# Dossier: STARFISH SPACE, INC.

## SBIR Award Details

**Award Title:** N/A

**Amount:** $1,099,785.60

**Award Date:** 2024-05-17

**Branch:** USAF

## AI-Generated Intelligence Summary

**Company Overview:**

Starfish Space, Inc. is a space technology company focused on on-orbit servicing (OOS) and robotic mission extension in low Earth orbit (LEO) and beyond. Their primary business is developing and operating spacecraft that can rendezvous with, inspect, repair, refuel, and relocate other satellites. The company's core mission is to extend the lifespan of existing satellites, reduce space debris, and enable more efficient and sustainable space operations. Starfish aims to solve the problem of satellite obsolescence and the growing challenge of space debris by offering a flexible and cost-effective alternative to launching new satellites or deorbiting malfunctioning ones. Their unique value proposition lies in their focus on developing a small, versatile servicer spacecraft capable of a wide range of OOS tasks, coupled with autonomous navigation and rendezvous capabilities.

**Technology Focus:**

* Otter Space Tug:\*\* A small, reusable space tug designed for on-orbit servicing, including inspection, refueling, relocation, and deorbiting of satellites. The Otter is designed to be highly autonomous, enabling it to perform complex maneuvers with minimal human intervention.
* Cephalopod AI Software:\*\* Artificial intelligence software developed for autonomous rendezvous, proximity operations, and docking. It utilizes advanced computer vision and sensor fusion to enable precise and safe interactions with target satellites.

**Recent Developments & Traction:**

* October 2023: Awarded $37.5M STRATFI contract from the U.S. Space Force.\*\* This will accelerate on-orbit servicing capabilities for national security space assets.
* September 2022: $7M Seed Round led by NFX.\*\* Other investors included MaC Venture Capital, Congruent Ventures, and Boost VC. This funding is being used to accelerate the development of the Otter space tug.
* February 2022: Awarded a contract from the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) to develop a concept for on-orbit assembly and manufacturing.\*\*

**Leadership & Team:**

* Austin Link (Co-founder):\*\* Prior experience includes roles at Blue Origin.
* Trevor Bennett (Co-founder):\*\* Prior experience includes roles at Blue Origin and NASA.

**Competitive Landscape:**

* Northrop Grumman (SpaceLogistics LLC, formerly Orbital ATK):\*\* Northrop Grumman operates the Mission Extension Vehicle (MEV) and Mission Robotic Vehicle (MRV) series. Starfish differentiates itself by focusing on smaller, more versatile servicers capable of handling a broader range of tasks and operating in a more distributed manner than Northrop Grumman's larger, more specialized vehicles.
* Astroscale:\*\* Astroscale is focused on End-of-Life services, particularly active debris removal. Starfish Space offers a wider range of services, including life extension and relocation, aiming for a more holistic approach to on-orbit servicing beyond just debris mitigation.

**Sources:**

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

2. [https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3557028/department-of-defense-announces-space-accelerator-awards/](https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3557028/department-of-defense-announces-space-accelerator-awards/)

3. [https://techcrunch.com/2022/09/14/starfish-space-raises-7m-to-extend-satellites-lifespans-in-orbit/](https://techcrunch.com/2022/09/14/starfish-space-raises-7m-to-extend-satellites-lifespans-in-orbit/)

4. [https://spacenews.com/starfish-space-working-on-on-orbit-assembly/](https://spacenews.com/starfish-space-working-on-on-orbit-assembly/)