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FACT SHEET

Victus Nox

The U.S. Space Force has awarded contracts to Firefly Aerospace and Boeing subsidiary Millennium Space Systems to mount a mission in 2023 called Victus Nox (Latin for "conquer the night").



The goal of the program is to bolster the United States' "responsive space" capabilities allowing for the fast deployment of satellites during a conflict.

The end-to-end mission is intended to demonstrate the United States' ability to rapidly place an asset on orbit when and where needed, ensuring Space Command can augment space capabilities with very little notice.

The first contract was awarded on Aug. 15, 2022, to Millennium Space Systems, a subsidiary of the Boeing Company. Millennium will be providing the space and ground systems for the mission, which will include the spacecraft bus, sensor payload, space vehicle integration, ground segment, and on-orbit operations.

The key aspect that Millennium will need to nail is the short response time. When the order is given they will need to run the satellite through final testing, fueling, and delivery to the launch site in a matter of hours.

Space Force plans to use Victus Nox for "space domain awareness," which is a growing priority of the military as space traffic increases in orbit. Based on that description, the mission will likely help the military find and monitor spacecraft and space debris that could pose a threat to U.S. orbital assets.

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