



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.



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/>