



XPRIZE
WILDFIRE



GORDON AND BETTY
MOORE
FOUNDATION

A large, vertical image of a wildfire with bright orange and yellow flames rising from a dark forest. The text 'END DESTRUCTIVE WILDFIRES' is overlaid in white outline font.

END DESTRUCTIVE WILDFIRES

FINALIST TEAMS BOOK 2026

AUTONOMOUS WILDFIRE RESPONSE

MAY 2026

**THE BREAKTHROUGH
TECHNOLOGIES AND
INNOVATORS DRIVING
PROGRESS IN XPRIZE
WILDFIRE HAVE THE
POTENTIAL TO TRANSFORM
COMMUNITY PROTECTION,
STRENGTHEN SUPPORT
FOR FIRST RESPONDERS,
AND BRING US TOGETHER
IN SERVING OUR PLANET.**

- Sumeet Singh | Chief Executive Officer and EVP, Energy Delivery
Pacific Gas and Electric Company

PRIZE OVERVIEW

Around the world, wildfires are increasing in intensity, frequency, and destruction, and innovation to detect and manage wildfire events has not kept pace with the mounting challenges. Often, wildfires start in hard-to-reach areas and are fueled by climate change-related extreme weather events, such as severe droughts, extreme winds, and heatwaves. As more people move into wildfire-prone areas, the risk of ignition and impacts on human life and infrastructure increase tremendously. Current detection and delivery of resources are often too slow, insufficiently coordinated, and not precise enough, leading to delayed responses and risk of wildfires becoming destructive.

XPRIZE Wildfire is a 4-year, \$11M competition incentivizing the innovation of firefighting technologies that will end destructive wildfires so that humanity and beneficial wildfire can safely co-exist. The prize aims to transform current wildfire management approaches through the development of new technologies that can rapidly and accurately detect, characterize, and respond to wildfires before they become destructive.

The \$5M Autonomous Wildfire Response Track will transform how fires are managed and fought. The winning team will have 10 minutes to autonomously detect and suppress a high-risk fire in a 1000 Km², environmentally challenging area, leaving any decoy fires untouched.

Additionally, the **\$1M Lockheed Martin Accurate Detection & Intelligence Bonus Prize** will be awarded to one or more eligible teams participating in the Autonomous Wildfire Response track whose competition entries successfully demonstrate accurate, precise, and rapid detection.

These innovations seek a 4x gain in current best practices—shortening the time between detection and rapid response to inform management practices and minimize negative impacts.

Contact the XPRIZE Wildfire team at wildfire@xprize.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS **05**

FINALIST TEAM PROFILES **06**

Anduril 07

AURA Foresight 09

DRYAD 11

Wildfire Quest 13

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

XPRIZE Wildfire is offered in partnership with Co-Title Sponsors Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E), Presenting Sponsor Minderoo Foundation, Bonus Prize Sponsor Lockheed Martin, and Supporting Sponsors Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Costa Navarino, American Family Insurance, Fairfax Financial, the Roddenberry Foundation, and individual benefactors.

Learn more about our [Sponsors](#).

JUDGES

An esteemed, independent panel of judges—comprising wildland firefighters, technical experts, and wildfire researchers—evaluates team performance at each milestone of the competition. Selected through a rigorous vetting process, the judges bring deep expertise in areas like fire science, remote sensing, autonomous systems, and emergency response.

At every stage, they review materials and test results, scoring each solution against criteria defined in the Competition Guidelines and Rules & Regulations. They are tasked with identifying the most promising technologies to detect and suppress destructive wildfires—safely, quickly, and autonomously. Their decisions are final and grounded in fairness, scientific rigor, and real-world relevance.

Meet the [Judging Panel](#).

ADVISORY BOARD

The XPRIZE Wildfire Advisory Board is a global group of experts spanning wildfire science, climate resilience, emergency management, Indigenous knowledge, conservation, and advanced technologies. These thought leaders play a critical role in shaping the prize, helping to guide and support the competition to ensure real-world relevance and impact.

Meet the [Advisory Board](#).

XPRIZE Wildfire would also like to offer special thanks to our [partners](#), who have lent their invaluable expertise and support to XPRIZE Wildfire and the competing teams. Your generous guidance has made an incredible impact on XPRIZE and our mission, and we are deeply appreciative of your ongoing commitment to helping us end destructive wildfires.



