



National Reconnaissance Office Release

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Release #11-23

Dec. 5, 2023

NRO Awards Commercial Electro-Optical Capabilities Contracts

CHANTILLY, Va. – The National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) today announced the award of five Strategic Commercial Enhancements (SCE) contracts to assess and leverage commercial electro-optical (EO) capabilities. Companies receiving awards under NRO’s SCE Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) Framework include Airbus U.S. Space and Defense, Albedo Space, Hydrosat, Muon Space, and Turion Space.

"The commercial EO market continues to expand with new capabilities and new providers," said NRO Director Dr. Chris Scolese. "We are excited to continue our work with mission partners and the user community to continually explore new providers and emerging capabilities so we can deliver first-class commercial EO solutions today and well into the future."

In May 2022, NRO established the Electro-Optical Commercial Layer (EOCL) contract with awards to BlackSky, Maxar, and Planet Labs. EOCL is the largest commercial imagery contract effort ever awarded by NRO and is an operational subscription-type contract based on validated Intelligence Community and Department of Defense requirements. Comparatively, these SCE BAA commercial EO capabilities contracts are smaller in scope, are designed to assess emerging providers and capabilities, and intended to leverage those capabilities to meet mission needs.

These assessments are completed through a two-stage effort. The first stage focuses on analytic studies to provide estimates of system capabilities at both the individual sensor and constellation levels, as well as business and cybersecurity planning. The second stage focuses on assessing on-orbit capabilities and procuring data products.

"Combined with EOCL and our previous SCE radar, radio frequency, and hyperspectral imaging contracts, these contracts continue NRO’s historic expansion of the acquisition of commercial data," said Pete Muend, director of the NRO’s commercial systems program office. "It also continues to demonstrate our commitment to meet increasing customer demands with greater commercial capacity than ever before."

These awards follow six SCE contracts for commercial hyperspectral imaging awarded in March 2023, six commercial radio frequency remote sensing contracts awarded in September 2022, and five commercial radar contracts in January 2022.

The SCE BAAs build on NRO's earlier successful contracts. They create additional opportunities to expand NRO's commitment to rapid acquisition and commercial space-based data integration.

Learn more at [NRO.gov](https://www.nro.gov)

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