LAS VEGAS, NV — The Consumer Technology Association (CTA) just announced earlier this week during CES® that CTA will invest $10 million in venture firms and funds focused on women, people of color and other underrepresented startups and entrepreneurs.

“To continue to evolve and grow, the tech industry needs more equal access to venture funding,” said Gary Shapiro, president and CEO, CTA. “Various research reports indicate diverse teams make better decisions and achieve greater profits. At CTA, this is one more tool we are deploying to help promote diversity in the technology industry.”

“The U.S. needs to invest in a diverse talent pool to capture great ideas and innovation and help birth more ‘unicorn’ companies,” said Tiffany Moore, senior vice president, political and industry affairs, CTA. “CTA is committed to this investment and will work with established funds and fund managers who focus on women, people of color and other underrepresented groups.”

Discover more. View the full article at bdpatoday.com.
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Air Force Launches Space Pitch Day for Start-Ups

ARLINGTON, VA (AFNS) -- The United States Air Force has long been a leader in space and a catalyst for cutting-edge technology.

But the Air Force doesn’t get there – or stay there – alone, which is why senior officers and officials, including Secretary of the Air Force Barbara Barrett, were in San Francisco Nov. 5-6 for Space Pitch Day, an event designed to find new partners, innovative technologies and products while fast-tracking development.

By the end of the two-day event, 30 pre-selected companies were awarded on-the-spot contracts with the Air Force worth a total of $22.5 million.

“We have to ‘flip the script’ on how we buy things in order to remain competitive with our adversaries and that’s what Air Force Space Pitch Day does,” said Lt. Gen. John F. Thompson, commander, Space and Missile Systems Center, Air Force Space Command and program executive officer for space, the event’s host.

“Space Pitch Day allowed us to seed strategic investment in potentially game-changing capability,” Thompson said. “It demonstrated new ways to inform Air Force strategic investments, accelerate new technology and rapidly acquire capability for our warfighter.”

As in previous Pitch Day events, the Air Force came to San Francisco with a government credit card and a desire to sign on-the-spot contracts and provide same-day payments. The event featured a two-tier reward structure, with successful companies initially eligible for contracts up to $750,000.

This version of Pitch Day also had a new feature in which some of the companies were selected to compete for more lucrative contracts.

The San Francisco event focused on finding products and technologies connected to specific goals, including:

• Early missile detection and warning
• Space situational awareness
• Space communications
• Space visualization
• Multi-domain command and control
• Data mining
• Operations within electronically contested environments
• Artificial intelligence
• Responsive launch systems
• Space logistics
• Protection of critical space assets

The event marked another example of the Air Force’s new push for reforming the way products and services are identified and bought. Supporters insist the effort is reshaping the traditional and often hidebound defense industrial complex by bringing in new partners and innovations.
BDPA, formerly known as **Black Data Processing Associates**, was established in 1975 and founded in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to promote professional growth and technical development to those in or entering information and communications technology (ICT) career fields and related industries.

Now in its 45th year (**Volume XLV**) National BDPA (NBDPA) and participating local BDPA Chapters publish daily and weekly blogs with quarterly or monthly newsletters.

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