XPRIZE
WILDFIRE



PG&E
LONDON AND BETTY
MOORE
FOUNDATION

WILDFIRE FINALIST TEAMS

AUTONOMOUS WILDFIRE RESPONSE

MAY 2026



ANDURIL

AUTONOMOUS WILDFIRE RESPONSE

COMPANY OVERVIEW

TEAM / COMPANY NAME

Anduril

LOCATION

Costa Mesa, CA, USA

FUNDRAISING DETAILS

CONSORTIUM

(Not Specified)

COMMERCIAL STAGE

Prototype System Verified

INVESTMENT STAGE

Series G



COMPANY DESCRIPTION

Anduril is a defense technology company founded in 2017, combining Silicon Valley talent with veteran experience to develop software-defined solutions for critical missions. With over 8,000 employees in offices worldwide, Anduril is at the forefront of designing software and hardware solutions that merge autonomy with commercial technologies. The company is dedicated to R&D, rapidly deploying AI/ML capabilities, and has established a track record of delivering integrated solutions in operational settings.

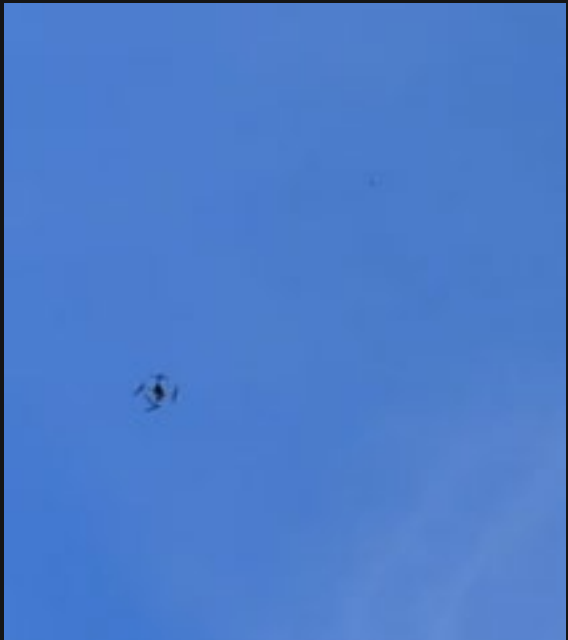
The Anduril team is focused on deploying the Lattice OS core—a platform harnessing sensor fusion and workflow automation. This group is adept in data-driven operations, MLOps, and secure computing, leveraging commercial tech against real-world challenges. Open to partnerships, Anduril aims to contribute Lattice OS to the XPRIZE Wildfire challenge, offering an AI-enabled, open platform that promotes rapid prototyping, prevents data lock-in, and facilitates third-party innovation for dynamic command and control solutions.

CORE INNOVATION

Anduril's solution integrates advanced AI and machine learning through a software-defined, hardware-enabled approach. The Lattice software platform uses advanced algorithms, machine learning, and computer vision to process real-time data from a network of integrated sensors and devices. This enables predictive modeling and automated wildfire response. Sentry Towers, equipped with state-of-the-art sensors and AI analytics, continuously monitor for early signs of wildfires and provide real-time alerts and precise location information. Ghost-X enhances detection and provides early suppression capability through aerial reconnaissance, delivering close-up situational awareness and reducing false positives. Lattice OS's open architecture promotes rapid prototyping, prevents vendor and data lock-in, and supports third-party innovation and enterprise-wide iteration.

CORE TEAM MEMBERS

- Palmer Luckey: Founder of Anduril
- Deji Gbade-Alabi: Project Director
- Jackson Luce: Senior Manager, Mechanical Engineering
- Taha Shamshudin: Test and Evaluation Lead



AURA FORESIGHT

AUTONOMOUS WILDFIRE RESPONSE

MAY 2026

COMPANY OVERVIEW

TEAM / COMPANY NAME

AURA Foresight

LOCATION

United Kingdom & Australia

FUNDRAISING DETAILS

CONSORTIUM

Fire Foresight, Indicium Dynamics, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, Little Place Labs, Robotic Cats, Taz, Drone Solutions, University of Bristol, University of Sheffield

COMMERCIAL STAGE

Integrated Pilot System Demonstrated

INVESTMENT STAGE

Pre-Seed



COMPANY DESCRIPTION

AURA Foresight is a cross-continental wildfire technology team bringing together AURA from the UK (University of Bristol, University of Sheffield, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service), and Fire Foresight from Australia (Indicium Dynamics, Robotics Cats, and Taz Drone Solutions).

The team combines talent, technology, and field expertise from the UK and Australia. Using commercial off-the-shelf heavy-lift UAVs, AURA Foresight is developing a fast-moving aerial response system designed to deliver targeted suppression payloads to ignition points and fire edges.

