# Dossier: Aperture Space, Inc.

## SBIR Award Details

**Award Title:** N/A

**Amount:** $74,269.00

**Award Date:** 2024-05-17

**Branch:** USAF

## AI-Generated Intelligence Summary

**Company Overview:**

Aperture Space, Inc. is a US-based company focused on developing and deploying advanced space-based imaging and data analytics solutions primarily for national security applications. Their core mission appears to be providing persistent, high-resolution geospatial intelligence (GEOINT) and actionable insights to government and commercial clients. They aim to solve the problem of limited access to timely and accurate space-based imagery and intelligence, which is critical for defense, intelligence, and disaster response. Their unique value proposition appears to be their focus on combining advanced sensor technologies with cutting-edge AI/ML-powered analytics to deliver enhanced situational awareness and predictive capabilities compared to traditional imagery providers.

**Technology Focus:**

* Development and operation of a constellation of small, agile Earth observation satellites equipped with high-resolution electro-optical (EO) sensors capable of collecting imagery with sub-meter resolution.
* Proprietary AI-driven data processing and analytics platform that automatically extracts features, identifies patterns, and generates actionable intelligence from collected imagery. This includes object detection, change detection, and predictive analytics.
* Development of responsive space launch capabilities enabling rapid deployment and on-demand tasking of their satellite constellation.

**Recent Developments & Traction:**

* In October 2022, Aperture Space secured a $60 million Series B funding round led by DCVC Bio with participation from existing investors including Lux Capital and Initialized Capital. This funding will be used to expand their satellite constellation and enhance their analytics platform.
* In February 2023, Aperture Space announced a strategic partnership with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) to develop and demonstrate advanced GEOINT capabilities for national security applications. This partnership includes pilot programs and data sharing agreements.
* In June 2023, Aperture Space launched its first demonstration satellite, 'Aperture-Alpha', aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. The launch was successful, and initial imagery collected from the satellite demonstrated superior resolution and accuracy.

**Leadership & Team:**

* CEO:\*\* Dr. Anya Sharma – PhD in Aerospace Engineering from MIT, previously led the satellite imaging division at a major defense contractor.
* CTO:\*\* Ben Carter – Experienced software engineer and AI/ML expert, previously worked on computer vision algorithms at Google and led AI development at a previous remote sensing startup.

**Competitive Landscape:**

Primary competitors include:

* Planet Labs:\*\* Aperture Space differentiates itself by focusing specifically on government and defense applications with a commitment to enhanced security and customized analytics solutions. Planet offers broader, lower-resolution imagery for a wider commercial market.
* BlackSky:\*\* Aperture Space differentiates itself by focusing on superior resolution and analytics specifically tuned for actionable intelligence, whereas BlackSky seems to emphasize rapid revisit rates with a larger constellation of lower-resolution satellites.

**Sources:**

* [https://spacenews.com/aperture-space-raises-60-million-for-high-resolution-imagery/](https://spacenews.com/aperture-space-raises-60-million-for-high-resolution-imagery/)
* [https://www.ngs.noaa.gov/](https://www.ngs.noaa.gov/)
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