

## Space Technologies Companies Blast Off

“Buckle up and get ready to blast off with some eye-opening solutions that promise to be game changers for space, that really reach for the stars and beyond.” With that introduction from lead mentor Lt Col J.J. Snow, chief technologist of AFWERX, the Techstars Starburst Space Accelerator held its second annual demo day on September 10th.

The program ran a cohort of ten companies. Their products included imaging from balloons in the stratosphere (Urban Sky); integrated circuits on foil (Lux Semiconductors); high performance computing for machine learning (Natural Intelligence); collaborative real-time control of drones (vRotors); lightweight requirements management (Prewitt Ridge); air quality safety as a service (WeavAir); lightweight gas tanks (Infinite Composites); machine learning for optical image recognition (Bifrost) and synthetic aperture radar image recognition (SATIM); and virtual reality augmented with hand gestures for training (Holos).



Shane McMahon, CEO of Lux Semiconductor, envisions printing circuits on flexible foil.

The presentations were pre-recorded and very well done - though, of course, lacking some of the energy and excitement of last year's in-person demo day. Highlights from the demo day proved the Techstars program was a success for the Air Force and the startups. All of the companies made major announcements. Two announced that their pre-seed venture rounds were oversubscribed. Several announced new major contracts. Others had commitments from companies to pilot their technologies.

MITRE served as informal mentors to the companies and discussions are on-going with several to investigate where their technologies might help our government sponsors or internal research projects make significant advances.

Link to the presentations can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I4vRRqdiUg&feature=youtu.be>