CORE INNOVATION

AURA Foresight is a next-generation wildfire intelligence and response system that fuses fixed ground sensors, AI, and autonomous drone swarms into a single continuous “detect–verify–act” chain, delivering intervention in minutes rather than hours across landscapes of up to 1,000 km. Instead of relying on delayed satellite passes or human reports, high-resolution optical and thermal cameras watch the landscape continuously and feed an AI engine that filters out false positives and pinpoints likely ignitions with precise geolocation. Verified alerts automatically trigger autonomous missions by commercial off the shelf UAVs: first for close-range assessment with live RGB/IR video, then for targeted suppression using modular payloads delivered by heavy lift drones directly to ignition points and fire edges. This tight integration of real-time situational awareness, AI triage, and autonomous suppression, on affordable, widely available platforms makes AURAForesight a uniquely practical way for agencies and landowners to move from passive monitoring to proactive, automated first response.

CORE TEAM MEMBERS

- Dr. Georgios Tzoumas: Team Lead, (U. Bristol), Swarm Intelligence for Firefighting
- Mr Rob Vernon: Team Lead (Fire Foresight)
- Prof. Sabine Hauert: Team Lead (U. Bristol), Professor of Swarm Engineering
- Prof. Tom Richardson: Drone Operations (U. Bristol), Professor of Aerial Robotics
- Mr. Yinan Shi: Drone Engineer (U. Bristol)
- Mr. Kilian Meier: Drone Engineer (U. Bristol)
- Mr. Edouard Rolland: Drone field deployment
- Ms. Tilly Evans: Drone Engineer (U. Bristol)
- Prof. Lyudmila Mihaylova: Computer Vision Lead (U. Sheffield)
- Mr. Aditya Mahendra Shrikhande: Computer Vision Engineer (U. Sheffield)
- Mr. James Bray: Computer Vision Engineer (U. Sheffield)
- Mr. Tim Murrell: Firefighting Advisor (Lancashire Fire and Rescue)
- Mr. Mark Cookson: Firefighting / Drone Ops (Lancashire Fire and Rescue)
- Mr Mike Ross: Orchestration Platform (Fire Foresight)
- Mr Brad Hamilton: Engineering and Computer Vision Lead (Fire Foresight)
- Mr Terungwa Ayerhan: Computer Vision Engineer (Fire Foresight)
- Mr Harry Fiotakis: Physical Systems Lead (Fire Foresight)

Georgios Tzoumas

Georgios.tzoumas@bristol.ac.uk

Rob Vernon

rob@indicium-dynamics.com.au

aura-xprize.com

fireforesight.com



DRYAD

AUTONOMOUS WILDFIRE RESPONSE

COMPANY OVERVIEW

TEAM / COMPANY NAME

DRYAD

LOCATION

Eberswalde, Germany

FUNDRAISING DETAILS

CONSORTIUM

Dryan Networks GmbH

COMMERCIAL STAGE

UAV: Prototype System Verified;
Sensors; Full Commercial Deployment

INVESTMENT STAGE

Series B



COMPANY DESCRIPTION

Dryad is an environmental IoT startup founded in 2020, based in Berlin. Its mission is to develop technologies that protect people, wildlife and infrastructure from destructive wildfires. The fully industrialized Dryad Silvanet system includes AI-enabled and solar-powered gas sensors to detect wildfires as early as the smoldering phase and relay data and alerts over a solar-powered mesh network infrastructure embedded in the forest. Paired with the already demonstrated Silvaguard reconnaissance UAV and suppression UAVs, Dryad offers a comprehensive solution aiming to detect, locate, and extinguish wildfires within minutes from ignition.

CORE INNOVATION

Silvanet is a large-scale, distributed sensor network designed for ultra-early wildfire detection and continuous health monitoring of forests, featuring a central analytics and alerting platform. The wireless sensors are solar-powered, detecting forest fires with embedded AI using gas sensors and measuring temperature, humidity and air pressure. Silvanet detects fires in minutes from ignition, as early as the smoldering phase. By providing such drastically improved reaction times, the response of the autonomous Silvaguard reconnaissance and suppression drones is quick and effective. The Silvaguard reconnaissance drone launches from its solar-powered hangar and precisely locates and confirms the fire detected by the Silvanet sensor system. In a final phase, the Silvaguard suppression drone is launched to drop a liquid payload on the fire before it spreads.

