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-- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE --

Saber Astronautics wins US DoD contract for 'Sentinel', a space threat detection system

14th March 2022

Boulder, Colorado USA -- Saber Astronautics received a United States Air Force (USAF) Phase II Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) contract bringing its automated space domain awareness tool, Sentinel, into live operations.

Sentinel will be a key tool managing space traffic in both military and defence as logistical challenges exponentially grow. The number of working satellites in space has doubled in the last three years to 7,500, it is projected to reach 40,000 by the end of the decade. Both civil and military space sectors are yet to see an end-to-end space traffic management system in the market, Sentinel is the first step in establishing such a system.

"The logistical challenge is not just to say where these objects are, but what they are doing", says Saber's CEO Dr Jason Held. "The military wants to be able to see threats quickly and respond to them. Civilian organisations want to be able to track, assess, and negotiate spacecraft right-of-way so they can fly safely. This is the beginning of what we see as a genuine path for space traffic management."

Sentinel provides continuous real time detection of hazardous events in space. Currently, space operators manually search and analyse data to find threats to satellites and understand them. A push toward automation with Sentinel allows operators faster response times in threat detection and greater ability to understand significant and/or abnormal behaviour.

Saber USA Director, Nathan Parrott, explains *"One of the problems USSF Guardians have been telling us is that they are drowning in alerts and are overwhelmed in a sea of data that prevents them from effectively identifying, ranking and preparing countermeasures to*

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threats. Sentinel is an automated system that puts the user's requirements first, allowing them to curate their own alert criteria that is specific to their requirements, and allowing Guardians to tune their alerts and continuously adapt them as the threat landscape evolves."

Sentinel's automated threat detection is also gaining importance in civil and commercial space traffic systems, which are evolving independently but still must liaise with their military counterparts. Civil space traffic focuses on safety of flight and deconflicting right of way for spacecraft maneuvers. The same technology will help operators understand a satellite's behavior in a flight plan– a critical capability to overcome space congestion.

Sentinel completed a USAF Phase I at the end of 2021 and was trialled during live space domain awareness exercises that are held globally with the United States Space Force (USSF).

Saber Astronautics currently uses Sentinel within the Responsive Space Operations™ (RSOC) program. The RSOC is Saber's next generation mission control center located in Colorado and Australia. Both sites combined give a follow-the-sun operational service, with spacecraft owners from the Satellite Communications and Earth Observation markets, as well as increased interest from US and Australian military, both supporting the RSOC in their host country. Sentinel will be deployed to USSF operators directly via Saber's Space Cockpit™ program and to commercial operators via the RSOC.



Saber space operators in the RSOC monitoring the space environment. Credits: Simon Casson



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About Saber Astronautics

Saber Astronautics' mission is the democratisation of space, reducing barriers to space flight, and making space as easy as driving a car. Incorporated in 2008, Saber Astronautics provides space operations, mission design services, and related software. Saber has R&D laboratories and mission control centres in the USA and Australia, being a trusted supplier to traditional space and government customers as well as NewSpace entrants worldwide.

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