffin Lander):\*\* Awarded by NASA to deliver the Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover (VIPER) to the Moon's South Pole, targeting a November 2024 launch (delayed from previous 2023 target) with SpaceX's Falcon Heavy rocket. Contract worth $199.5 million.
* Series B Funding (Undisclosed Amount):\*\* Received strategic investments from undisclosed investors, likely focused on supporting ongoing lander development and future mission capabilities.

**Leadership & Team:**

* John Thornton (CEO):\*\* Has been with Astrobotic since its founding, leading the company's overall strategy and operations. Possesses extensive experience in space robotics and commercialization.
* Mike Provenzano (President):\*\* Key role in driving Astrobotic’s business development and strategic partnerships.
* Daniel Gillies (CFO):\*\* Responsible for the financial strategy of the company. Previously held roles in finance at other aerospace companies.

**Competitive Landscape:**

* Intuitive Machines:\*\* Another US-based company developing lunar landers (Nova-C) and providing lunar delivery services. Differentiation: Astrobotic has focused on both smaller and larger landers (Peregrine and Griffin), while Intuitive Machines initially prioritized smaller landers.
* Firefly Aerospace:\*\* Though primarily a launch provider, Firefly is also developing a lunar lander (Blue Ghost). Differentiation: Astrobotic's longer operational history and existing NASA contracts provide them with a perceived competitive advantage.

**Sources:**

1. [https://www.astrobotic.com/](https://www.astrobotic.com/)

2. [https://www.nasa.gov/viper](https://www.nasa.gov/viper)

3. [https://spacenews.com/](https://spacenews.com/)

4. [https://www.ulalaunch.com/](https://www.ulalaunch.com/)