



Urban Sky Announces \$11.3M APFIT Award to Operationalize Stratospheric Capabilities for U.S. National Security

Award will accelerate production and fielding of stratospheric systems while creating advanced aerospace and manufacturing jobs in Colorado

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[Urban Sky](#), a leading U.S. stratospheric technology company, today announced its selection for an \$11.3 million award through the Department of War's Accelerate the Procurement and Fielding of Innovative Technologies (APFIT) program.

The award represents a major step toward operationalizing the stratosphere through the mass production and fielding of Urban Sky's stratospheric Microballoons™ (mHABs) and low-size, weight, and power (low-SWaP) sensing payloads.

"This award marks an important transition from demonstrating innovative prototypes to producing and fielding tactical stratospheric systems at a meaningful operational scale," said Andrew Antonio, Co-founder and CEO of Urban Sky. "Our Microballoons give military operators a new way to rapidly deploy persistent sensing and communications capabilities across vast areas without relying exclusively on aircraft, drones, or satellites."

U.S. Northern Command sponsored Urban Sky's successful APFIT nomination for the company's WALLABEE low-SWaP sensing system. Support from the Department of the Army's DAMI-ST, the Office of the Under Secretary of War for Research and Engineering (OUSW R&E), and Special Operations Forces Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (SOF AT&L) was also instrumental in advancing the nomination.

Urban Sky's continued growth has been supported by the leadership of Colorado's Congressional Delegation, including Sens. Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper, whose support was instrumental in advancing the company's successful APFIT nomination. The Senate Armed Services Committee's recent recognition of the stratosphere as an emerging operational domain - and its call for the accelerated fielding of scalable, autonomous stratospheric capabilities and the development of a comprehensive high-altitude warfare strategy - further underscores the importance of investing in this critical domain.

"We are deeply grateful to Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper and the Colorado Congressional Delegation for their support," Antonio said. "Their leadership helped make this award possible and reflects a broader commitment to ensuring that the technologies defining the emerging stratospheric domain are developed and manufactured here in the United States."

The award is expected to support Urban Sky's continued expansion in Colorado, creating new advanced engineering and manufacturing jobs while strengthening domestic production capacity for stratospheric platforms and payloads. The investment will further establish Colorado at the center of the emerging global stratospheric industry while enabling the U.S. military to procure innovative, mission-ready capabilities at greater speed and scale.



APFIT accelerates the procurement and fielding of mature technologies that address near-term operational needs. Since its inception, the program has awarded more than \$2 billion and delivered more than 100 capabilities to the warfighter. Urban Sky's WALLABEE sensing system was included among the final fiscal year 2026 procurement selections [announced by the Department of War on July 14, 2026](#).

About Urban Sky:

Urban Sky's products enable routine and easy access to the stratosphere and the value locked within it. The company's hallmark product - the stratospheric Microballoon™ (mHAB) - offers quick, easy, long-duration, and controllable flight in the stratosphere. And the stratosphere itself offers everything space cannot - rapid access, navigation, extended loitering, and affordability.

Contact:

info@urbansky.com

www.urbansky.com