



SPACE RAPID CAPABILITIES OFFICE FACT SHEET

Satellite Communications Augmentation Resource

The Space Rapid Capabilities Office (SpRCO) was assigned the Satellite Communications Augmentation Resource (SCAR) effort, by their Board of Directors in May 2021. SCAR will address the critical U.S. Space Command (USSPACECOM) requirement to rapidly, responsively, and affordably augment satellite control capacity for the Satellite Control Network (SCN), which provides tactical control links to U.S. Space Force (USSF) satellites. The demands on the SCN are expected to grow substantially in the next few years, as dozens of proliferated architectures begin to populate. SCAR will increase communications capacity ten-fold for satellites in geosynchronous orbit through transportable, electronically steerable phased array antennas.

Creative, Rapid Space Acquisition

SCAR embodies several tenets of SpRCO rapid acquisition approaches and business practices, to include tailored acquisition and communication:

Tailored acquisition approaches and expanding competitive vendor pools:

SpRCO utilized an Other Transaction Agreement (OTA) approach, leveraging a pool of non-traditional vendors from the Ground, Command, Control and Communications program. SpRCO additionally leveraged a list of traditional primes from prior Space Systems Command (SSC) market research. SpRCO connected the two groups, encouraging teaming to meet OTA eligibility requirements while leveraging innovative commercial technology and innovation. This accelerated the forming of combined, hybrid teams who could potentially meet all or part of USSPACECOM requirements.

Effective and frequent communication with government stakeholders and industry vendors alike:

SpRCO worked with SSC to ensure the proper requirements and warfighter needs were being identified. Both organizations applied lessons learned from previous SSC SCN related efforts to the SCAR acquisition model, and SpRCO maintained frequent, clear and effective communication with competitor teams throughout. Communication is a hallmark of SpRCO acquisition, and markedly shaped the OTA request for prototype proposal.

The result was a completed SCAR competition in 8 months, compared to the year-plus standard. SpRCO competitively awarded an OTA for SCAR to BlueHalo, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on May 21, 2022.

Strong Partnerships

To meet an enterprise level need, SpRCO formed tightly-coupled partnerships with several USSF strategists, operators, and maintainers, to include SSC, the Space Warfighting Analysis Center, and Space Operations Command (and key associated operations squadrons).

Providing Solutions

SpRCO will deliver and field the first article of the SCAR system. After initial fielding, SpRCO will transfer the first article and turn-key acquisition model to SSC for continued production and sustainment. Frequent communications will ensure a smooth transfer to SSC and transition to the warfighter, providing lasting and scalable growth in vital capacity for the USSF SCN.