The U.S. Army Accelerates on Drones: Record Order for 2,500 X10D from Skydio

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The U.S. Army has awarded Skydio a contract worth **over 52 million dollars** for the supply of **more than 2,500 X10D drones**, in what is described as the largest acquisition of small UAS from a single manufacturer in the service's history. The order, managed through Atlantic Diving Supply, moved from the bidding phase to award in **less than 72 hours**, highlighting the growing urgency with which Washington is seeking to quickly deploy capabilities now considered essential in modern conflicts.

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Autonomy, Resilience, and Tactical Reconnaissance

The **X10D** system was developed to provide **intelligence, reconnaissance, and surveillance** capabilities directly at the platoon level, offering small units an organic aerial resource to operate in complex and distributed environments. The drone is designed to fly even in scenarios where **GPS is degraded or absent**, thanks to onboard navigation cameras that map the terrain in real-time. This is complemented by a **multiband radio system** capable of maintaining connectivity in high-interference environments and **high-resolution electro-optical and thermal sensors**, usable both day and night. According to Skydio, these features reduce dependence on higher-level assets and improve response times on the ground.

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Domestic Production and Strategic Shift

The order consolidates Skydio's role within the **Short Range Reconnaissance (SRR)** program, in which the company was already selected in **2022** and **2025**. The company also emphasizes that the X10D is produced at the **Hayward, California** facility, where each platform is assembled and tested before delivery. Strategically, the contract reflects the U.S. Army's desire to strengthen the national drone industrial chain and reduce dependence on Chinese-origin systems, following the ban imposed in **2017** on DJI drones for security reasons. More generally, the speed of the award confirms the American push towards **accelerated acquisition procedures** for technologies deemed decisive in the contemporary operational scenario.