CORE TEAM MEMBERS

- Akhil Chandran: Research Engineer
- Benoit Vitoux: Head of Design
- Daniel Hollos: Embedded Software Lead
- Hannes Breul: Staff Software Engineer
- Jurgen Muller: Lead Researcher
- Martin Materne: Mechatronics Engineer
- Pedro Silva: CTO
- Wolfgang Pfnur: Lead Cloud Engineer



WILDFIRE QUEST

AUTONOMOUS WILDFIRE RESPONSE

COMPANY OVERVIEW

TEAM / COMPANY NAME

Wildfire Quest

LOCATION

San Jose, CA, USA

FUNDRAISING DETAILS

CONSORTIUM

Kaizen Aerospace, SensorRy AI, Valley Christian High School

COMMERCIAL STAGE

Prototype System Verified

INVESTMENT STAGE

Pre-Seed



COMPANY DESCRIPTION

Based in the heart of Silicon Valley, Team Wildfire Quest is a student-led engineering team from Valley Christian High School (VCHS), working in close collaboration with technology partners SensorRy AI and Kaizen Aerospace™. United by a shared passion for solving the global challenge of wildfires, the team is dedicated to developing innovative, autonomous solutions that protect communities, ecosystems, and wildlife.

As one of seven VCHS teams to compete in an XPRIZE competition, Wildfire Quest is determined to build upon—and surpass—the legacy of previous teams, including Ocean Quest, winners of the \$800,000 NOAA Bonus Prize and the youngest XPRIZE Finalists in history. Since its founding, Wildfire Quest has successfully developed a working prototype under the guidance of industry professionals, including team advisors, corporate partners, fire department chiefs, and subject-matter experts.

CORE INNOVATION

Wildfire Quest is revolutionizing wildfire response by delivering an autonomous and precision-driven modular system designed for accessibility and scalability. Developed in partnership with technology leaders SensorRy AI and Kaizen Aerospace™, the platform integrates advanced detection, navigation, and suppression capabilities to combat wildfires at their earliest and most critical stages.

SensorRy AI contributes its award-winning multi-sensor detectors, capable of identifying incipient wildfires from multiple kilometers away and reporting them within minutes. Leveraging patented edge-AI, sensor fusion enables simultaneous detection of multiple signatures of fire (flame, smoke and heat). A unique Thermofluids approach enables detecting fires even without line-of-sight, and instant communication of fire coordinates. SensorRy AI detectors have a small form-factor and create a wireless mesh sensor network enabling deployment in any terrain. With support from Orange County Fire Authority, this system has gone through numerous field tests with fires and deployed in Orange County.

Kaizen Aerospace™ brings proven expertise in heavy-lift autonomous drone technology, with aircraft capable of carrying payloads of up to 1,000 pounds. Powered by AI-driven mission navigation through its xNav™ system, Kaizen™ provides essential flight technology, system integration, and operational experience to support rapid, reliable aerial suppression for Wildfire Quest.

By incorporating machine learning, coordinated drone operations through QuestUTM, and an expandable foam suppression system, Wildfire Quest delivers a highly adaptive solution capable of detecting, responding to, and extinguishing wildfires with minimal human intervention.

CORE TEAM MEMBERS

Valley Christian High School Core Student Team: Jaylyn Chong, Jacob Moses, Olivia Ahn, Felicia Guo, Yul Sung, Arissa Cao, Vishnu Parthasarathy, Dhriti Vaghela, Megha Arora, Nived Sudhakar, and Keshav Satagopan — with each student playing a critical role in the team's solution's development and execution. **Alumni Advisors:** Aarna Nair and Omkar Tasgaonkar. **VCS Educational/Technical Mentors:** Danny Kim, Stephen Huber, Emeka Okekeocha, Nathaniel Grady, and Chris Garcia, along with VCS R&D contractors: Bill Mania and Cory Duce. Jeff Barton, Fire & EMS Program Manager, South Bay Regional Public Safety Training Consortium, Stewart Roth, Director, South Bay Regional Training Fire Academy, Brad Cloutier, Battalion Chief, San Jose Fire Department

Kaizen Aerospace™: Ziv Marom, CEO; Maxim Eshkenazi, CTO; Sivansh Agrawal & Thejas Aradhya, Aerospace Engineers.

SensorRy AI: Ryan Honary, Founder, primary inventor and patent holder. Professor Pirouz Kavehpour, UCLA Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering Department, Science and Research Mentor. Captain Jeff Shelton, Wildfire Behavioral Specialist - Orange County Fire Authority, Advisor.

Danny Kim

dkim@vcs.net

vcs.net/amse-xprize/wildfire



XPRIZE
WILDFIRE



GORDON AND BETTY
MOORE
FOUNDATION

END DESTRUCTIVE WILDFIRES

ABOUT XPRIZE

XPRIZE is the recognized global leader in designing and executing large-scale competitions to solve humanity's greatest challenges. For over 30 years, our unique model has democratized crowd-sourced innovation and scientifically scalable solutions that accelerate a more equitable and abundant future. Donate, learn more, and co-architect a world of abundance with us at xprize.org.

Contact the XPRIZE Wildfire team at wildfire@xprize.org

Join the movement XPRIZE.org/wildfire

