

URBAN AIR MOBILITY CHALLENGE

JULY-OCTOBER 2022

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Vertical Lift Consortium (VLC), the nation's leading organization rapidly transitioning innovative aviation technologies for the U.S. government, hired TechConnect to run a Challenge program to source innovative members, fund top solutions, and improve competitiveness for the nation. It aligned with over \$50B in smart mobility initiatives embedded within the nation's Infrastructure Law.

OUTCOME & RESULTS

Focusing on five key technical areas - electric vertical takeoff and landing (e-VTOL), innovative power generation and storage, data and systems situational awareness management, autonomous and collaborative behavior, and innovative air mobility capabilities and applications - TechConnect recruited 38 qualified applicants to the Challenge. Of those we invited 18 to pitch at Defense TechConnect Innovation Summit before a panel of expert judges where five received non-dilutive funding totaling \$50,000. The winners hail from Utah, Ohio, New Hampshire, and Illinois.

TESTIMONIAL

TechConnect's Air Mobility program has been instrumental in driving innovation and fostering engagement between the Vertical Lift Consortium and our customer base. For the Consortium, planning and conducting events like Air Mobility used to be a major effort, especially with the steep learning curve about the detailed aspects that events require. We find that TechConnect is a trusted partner in this planning, so that through dynamic discussions and groundbreaking insights, this platform has empowered our membership to push the boundaries of vertical lift technology as they engage with our mutual USG customers. It's a testament to the program's effectiveness in creating a collaborative environment that helps us shape the future of air mobility.

- Nick Lappos,
Vertical Lift Consortium Chairman

97%
BECAME
CONSORTIUM
MEMBERS

16%
MINORITY OWNED

5
COUNTRIES

37%
PRIOR SBIR
FUNDING

38
SUBMISSIONS

26%
TRL 3

58%
EARLY STAGE