



XPRIZE
WILDFIRE



GORDON AND BETTY
MOORE
FOUNDATION

END DESTRUCTIVE WILDFIRES

An aerial photograph showing a large wildfire burning in a hilly, forested area. To the left, a city with a grid-like street pattern is visible. The fire is bright orange and yellow, with thick smoke rising from it. The terrain is rugged and appears to be a mix of forest and open land.

FINALIST TEAMS BOOK 2025

SPACE-BASED DETECTION & INTELLIGENCE

SEPTEMBER 2025

**WE ALL KNOW THE
RISKS OF WILDFIRE,
AND WE NEED
INNOVATIVE AND
PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS.
THESE ADVANCING
TEAMS ARE PUTTING
THE SOLUTIONS WE
NEED INTO ACTION.**

- Genny Biggs | Program Director of the Wildfire Resilience Initiative at
the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

PRIZE OVERVIEW

Around the world, wildfires are increasing in intensity, frequency, and destruction — yet innovation to detect and manage wildfire events has not kept pace with the mounting challenges. Wildfires often 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, \$11 million 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 winning technology in the **Space-Based Wildfire Detection and Intelligence Track**, presented by The Minderoo Foundation, will address the greatest barrier to how we currently fight fires by rapidly and accurately detecting all fires across a vast and remote area, and transmitting data to ground stations. Teams may use space-based sensors, AI, machine learning, and other technologies to expedite space-based detection of incipient wildfires across landscapes larger than states. The winning team will accurately detect and precisely characterize all fires 10m² in size and smaller, toward 1m², and report with the least false positives to decision-makers on the ground within ten minutes.

Contact the XPRIZE Wildfire team at wildfire@xprize.org

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WILDFIRE
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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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.

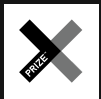
Meet the [Judging Panel](#).

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**



**GORDON AND BETTY
MOORE
FOUNDATION**

WILDFIRE **SPACE-BASED** **FINALIST TEAMS**

SPACE-BASED DETECTION & INTELLIGENCE

SEPTEMBER 2025

COMPANY OVERVIEW

TEAM / COMPANY NAME

DeepFire

LOCATION

Baton Rouge, LA, USA

FUNDRAISING DETAILS

CONSORTIUM

LSU

COMMERCIAL STAGE

Prototype System Verified

INVESTMENT STAGE

Pre-seed

DEEPFIRE

COMPANY DESCRIPTION

Based in Baton Rouge, LA since 2019. Aims to predict and detect wildfire early to enable effective suppression.

CORE INNOVATION

AI-based wildfire prediction and detection systems that interact—detection generates predictive risk maps, which then feed back into the prediction module to enable forecasting of danger level, fire speed, and spread. Uses 20 features (e.g., wind speed, lightning) with scientific/operational knowledge; outputs inform risk analysis and resource allocation

CORE TEAM MEMBERS

- Dylan Wichman
- Supratik Mukhopadhyay
- Richard Barbalace
- Matt Braun, Noah Rahman

COMPANY OVERVIEW

TEAM / COMPANY NAME

Ember Guard

LOCATION

Palo Alto, CA, USA

FUNDRAISING DETAILS

CONSORTIUM

Rhombus Power Inc.

COMMERCIAL STAGE

Full Commercial Deployment

INVESTMENT STAGE

N/A

EMBER GUARD

COMPANY DESCRIPTION

Founded in Stanford Research Park, Palo Alto, in 2012. Mission: to provide AI-powered, real-time predictive decision support. Key milestones: USAF sole-sourced, multiple projects with COCOMs/allied nations on intelligence & defense.

CORE INNOVATION

All-source AI-derived insights from satellites, social media, ground sensor networks, and weather data. Infrastructure built for scalable, multi-cloud GPU inferencing and HPC with 99% uptime. Core: AI models, remote sensing, data curation, infrastructure scaling.

