# Dossier: VERDEGO AERO INC

## SBIR Award Details

**Award Title:** N/A

**Amount:** $1,900,000.00

**Award Date:** 2024-08-01

**Branch:** USAF

## AI-Generated Intelligence Summary

**Company Overview:**

VerdeGo Aero Inc. is a vertically integrated aerospace company focused on developing and manufacturing hybrid-electric vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) aircraft systems for defense and commercial applications. Their core mission revolves around creating highly efficient, quiet, and environmentally friendly VTOL platforms to address the growing demand for advanced air mobility (AAM) and distributed logistics in challenging operational environments. They aim to solve the limitations of traditional rotorcraft by offering longer range, reduced noise pollution, lower operating costs, and improved payload capabilities. Their unique value proposition lies in their patented hybrid-electric propulsion system and optimized aircraft designs, which are tailored to meet the specific requirements of military and civilian operators.

**Technology Focus:**

* Patented Distributed Electric Propulsion (DEP) System: VerdeGo Aero is developing DEP systems that are optimized for VTOL performance, offering enhanced safety and control, reduced noise signature, and improved fuel efficiency compared to conventional helicopter propulsion. Their system aims to achieve at least 30% reduction in fuel consumption.
* High-Efficiency VTOL Aircraft Designs: VerdeGo Aero designs VTOL aircraft optimized for specific missions, focusing on aerodynamic efficiency, structural integrity, and ease of maintenance. This includes optimized rotor and wing designs, coupled with advanced control algorithms.

**Recent Developments & Traction:**

* May 2024: VerdeGo Aero was awarded a U.S. Air Force AFWERX Phase II Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) contract, partnering with Mississippi State University to develop advanced autonomous flight control algorithms tailored for their VTOL aircraft. This follows prior Phase I awards.
* July 2023: VerdeGo Aero announced the successful completion of initial wind tunnel testing of their proposed VTOL aircraft configuration. The testing validated key aerodynamic performance characteristics and provided data for design refinement.
* May 2022: VerdeGo Aero secured a strategic investment from undisclosed private investors to accelerate the development and testing of its hybrid-electric VTOL propulsion system. The amount of funding was not publicly disclosed.

**Leadership & Team:**

* Erik Lindbergh (CEO): Grandson of Charles Lindbergh, Erik has extensive experience in aviation and technology. He has founded multiple companies in the aerospace sector, demonstrating a history of entrepreneurial leadership.
* Carlos Salaff (President): Mr. Salaff has considerable design experience and has led teams in the aerospace industry.

**Competitive Landscape:**

* Joby Aviation: A key competitor developing all-electric VTOL aircraft for passenger transport. VerdeGo Aero differentiates itself by focusing on hybrid-electric systems, potentially offering longer range and greater payload capacity, which may appeal more to defense applications.
* Bell Flight (Textron): An established aerospace manufacturer with extensive experience in VTOL aircraft. VerdeGo Aero differentiates through its focus on novel, hybrid-electric propulsion systems and potentially lower operating costs compared to conventional rotorcraft.

**Sources:**

1. [https://www.verdegoaero.com/](https://www.verdegoaero.com/)

2. [https://www.afwerx.com/](https://www.afwerx.com/) (Search for VerdeGo Aero within the AFWERX site)

3. [https://www.prweb.com/releases/2023/7/prweb19457862.htm](https://www.prweb.com/releases/2023/7/prweb19457862.htm)