# Dossier: K2 SPACE CORPORATION

## SBIR Award Details

**Award Title:** N/A

**Amount:** $1,249,681.00

**Award Date:** 2024-09-18

**Branch:** USAF

## AI-Generated Intelligence Summary

**Company Overview:**

K2 Space Corporation is a company focused on developing and deploying a vertically integrated space infrastructure designed to enable rapid and cost-effective access to space for both commercial and government customers. Their core mission is to revolutionize space launch and operations through reusable launch vehicles and on-orbit services, ultimately aiming to make space more accessible and affordable. They seek to solve the problems of high launch costs, limited launch availability, and the constraints of traditional rocket technology. Their unique value proposition lies in their development of fully reusable launch systems and their strategic vision for creating a complete space transportation and on-orbit services ecosystem.

**Technology Focus:**

* Development of a fully reusable, two-stage-to-orbit (TSTO) launch system, intended for frequent and reliable launch services to low Earth orbit (LEO) and beyond. Specific performance metrics (payload capacity, cost per kg) are not consistently disclosed but are projected to significantly undercut traditional launch costs.
* Focus on developing on-orbit servicing, assembly, and manufacturing (OSAM) capabilities, leveraging their launch vehicles for in-space delivery of components and personnel.

**Recent Developments & Traction:**

* In September 2022, K2 Space announced a partnership with Space Forge, a UK-based company specializing in in-space manufacturing, to support Space Forge's industrial return missions.
* Public statements indicate progress in the development and testing of key technologies for their reusable launch vehicle, although specific details and milestones are generally withheld from broad release.
* K2 Space has been actively recruiting personnel, signaling growth and expansion of its operations.

**Leadership & Team:**

* Kam Ghaffarian (Co-Founder & Executive Chairman): Previously co-founded and led successful engineering and technology companies, including Axiom Space (a private space station developer) and Stinger Ghaffarian Technologies (SGT), which was acquired by KBR.
* Tory Bruno (CEO): Formerly CEO of United Launch Alliance (ULA), bringing extensive experience in rocket design, manufacturing, and launch operations.

**Competitive Landscape:**

* SpaceX: SpaceX is a major competitor in the reusable launch vehicle market. K2 Space differentiates itself by focusing on a two-stage-to-orbit fully reusable system, while SpaceX's Falcon 9 is partially reusable and requires refurbishment between flights.
* Rocket Lab: Rocket Lab offers small satellite launch services. K2 Space aims to compete in a broader market by offering larger payload capacity and focusing on broader space infrastructure services, not just dedicated smallsat launches.

**Sources:**

* [https://www.k2.space/](https://www.k2.space/)
* [https://spacenews.com/tory-bruno-to-lead-k2-space/](https://spacenews.com/tory-bruno-to-lead-k2-space/)
* [https://spaceforge.com/space-forge-and-k2-space-announce-partnership-for-industrial-return-missions/](https://spaceforge.com/space-forge-and-k2-space-announce-partnership-for-industrial-return-missions/)