CORE TEAM MEMBERS

- Ahvish Roy
- Sangram Ganguly
- Anshuman Roy
- Sungho Choi
- Hanbin Kwak
- Goutham GVS
- Aiswarya Jonnalagadda
- Tirthajyoti Sarkar
- Sarah Cowan
- Ramakrishna Nemani

Ahvish Roy
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COMPANY OVERVIEW

TEAM / COMPANY NAME

Fire Eye

LOCATION

Hillsboro, OR, USA

FUNDRAISING DETAILS

CONSORTIUM

AKTEMI

COMMERCIAL STAGE

Integrated Pilot System Demonstrated

INVESTMENT STAGE

Pre-seed

FIRE EYE

COMPANY DESCRIPTION

HQ in Oregon; launched 2023. Mission to improve first responder capabilities and prevent catastrophic losses from natural disasters. Pilot system ready.

CORE INNOVATION

Trinater platform: data assimilation from varied sources, wildfire detection, and dissemination into CAD systems for first responders. Proactive high-risk zone marking for prevention and monitoring..

CORE TEAM MEMBERS

- Dr Amandeep Premi: leader, plus a team with decades of algorithm and scientific innovation experience.

Amandeep Premi
contact@aktemi.com
aktemi.com

COMPANY OVERVIEW

TEAM / COMPANY NAME

Generative Intelligence

LOCATION

Andalusia, Spain

FUNDRAISING DETAILS

CONSORTIUM

Machine Intelligence Solutions, (plus ongoing advanced negotiations with satellite providers)

COMMERCIAL STAGE

Prototype System Verified

INVESTMENT STAGE

Pre-Seed

GENERATIVE INTELLIGENCE

COMPANY DESCRIPTION

Headquartered in Andalusia, Spain, the company was founded in 2018 following the founder's childhood experience with wildfires. Generative Intelligence is developing AI-powered wildfire detection in collaboration with satellite partners and has been recognized with a NASA Centennial Challenge award.

CORE INNOVATION

AI techniques adapted from medical imaging that are good at detecting "needle-in-haystack" anomalies; scaled to wildfire detection for high accuracy and low false positives.

CORE TEAM MEMBERS

- Lucas Gago: Founder & CEO
- Ignas van Megen: Senior AI Architect, 30 yr exp
- Miguel Ángel Fernández González: Computational Physicist & AI programmer
- Dr Justin Engelmann: ML expert with Nature publications; AI consultant

Lucas Gago
lucas@generativeintel.com
generativeintel.com

COMPANY OVERVIEW

TEAM / COMPANY NAME
Mayday.ai (Guardian Space)

LOCATION
Darmstadt, Germanyh

FUNDRAISING DETAILS

CONSORTIUM
N/A

COMMERCIAL STAGE
Full Commercial Deployment

INVESTMENT STAGE
Series A

MAYDAY AI (GUARDIAN SPACE)

COMPANY DESCRIPTION

Founded in 2021 and headquartered in Darmstadt, Germany, Mayday.AI is revolutionizing disaster/risk intelligence through its Guardian Platform, which detects and monitors 21 types of disasters in real-time — offering free services via the LEONA Foundation alongside paid services for industry clients.

CORE INNOVATION

Physics of light-informed algorithms, cloud masking, multimodal AI via data fusion for ultra-fast, accurate global detection (wildfires + floods). Global dynamic risk mapping at parcel level; efficient AI engine. Recognized through successful pilots.

CORE TEAM MEMBERS

- Kian Mirshahi
- Jim Carr
- Richard Sprout
- Brendon McAttee

COMPANY OVERVIEW

TEAM / COMPANY NAME

MyRadar

LOCATION

Orlando, FL, USA

FUNDRAISING DETAILS

CONSORTIUM

MyRadar

COMMERCIAL STAGE

Prototype System Verified

INVESTMENT STAGE

N/A

MYRADAR

COMPANY DESCRIPTION

MyRadar, based in Orlando, was founded in 2008 with the mission of democratizing environmental intelligence. MyRadar is now serving over 15 million annual users and has generated over \$60 million in lifetime revenue.

CORE INNOVATION

Accelerates entire alerting stack from detection to decision.

CORE TEAM MEMBERS

- Sarvesh Garimella: software/hardware
- Simon Imanyfar: software
- Douglas Franz: software/hardware
- Paul Kocyla: hardware
- Omar Sharaf: hardware

COMPANY OVERVIEW

TEAM / COMPANY NAME

Orbital Sidekick

LOCATION

San Francisco, CA, USA

FUNDRAISING DETAILS

CONSORTIUM

N/A

COMMERCIAL STAGE

Full Commercial Deployment

INVESTMENT STAGE

Series A

ORBITAL SIDEKICK

COMPANY DESCRIPTION

Founded in 2016 by Dan Katz (CEO) and Tushar Prabhakar (COO). Focuses on energy, mining, and government clients.

