



Star Wars: Space Interceptors Ready for Takeoff

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The U.S. [Space Force](#) is moving quickly to expand its missile defense capabilities in space. The service's acquisition body has announced the imminent release of a solicitation for the creation of **Space Interceptor (SBI)** prototypes designed for **midcourse kinetic missile defense**.

According to the pre-solicitation notice published by the Space Systems Command (SSC), the official request for proposals will be released on **December 7**, with the aim of awarding **multiple fixed transaction agreements (Other Transaction Agreements - OTA)** for the prototypes by **February 2026**.¹

This effort specifically focuses on **kinetic** options – a term in missile defense jargon referring to missiles or projectiles that destroy their target through direct impact, i.e., with a "hit-to-kill" action (*hit-to-kill*).

Key Role in Trump's "Golden Dome" Initiative

Space Interceptors are a fundamental pillar of President Donald Trump's vast initiative, called "**Golden Dome**". This ambitious project aims to develop and build a wide missile defense network to protect the homeland from adversary attacks, with the goal of being "fully operational" by **2028**.

The "Golden Dome" architecture envisions the combination of legacy systems and new technologies, many of which are space-based capabilities.

- **Initial Phase (Boost-Phase):** The executive order that initiated the project initially called for a constellation of SBIs for interception in the **boost phase** (*boost-phase*), during the first flight phase of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), when it is most vulnerable.
- **Midcourse Addition:** The inclusion of SBIs for **midcourse** defense adds an additional defensive layer. These interceptors are designed to take down ICBM threats during the longest phase of their flight: when they travel through space before re-entering the atmosphere.

This midcourse capability is crucial to ensure that, even if an enemy missile escapes interception in the boost phase, the defense has a second and longer opportunity to neutralize the threat while it is still in space.

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Competition Details and Innovative Approach

The Space Force's approach to awarding contracts demonstrates its preference for rapid innovation and experimentation.

In addition to using **Other Transaction Agreements (OTA)**, which allow for more flexible and faster acquisition processes than traditional federal contracts, the SSC may also "incorporate **Prize Competitions**" (*Prize Competitions*) for the upcoming awards.

This competitive model is not new for the Space Force, as it is similar to that already used for the competition related to boost-phase SBIs. The use of OTA and Prize Competitions indicates a strategy aimed at quickly engaging the industry to obtain a wide range of prototype solutions for these space technologies.

Companies interested in participating in the award competition must request additional bid documents by **December 4**, underscoring the urgency with which the Space Force intends to develop and deploy these new, critical missile defense capabilities.

News link: <https://defensescoop.com/2025/11/24/space-force-midcourse-space-based-interceptors-presolicitation/>