



## **AFWERX Announces Hera Systems Among Top Teams Selected to exhibit at *EngageSpace* (September 29-30) The Premier Event for the Space Industry**

**San Jose, California, September 11, 2020** – [AFWERX](#), the catalyst for fostering innovation within the U.S. Air Force, announced [Hera Systems](#) as one of the 178 top participating teams selected from The AFWERX Space Challenge initiative to exhibit at [EngageSpace](#), a virtual two-day event on September 29-30.

The AFWERX Space Challenge initiative is made up of four challenges targeted at creating integrated space operations leveraging the best in technology while maintaining security, being resilient and increasing agility. Four challenges were run concurrently focused on separate topics – Persistent ISR, DoD Commercial Space Partnerships, Global Space Transport and Delivery and Space Asset Resiliency.

Located in San Jose, California, Hera Systems is competing in the **Persistent ISR, DoD Commercial Space Partnerships, and Space Asset Resiliency** Space Challenges alongside a diverse group of teams that represent entrepreneurial startups, small businesses, large enterprises, academic institutions and research labs.

“The solutions submitted for these space challenges represent the bleeding edge of space innovation,” stated Brennan Townley, AFWERX Challenge Collaboration Lead. “We’re excited to highlight these innovators and connect them with opportunities across the Space ecosystem.”

The **Persistent ISR Challenge** strives to bring together the existing and future technology solutions to create a comprehensive Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) system that spans the globe.

In response, the “**Low Cost Proliferated Sub-meter ISR Telescope Manufacturing**” solution proposed by Hera Systems plans to demonstrate the significant time and cost reductions achievable through use of 3-D printing

technologies in fabricating precision ISR optical components, currently the long lead item in payload manufacturing. Such an approach will address rapid constellation replenishment needs and support a three-year capability refresh of Space capabilities.

The **DoD Commercial Space Partnerships Challenge** strives to identify cutting-edge commercial satellite technology and uncover new payload ideas, designs, and prototypes to expand the DoD's capabilities.

**“Power System Resiliency”**, the solution proposed by Hera Systems, focuses on strengthening mission power safety, resiliency, and endurance through the use of zero-volt tolerant battery technology and associated autonomous power management improvements.

The **Space Asset Resiliency Challenge** strives to increase the longevity of our space assets by increasing their durability against the unique space environment and enemy threats.

**“Resilient and Deceptive Communications”**, proposed by Hera Systems, tackles the fighting satcom/PNT resiliency problem in a nanosatellite environment, incorporating frequency diversity in highly reliable C2 and data downlink hardware, supplemented by frequency-agile anti-jamming, deception capability and unjammable GPS for PNT assurance. Such techniques are currently associated with much larger and more expensive spacecraft. This approach highlights the potential for very small satellites to respond to space threats and improve mission resiliency, trusted autonomy, and endurance.

The *EngageSpace* event will feature highly engaging opportunities to connect, educate and innovate with other like-minded attendees, industry leaders, individual innovators, academia, investors, as well as military and government leaders. The entire event is designed to transform and accelerate the industry, and enable government buyers to pursue the most promising innovative solutions to the most pressing and threatening Space scenarios.

Register for the **EngageSpace** event by visiting <https://engage.space>

*“We are honored to have three of our solutions selected for this prestigious event, which reflects the importance of the development work that our team is undertaking,” stated Roger Roberts, Hera Systems CEO. “Our innovations highlight the potential of nanosatellites to fulfill key roles in future Space capabilities supporting the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force mission.”*

## **ABOUT Hera Systems**

Founded in 2013, [Hera Systems](#) is a U.S. new space company dedicated to redefining the standards for Earth observation systems for government and enterprise use. Hera Systems is building a highly-customizable geospatial intelligence platform for use in

Very Low Earth Orbit (VLEO) constellations of up to 50 nanosatellites, providing 10-minute revisit over specific regions of interest. Our patented 1HOPSat™ design supports the acquisition of 50cm frame imagery and video, on-board AI processing techniques, and flexible communication modes to provide near real-time intelligence alerts directly to the warfighter. We are working closely with major industry partners to incorporate proven activity-based intelligence (ABI) models to empower customized, mission-specific solutions.

Innovative approaches developed by Hera Systems accelerate the transition of key Space infrastructure to nanosatellite-based solutions, led by their potential for low cost, rapid deployment and autonomous, agile operating capabilities.

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## **ABOUT AFWERX**

Established in 2017, [AFWERX](#) is a product of the U.S. Air Force, directly envisioned by former Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson. Her vision of AFWERX — to solve some of the toughest challenges that the Air Force faces through innovation and collaboration amongst our nation's top subject matter experts. AFWERX serves as a catalyst to unleash new approaches for the warfighter through a growing ecosystem of innovators. AFWERX and the U.S. Air Force are committed to exploring viable solutions and partnerships to further strengthen the Air Force, which could lead to additional prototyping, R&D, and follow-on production contracts.

*Fast Company* named AFWERX [Best Workplaces for Innovators](#) on the 2020 List, honoring the top 100 businesses and organizations that demonstrate a deep commitment to encouraging innovation at all levels. AFWERX, U.S. Air Force's innovation arm and catalyst for fostering innovation within the Air Force, came in at #16 ranking in the top 20 alongside brands such as Microsoft, Google, and Amazon. [Preview the live announcement](#) with Stephanie Mehta, Editor-in-Chief of *Fast Company*, unveiled during the AFWERX Fusion 2020 Base of the Future Event & Showcase.

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