# Dossier: LIFT Aircraft, Inc.

## SBIR Award Details

**Award Title:** N/A

**Amount:** $1,648,541.49

**Award Date:** 2024-06-11

**Branch:** ARMY

## AI-Generated Intelligence Summary

**Company Overview:**

LIFT Aircraft, Inc. is a venture-backed aerospace company focused on developing and operating electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft for recreational flight and defense applications. Their core mission is to democratize flight, making it accessible and enjoyable for individuals without requiring a pilot's license. The company aims to solve the challenge of limited access to personal aviation and the complexity of traditional aircraft operation. Their unique value proposition centers around their ultralight eVTOL aircraft, Hexa, which is designed to be safe, easy to fly, and operate in a decentralized, point-to-point manner, leveraging distributed electric propulsion for redundancy and simplified control. They envision a future where anyone can experience the freedom of flight, and are also actively pursuing government and defense contracts to apply their technology to specific military use cases.

**Technology Focus:**

* Hexa is an 18-rotor electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft designed to be flown without a pilot’s license under FAA Part 103 regulations (ultralight category). It is designed with redundant systems and fly-by-wire controls for enhanced safety.
* The aircraft is powered by distributed electric propulsion, featuring 18 independent electric motors and propellers. The total flight time is approximately 10-15 minutes, depending on the payload and flight conditions.

**Recent Developments & Traction:**

* 2023:\*\* LIFT Aircraft secured a contract with the U.S. Air Force's Agility Prime program to explore Hexa's potential for military applications, including cargo transport, search and rescue, and personnel insertion/extraction. This contract followed initial testing and evaluation conducted with the Air Force.
* 2021:\*\* Successfully completed manned test flights of the Hexa aircraft at Eglin Air Force Base, demonstrating its capabilities and reliability in a controlled environment. This marked a significant milestone in their partnership with the U.S. Air Force.
* Ongoing:\*\* Continued development of software and hardware upgrades for the Hexa aircraft, including improvements to flight control systems, battery technology, and safety features. They have also been working towards further certification and regulatory compliance.

**Leadership & Team:**

* Matt Chasen (CEO):\*\* Experienced entrepreneur with a background in technology and consumer internet businesses. He previously co-founded uShip, an online shipping marketplace.

**Competitive Landscape:**

* Volocopter:\*\* Volocopter focuses on urban air mobility with larger eVTOL aircraft designed for passenger transport in cities. LIFT Aircraft differentiates itself by targeting recreational flight and specific defense applications with a smaller, ultralight aircraft requiring no pilot license.
* Joby Aviation:\*\* Similar to Volocopter, Joby focuses on commercial air taxi services with larger, piloted eVTOL aircraft. LIFT's strategy of using a smaller, pilotless aircraft for recreation and niche defense applications offers a different market approach.

**Sources:**

1. [https://liftaircraft.com/](https://liftaircraft.com/)

2. [https://www.airforcemag.com/air-force-partners-with-lift-aircraft-for-evtol-testing/](https://www.airforcemag.com/air-force-partners-with-lift-aircraft-for-evtol-testing/)

3. [https://www.flyingmag.com/lift-aircraft-hexa-eglin-afb/](https://www.flyingmag.com/lift-aircraft-hexa-eglin-afb/)

4. [https://www.defensedaily.com/air-force-exploring-electric-aircraft-lift-aircraft/](https://www.defensedaily.com/air-force-exploring-electric-aircraft-lift-aircraft/)