# Dossier: OUTPOST TECHNOLOGIES CORP

## SBIR Award Details

**Award Title:** N/A

**Amount:** $1,249,752.00

**Award Date:** 2024-08-20

**Branch:** USAF

## AI-Generated Intelligence Summary

**Company Overview:**

Outpost Technologies Corp. is a space startup focused on developing and deploying reusable satellites that return payloads to Earth. The company's primary business revolves around providing a cost-effective and efficient solution for returning sensitive or valuable materials from space, eliminating the need for traditional, expensive, and dedicated return missions. Outpost aims to solve the critical challenge of accessing the unique microgravity environment for in-space manufacturing and research, while also addressing the need for rapid return of critical data, biological samples, or manufactured goods. Their unique value proposition lies in their reusable satellite platform, which reduces the cost and increases the frequency of payload return compared to traditional methods and potential competitors focused on only specific return capsules.

**Technology Focus:**

* Reusable Satellite Platform:\*\* Outpost is developing a fully reusable satellite, known as the "Outpost," designed for multiple orbital missions and capable of autonomous re-entry and landing.
* Automated Re-entry System:\*\* The satellite incorporates an advanced guidance, navigation, and control system for precise atmospheric re-entry and autonomous landing at designated landing sites, with claimed payload capacity of up to ~100kg.

**Recent Developments & Traction:**

* Seed Round Funding (July 2021):\*\* Raised $7.1 million in seed funding led by Moonfire Ventures with participation from Shasta Ventures, Draper Associates, and others. This funding supports the development and testing of their satellite platform.
* Air Force Phase II SBIR contract (2022):\*\* Awarded a Phase II Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) contract from the US Air Force to further develop and mature key technologies related to their re-entry system.
* Successfully demonstrated prototype autonomous re-entry:\*\* In February 2023, Outpost completed a series of tests demonstrating their technology, including autonomous landing and flight path.

**Leadership & Team:**

* Jason Dunn (CEO):\*\* Formerly co-founder and CTO of Made In Space, a company focused on in-space manufacturing (acquired by Redwire Space). His experience in in-space manufacturing brings relevant technical expertise to Outpost.
* Michael Franco (President):\*\* Prior experience in business development and operations in the space and aerospace industries.

**Competitive Landscape:**

* SpaceX:\*\* While not solely focused on payload return, SpaceX's Dragon capsule provides a return capability, but it's tied to ISS resupply missions and isn't optimized for dedicated rapid return. Outpost differentiates by offering a dedicated, reusable platform for more frequent and agile return missions, targeting a different market segment beyond ISS.
* Sierra Space (Dream Chaser):\*\* Similar to SpaceX, Sierra Space is not solely focused on payload return. The Dream Chaser is a reusable spaceplane, but is geared toward large payload capabilities and is not focused on the smaller, faster turnaround the Outpost appears to be aiming for.

**Sources:**

1. [https://www.outpost.space/](https://www.outpost.space/)

2. [https://techcrunch.com/2021/07/22/outpost-raises-7-1m-for-reusable-satellites-that-return-to-earth/](https://techcrunch.com/2021/07/22/outpost-raises-7-1m-for-reusable-satellites-that-return-to-earth/)

3. [https://spacenews.com/outpost-demonstrates-prototype-autonomous-re-entry/](https://spacenews.com/outpost-demonstrates-prototype-autonomous-re-entry/)

4. [https://www.crunchbase.com/organization/outpost](https://www.crunchbase.com/organization/outpost)