CORE INNOVATION

Uses potassium emission filter to detect biomatter combustion; hyperspectral data to characterize environmental context.

CORE TEAM MEMBERS

- Jennifer Buz
- Sarah Power
- Connor McCurly
- Alicia Williams
- Matt Wingard
- Daniel Ale

Jennifer Buz
ennifer@orbitalsidekick.com
orbitalsidekick.com

COMPANY OVERVIEW

TEAM / COMPANY NAME

vvvvvvv Fire Team

LOCATION

Melbourne, Australia

FUNDRAISING DETAILS

CONSORTIUM

RMIT University, Covey

COMMERCIAL STAGE

N/A

INVESTMENT STAGE

N/A

REDBACK FIRE TEAM

COMPANY DESCRIPTION

Redback Fire Team is a university-based remote sensing team of experts from RMIT, with extensive experience in real-time EO fire detection and attribution products..

CORE INNOVATION

Synoptic real-time operational geostationary wildfire detection product in Australia (hosted by Geoscience Australia); working to scale globally.

CORE TEAM MEMBERS

- Simon Jones
- Karin Reinke
- James Hilton
- Mark Robey
- Konstantinos Chatzopoulos Vouzoglanis
- Nur Fajar Trihantoro
- Mariela Soto-Berelov

COMPANY OVERVIEW

TEAM / COMPANY NAME
SIRIUS Wildfire Alliance

LOCATION
London, UK

FUNDRAISING DETAILS

CONSORTIUM

Spinthir Designs Ltd (UK), Pinepeak Ltd (UK), Imperial College London (UK), University of Cambridge (UK), UNSW (Australia) and independent researchers/professionals.

COMMERCIAL STAGE

Integrated Pilot System Demonstrated

INVESTMENT STAGE

Pre-seed

SIRIUS WILDFIRE ALLIANCE

COMPANY DESCRIPTION

SIRIUS Wildfire Alliance is comprised of researchers, engineers, and fire managers from the UK, Australia and Italy. The Alliance combines satellite tech, detection algorithms, forecast models, risk assessment, and dashboards to support emergency management.

CORE INNOVATION

Integrates fast detection, physics-based spread/forecast modeling (Pinepeak), and decision-support dashboards, using Earth observations and data fusion from multiple satellite providers.

CORE TEAM MEMBERS

- Dr Andrea Giusti
- Prof Epaminondas Mastorakos
- Dr Savvas Gkantonas
- Dr Daniel Fredrich
- Prof Linlin Ge
- Ting Bai, Patrick Du
- Ziheng Sheng
- Dr Henry Zhong
- Lt. Col. Edoardo Cavalieri d'Oro

Andrea Giusti

a.giusti@imperial.ac.uk

www.linkedin.com/showcase/sirius-wildfire-alliance

COMPANY OVERVIEW

TEAM / COMPANY NAME

Snuffed

LOCATION

Flagstaff, AZ, USA

FUNDRAISING DETAILS

CONSORTIUM

Northern Arizona University, Solaris Sub-orbital, Snuffed Wildfire Technology LLC

COMMERCIAL STAGE

N/A

INVESTMENT STAGE

Pre-seed

SNUFFED

COMPANY DESCRIPTION

Snuffed is a Flagstaff-based non-profit founded in April 2025 to drive locally-driven wildfire innovation and resilience.

CORE INNOVATION

RedFlag Defense: real-time aerial early warning via persistent monitoring using Solaris high-altitude sub-orbital platform (~60,000 ft, 2-month duration) for region-wide, video-grade monitoring; enabling first responders.

CORE TEAM MEMBERS

- Cody Hartman
- David Trilling
- Mike Felts
- Marc Cooper
- Christopher Edwards
- Allie Shenkin
- Tina Ching
- Mike Allen
- Caleb Cordasco
- Jason Field
- Christine Mares
- Colton Campbell

Cody Hartman

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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](https://xprize.org/wildfire)



SPACE-BASED