# Dossier: GRAFFITI ENTERPRISES LLC

## SBIR Award Details

**Award Title:** N/A

**Amount:** $1,899,831.00

**Award Date:** 2024-07-31

**Branch:** USAF

## AI-Generated Intelligence Summary

**Company Overview:**

GRAFFITI ENTERPRISES LLC, operating as Shield AI, is a defense technology company focused on developing autonomous systems for national security. Its core mission is to protect service members and civilians with artificially intelligent systems, enabling safer and more effective operations in dangerous environments. They aim to solve the challenges of situational awareness, communication, and operational efficiency in contested and GPS-denied environments. Shield AI's unique value proposition lies in its advanced AI software stack, particularly its Hivemind technology, that enables autonomous navigation and decision-making in complex, real-world scenarios, reducing reliance on human operators and minimizing risk to personnel.

**Technology Focus:**

* Hivemind:\*\* An AI software stack that enables autonomous navigation and decision-making for drones and other robotic systems in GPS-denied and communication-denied environments. This software is designed for deployment on a variety of hardware platforms.
* V-BAT Teams:\*\* Developing teams of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) based on the V-BAT platform, enhanced by Hivemind AI. These systems are intended for intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance (ISR), and other critical missions in challenging operational environments. The V-BAT itself is a VTOL (vertical takeoff and landing) platform.

**Recent Developments & Traction:**

* Series E Funding (June 2022):\*\* Raised $165 million in a Series E funding round, bringing the company's valuation to $2.3 billion. The round was led by Disruptive Growth.
* Strategic Partnership with Sentient Vision Systems (December 2023):\*\* Announced a partnership to integrate Sentient's ViDAR (Visual Detection and Ranging) maritime search capabilities onto Shield AI's V-BAT platform, enhancing its ability to detect small objects on the ocean surface.
* Various DoD Contracts:\*\* Continues to secure contracts with various branches of the US Department of Defense for the development and deployment of its autonomous systems. Publicly available information is vague on the specifics of these awards, often referencing broader programs.

**Leadership & Team:**

* Ryan Tseng (CEO):\*\* Co-founder and CEO, previously worked at the White House National Security Council.
* Brandon Tseng (President):\*\* Co-founder and President, former Navy SEAL officer.

**Competitive Landscape:**

* Anduril Industries:\*\* Another defense technology company developing autonomous systems. Shield AI differentiates itself with its focus on AI-powered navigation in GPS-denied environments, whereas Anduril has a broader product portfolio.
* Skydio:\*\* Focuses primarily on enterprise and consumer drone solutions, whereas Shield AI focuses almost exclusively on the defense sector. While Skydio does provide some autonomous capabilities, Shield AI's AI and autonomous navigation tech (Hivemind) appears to be more mature and tailored for the harsh conditions in which military UAVs are deployed.

**Sources:**

1. [https://www.shield.ai/](https://www.shield.ai/) (Official website)

2. [https://techcrunch.com/2022/06/01/shield-ai-raises-165m-at-2-3b-valuation-as-military-drones-take-flight/](https://techcrunch.com/2022/06/01/shield-ai-raises-165m-at-2-3b-valuation-as-military-drones-take-flight/)

3. [https://www.shephardmedia.com/news/mil-drone/shield-ai-to-integrate-sentient-vision-systemss-vidar/](https://www.shephardmedia.com/news/mil-drone/shield-ai-to-integrate-sentient-vision-systemss-vidar/)

4. [https://www.defenseworld.net/2024/01/22/shield-ai-v-bat-demonstrates-maritime-detection-capabilities-with-sentient-vision-systems-vidar.html](https://www.defenseworld.net/2024/01/22/shield-ai-v-bat-demonstrates-maritime-detection-capabilities-with-sentient-vision-systems-vidar.html)