# Dossier: TEMPLAR LLC

## SBIR Award Details

**Award Title:** N/A

**Amount:** $1,235,000.00

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

**Branch:** USAF

## AI-Generated Intelligence Summary

**Company Overview:**

TEMPLAR LLC, operating under the brand name Shield AI, is a defense technology company focused on developing AI-powered autonomous systems for defense and national security applications. Shield AI's primary mission is to protect service members and civilians with intelligent systems, aiming to reduce risk, improve mission effectiveness, and enable new operational capabilities. The company's unique value proposition lies in its full-stack approach, encompassing AI software, hardware, and integration, to create autonomous aircraft that can operate in denied environments, such as GPS-denied indoor and urban spaces, without human intervention. This differentiates them from companies that may focus solely on software or specific hardware components.

**Technology Focus:**

* Hivemind:\*\* An AI pilot that enables fully autonomous flight for a variety of aircraft, including small unmanned aerial systems (sUAS) and Group 4 UAS. The AI pilot uses sensor fusion and advanced algorithms for perception, planning, and control.
* V-BAT Teams:\*\* Development and deployment of scalable autonomous drone teams, utilizing the vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) V-BAT platform integrated with Hivemind.
* Autonomous Mission Software Suite:\*\* A software suite containing various tools, including mapping, navigation, and decision-making modules, that allows Hivemind-powered systems to perform complex tasks without human intervention, even in GPS-denied environments.

**Recent Developments & Traction:**

* DoD Contracts:\*\* Awarded multiple contracts from the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and other government agencies for the development and deployment of AI-powered autonomous systems. These contracts include work on drone swarms, autonomous flight control, and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities.
* Series E Funding (June 2022):\*\* Raised $90 million in a Series E funding round. Details on lead investors are less public; however, past investors have included Andreessen Horowitz, Breyer Capital, and Point72 Ventures. The funding was earmarked for accelerating the development and deployment of V-BAT Teams and Hivemind.
* V-BAT integration with Hivemind:\*\* Demonstrating the integration of its Hivemind AI pilot with the V-BAT VTOL aircraft, showcasing autonomous flight capabilities in complex and contested environments.

**Leadership & Team:**

* Ryan Tseng (CEO):\*\* Former U.S. Navy SEAL and strategy consultant.
* Brandon Tseng (President):\*\* Former U.S. Navy SEAL with experience in special operations.
* While CTO isn't prominently featured, there are key personnel leading AI and robotics divisions with backgrounds from leading academic institutions and tech companies.

**Competitive Landscape:**

* Anduril Industries:\*\* Anduril develops a variety of autonomous systems and defense technologies, including drones, sensors, and software. Shield AI differentiates itself by primarily focusing on a full-stack AI pilot solution applicable across various aircraft platforms, whereas Anduril has a broader scope encompassing more diverse defense solutions.
* Skydio:\*\* Skydio focuses primarily on autonomous drones for enterprise and consumer applications. Shield AI's core differentiator is its specific focus on defense and national security applications, as well as its broader system-level integration and the deep investment in operating in denied environments.

**Sources:**

* [https://shield.ai/](https://shield.ai/)
* [https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/shield-ai-secures-additional-90m-in-funding-building-the-future-of-defense-with-ai-pilots-301562893.html](https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/shield-ai-secures-additional-90m-in-funding-building-the-future-of-defense-with-ai-pilots-301562893.html)
* [https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2021/08/navy-seal-started-ai-drone-company-now-hes-taking-it-war/184861/](https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2021/08/navy-seal-started-ai-drone-company-now-hes-taking-it-war/184861/)
* [https://breakingdefense.com/2023/03/shield-ais-ai-drone-pilot-goes-operational-on-v-bat-unmanned-system/](https://breakingdefense.com/2023/03/shield-ais-ai-drone-pilot-goes-operational-on-v-bat-unmanned-system/)