# Dossier: EARTHGRID PBC

## SBIR Award Details

**Award Title:** N/A

**Amount:** $74,866.00

**Award Date:** 2023-06-05

**Branch:** USAF

## AI-Generated Intelligence Summary

**Company Overview:**

Earthgrid PBC is a tunneling and infrastructure startup aiming to revolutionize underground infrastructure development through rapid, robotic tunneling technology. They aim to drastically reduce the cost, time, and disruption associated with building utility tunnels for electricity, water, sewage, and broadband. Their core mission is to accelerate the transition to sustainable infrastructure by making underground infrastructure significantly more accessible and affordable. Their unique value proposition lies in their proprietary plasma boring technology, which promises significantly faster tunneling speeds and reduced environmental impact compared to traditional methods, effectively addressing the growing need for upgraded and expanded utility networks in urban environments and for new energy transmission infrastructure.

**Technology Focus:**

* Plasma Boring Technology:\*\* Earthgrid utilizes a high-powered plasma torch to vaporize rock and soil, enabling faster and more efficient tunneling than conventional mechanical methods. This process aims to increase tunneling speeds by up to 100x compared to traditional methods.
* Automated Tunneling Robots:\*\* Earthgrid develops and deploys autonomous or semi-autonomous tunneling robots designed to operate continuously, reducing labor costs and increasing safety. The robots are designed to create utility tunnels ranging from small diameter for fiber optic cables to larger sizes for water or power lines.

**Recent Developments & Traction:**

* Series A Funding (February 2022):\*\* Raised $38 million in a Series A funding round led by Prime Movers Lab. Additional investors included DCVC, and others. The funding was earmarked for expanding their team and accelerating the development and deployment of their tunneling technology.
* Demonstration Project in Austin, Texas:\*\* Announced a demonstration project in Austin to showcase the capabilities of their plasma boring technology in a real-world environment.
* Partnership with DCO Energy:\*\* The company announced a partnership with DCO Energy to integrate their tunneling technology into existing energy infrastructure systems.

**Leadership & Team:**

* Troy Helming (CEO):\*\* Experienced entrepreneur with a background in renewable energy and deep tech startups. Has founded or co-founded several companies focused on sustainable solutions.
* Mark Post (CTO):\*\* No readily available information publicly on CTO as of the writing of this dossier.

**Competitive Landscape:**

* The Boring Company:\*\* Elon Musk's tunneling venture, primarily focused on transportation tunnels. Earthgrid differentiates itself by focusing specifically on utility tunnels and emphasizing plasma boring technology versus traditional drilling methods favored by The Boring Company.
* Herrenknecht AG:\*\* A large, established player in the tunneling industry. Earthgrid differentiates itself by its speed claims based on their plasma boring approach, and its autonomous robots, targeting a niche in rapid deployment of utility tunnels.

**Sources:**

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

2. [https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/earthgrid-raises-38-million-to-build-the-future-of-underground-infrastructure-301485147.html](https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/earthgrid-raises-38-million-to-build-the-future-of-underground-infrastructure-301485147.html)

3. [https://www.primemoverslab.com/portfolio/earthgrid](https://www.primemoverslab.com/portfolio/earthgrid)