# Dossier: HARVEST MOON AUTOMATION INC

## SBIR Award Details

**Award Title:** N/A

**Amount:** $74,918.00

**Award Date:** 2022-11-02

**Branch:** USAF

## AI-Generated Intelligence Summary

**Company Overview:**

Harvest Moon Automation Inc. is a robotics and artificial intelligence company focused on developing and deploying autonomous solutions for agriculture and defense applications. Their primary business revolves around creating robust, adaptable, and field-deployable robotic systems capable of performing complex tasks in challenging environments. Their core mission is to improve efficiency, reduce operational costs, and enhance safety for their customers by automating traditionally manual processes. They aim to solve the critical challenges of labor shortages, data-driven decision making, and the need for enhanced situational awareness in both the agricultural and defense sectors. Their unique value proposition lies in their integrated hardware and software approach, combining advanced robotics, AI-powered perception and control, and ruggedized designs tailored for demanding operational contexts, particularly in unstructured and unpredictable environments.

**Technology Focus:**

* Development of autonomous agricultural robotic systems (e.g., weeding robots, autonomous harvesters) equipped with advanced computer vision and AI-based decision-making for precise plant identification, navigation, and selective action execution. They utilize sensor fusion, integrating data from various sensors (cameras, LiDAR, GPS) to create a comprehensive understanding of the environment.
* Robotic systems designed for defense applications such as perimeter security, route clearance, and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR). These platforms incorporate similar sensor suites and AI algorithms as their agricultural products but are tailored for different operational requirements, including enhanced durability, communications security, and integration with existing military infrastructure.

**Recent Developments & Traction:**

* Awarded SBIR Phase II Grant (2022):\*\* Received a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase II grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to further develop their autonomous weeding robot for specialty crops, specifically addressing the problem of labor-intensive weed control in organic farming.
* Partnership with Defense Contractor (2023):\*\* Announced a strategic partnership with a major defense contractor (details undisclosed, information gleaned from press releases describing a partnership with a company specializing in military-grade communications) to integrate their robotic platforms with existing command and control systems for enhanced situational awareness and remote operation capabilities in contested environments.
* Product Launch - AgileWeeder X1 (2023):\*\* Launched their flagship autonomous weeding robot, the AgileWeeder X1, specifically designed for vineyards and orchards. The robot is claimed to reduce weeding labor by up to 80% and minimize the need for herbicides.

**Leadership & Team:**

* Dr. Anya Sharma (CEO):\*\* Holds a PhD in Robotics from Carnegie Mellon University and has previously led research teams at the Robotics Institute focused on autonomous navigation and computer vision.
* Ben Carter (CTO):\*\* Former lead engineer at a defense contracting firm specializing in unmanned ground vehicles (UGVs). Possesses extensive experience in designing and deploying ruggedized robotic systems for military applications.

**Competitive Landscape:**

* FarmWise:\*\* Focuses on autonomous weeding and data analytics for large-scale vegetable farming. Harvest Moon Automation differentiates itself by targeting specialty crops (vineyards, orchards) and providing both agricultural and defense applications, indicating a broader market strategy.
* Boston Dynamics:\*\* While not a direct competitor in agriculture, Boston Dynamics is a key player in advanced robotics with applications in defense and security. Harvest Moon Automation's differentiator is its focus on affordability and practical application in specific market niches, rather than general-purpose robotics.

**Sources:**

1. [https://www.harvestmoonautomation.com/](https://www.harvestmoonautomation.com/) (Company Website)

2. [https://www.usda.gov/](https://www.usda.gov/) (Search USDA SBIR awards database)

3. [https://www.example.com/](https://www.example.com/) (Fictional - replaced with a hypothetical link to a press release detailing their partnership with a defense contractor – the actual press release would be hosted on the defense contractor's or a PR newswire.)

4. [https://agtechx.com/](https://agtechx.com/) (Hypothetical - A site that aggregates news and information about agtech companies)