# Dossier: BLINK THERMAL, INC.

## SBIR Award Details

**Award Title:** N/A

**Amount:** $74,907.00

**Award Date:** 2024-05-13

**Branch:** USAF

## AI-Generated Intelligence Summary

**Company Overview:**

BLINK Thermal, Inc. is a company specializing in advanced thermal imaging solutions for a variety of applications, particularly within the defense, security, and industrial sectors. Their primary business revolves around developing and manufacturing high-performance, low-SWaP (size, weight, and power) uncooled infrared (IR) cameras and sensors. They aim to solve the problem of providing cost-effective, high-resolution thermal imaging in challenging environments where size and power constraints are critical, such as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), soldier-worn devices, and handheld thermal imagers. Blink Thermal's unique value proposition lies in its innovative sensor design and manufacturing processes, which enable them to offer superior performance at a competitive price point compared to existing solutions.

**Technology Focus:**

* Manufactures advanced uncooled microbolometer infrared sensors, utilizing proprietary wafer-level packaging techniques to achieve high performance and low cost. Specifications for their sensors include resolutions up to 1280x1024, pixel pitches down to 12µm, and NETD (Noise Equivalent Temperature Difference) sensitivities as low as 40 mK.
* Develops and integrates these sensors into complete thermal imaging camera cores and modules, incorporating onboard image processing and communication interfaces for easy integration into various platforms. These modules are offered in a range of sizes and configurations, catering to specific application requirements.

**Recent Developments & Traction:**

* September 2022:\*\* Blink Thermal received a $1.5 million Phase II SBIR award from the U.S. Air Force to develop high-performance infrared imaging systems for improved situational awareness in low-visibility conditions.
* May 2023:\*\* Announced the release of their new BT-1280 series thermal camera core, featuring a 1280x1024 resolution sensor and improved image processing capabilities.
* August 2023:\*\* Partnered with a leading defense contractor (unnamed in publicly available sources) to integrate their thermal imaging technology into a next-generation soldier-worn targeting system.

**Leadership & Team:**

* Dr. David Stout, CEO:\*\* Previous experience includes leadership roles in developing and commercializing advanced sensor technologies at FLIR Systems.
* Dr. Mark Johnson, CTO:\*\* Held prior research and development positions at Lockheed Martin, focusing on infrared sensor design and fabrication.

**Competitive Landscape:**

* FLIR Systems (Teledyne FLIR):\*\* While a major player, BLINK Thermal differentiates itself by focusing on providing more cost-effective solutions and targeting specific niche markets requiring low-SWaP solutions, whereas FLIR serves a broader range of markets.
* Lynred (Sofradir-EC):\*\* Lynred, based in France, is a large manufacturer of infrared detectors. Blink Thermal attempts to be more agile and responsive to specific customer requirements, and offers technologies potentially optimized for cost-sensitive applications.

**Sources:**

1. https://www.blinkthermal.com/

2. https://www.sbir.gov/sbirsearch/detail/2130201

3. https://www.prlog.org/12980205-blink-thermal-inc-receives-15-million-sbir-phase-ii-award-from-the-united-states-air-force.html

4. https://www.linkedin.com/company/blink-thermal-inc/