

**UNCLASSIFIED**

**Exhibit R-2, RDT&E Budget Item Justification:** PB 2025 Air Force **Date:** March 2024

<b>Appropriation/Budget Activity</b> 3620F: <i>Research, Development, Test &amp; Evaluation, Space Force I BA 6:</i> <i>RDT&amp;E Management Support</i>	<b>R-1 Program Element (Number/Name)</b> PE 1206864SF / <i>Space Test Program (STP)</i>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

COST (\$ in Millions)	Prior Years	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025 Base	FY 2025 OCO	FY 2025 Total	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	Cost To Complete	Total Cost
Total Program Element	-	27.104	30.192	30.279	0.000	30.279	29.833	30.447	31.545	32.167	Continuing	Continuing
662617: <i>C6601Z</i>	-	27.104	30.192	30.279	0.000	30.279	29.833	30.447	31.545	32.167	Continuing	Continuing
Quantity of RDT&E Articles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		

**A. Mission Description and Budget Item Justification**

The Space Test Program (STP) executes the annual DoD Space Experiments Review Board (SERB) process and consolidates requirements from the space Science and Technology (S&T) community in order to optimize space system missions and achieve maximum benefit of available resources. STP designs and executes missions to maximize launch mass to orbit, combines multiple flight experiments on suitable spacecraft, multiple spacecraft on available launch vehicles, and facilitates launch packages for government, commercial, and international partnerships. STP provides a cost-effective way to evaluate militarily relevant space flight experiments that:

- Demonstrate on-orbit performance of new technologies to increase technology readiness level and validate research hypotheses for the S&T community
- Develop and mature future operational capabilities
- Advance operational tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) for future space and test capabilities
- Enable on-orbit experiments to support S&T
- Leverage national (e.g. DoD, commercial, and NASA) and international launch opportunities to increase space access for S&T efforts

STP supports Space Force efforts to define future system architectures that address emerging threats, enable resilient space capabilities, and employ tactical space operations to ensure freedom of operations in the space domain.

STP adheres to Executive Orders 10521 and 13185, and the requirement from the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (OUSD (R&E)) to support research, per DoD Instruction 3210.1, Administration and Support of Basic Research. In addition, the Deputy Secretary of Defense Space Test Program Management & Funding Policy, issued in July 2002, reaffirmed STP as the primary provider of spaceflight for the DoD space research community. The July 2002 policy statement also reaffirmed STP's role as the single manager for all DoD payloads on the International Space Station (ISS).

This program element may include necessary civilian pay expenses required to manage, execute, and deliver weapon system capability. The use of such program funds would be in addition to the civilian pay expenses budgeted in program elements 1206392SF and 1206398SF.

This program is in Budget Activity 6, RDT&E Management Support because this budget activity includes research, development, test and evaluation efforts and funds to sustain and/or modernize the installations or operations required for general research, development, test and evaluation.

**UNCLASSIFIED**

<b>Exhibit R-2, RDT&amp;E Budget Item Justification:</b> PB 2025 Air Force	<b>Date:</b> March 2024
----------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------

<b>Appropriation/Budget Activity</b> 3620F: <i>Research, Development, Test &amp; Evaluation, Space Force I BA 6: RDT&amp;E Management Support</i>	<b>R-1 Program Element (Number/Name)</b> PE 1206864SF / <i>Space Test Program (STP)</i>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<b>B. Program Change Summary (\$ in Millions)</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025 Base</b>	<b>FY 2025 OCO</b>	<b>FY 2025 Total</b>
Previous President's Budget	25.291	30.192	30.226	0.000	30.226
Current President's Budget	27.104	30.192	30.279	0.000	30.279
Total Adjustments	1.813	0.000	0.053	0.000	0.053
• Congressional General Reductions	0.000	0.000			
• Congressional Directed Reductions	0.000	0.000			
• Congressional Rescissions	0.000	0.000			
• Congressional Adds	0.000	0.000			
• Congressional Directed Transfers	0.000	0.000			
• Reprogrammings	0.000	0.000			
• SBIR/STTR Transfer	0.000	0.000			
• Other Adjustments	1.813	0.000	0.053	0.000	0.053

**Change Summary Explanation**

FY 2025: Decrease of \$0.008M due to realignment to higher priority.

<b>C. Accomplishments/Planned Programs (\$ in Millions)</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>
-------------------------------------------------------------	----------------	----------------	----------------

<b>Title:</b> Payload Integration	19.271	21.028	16.060
<b>Description:</b> Integrate payloads onto spaceflight missions on the full spectrum of DoD on-orbit R&D (e.g. space vehicle, free-flyer payloads, hosted payloads, etc.). Includes acquisition of associated spacecraft and integration hardware.			
<b>FY 2024 Plans:</b> Continue STP-5 planning, integration and design activities (Strontium Iodide Radiation Instrumentation III (SIRI-III), PNTOC, and Rigel payloads). Continue STPSat-8 integration and design activities (STEP 2.0 (Space Test Experiments Platform)). Conduct payload integration of STP-H9, STP-H10, and STP-28AR1. Begin design for future ISS missions. Complete satellite acquisition and integration of STPSat-7 and its ground systems. Complete STP-H11 design activities and begin integration activities. Conduct STP-S29 technical analysis and payload integration rideshare. Initiate STP Small Launch STP-S30 (every 2 yrs) Mission Unique and Integration Costs. Collaborate on technical analysis and other future missions as required. Rapidly respond to implement system resiliency and situational awareness necessary to operate in the contested space domain. Activities may include, but are not limited to program office support, studies, technical analysis, experimentation, prototyping, etc.			
<b>FY 2025 Plans:</b> Continue STP-5 planning, integration and design activities (SIRI-III and Rigel payloads). Continue STPSat-8 integration and design activities (STEP 2.0 (Space Test Experiment Platform)). Conduct payload integration of STP-S29A, STPS29B, STP-H10, STPSat-7, and STP-AR1. Begin design for future ISS missions and continue planning for ISS transition to commercial. Complete satellite acquisition and integration of STPSat-7 and its ground systems. Complete STP-H11 design activities and			

**UNCLASSIFIED**

<b>Exhibit R-2, RDT&amp;E Budget Item Justification:</b> PB 2025 Air Force		<b>Date:</b> March 2024		
<b>Appropriation/Budget Activity</b> 3620F: <i>Research, Development, Test &amp; Evaluation, Space Force I BA 6: RDT&amp;E Management Support</i>		<b>R-1 Program Element (Number/Name)</b> PE 1206864SF / <i>Space Test Program (STP)</i>		
<b>C. Accomplishments/Planned Programs (\$ in Millions)</b>		<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>
<p>begin integration activities. Conduct STP-H12 design and begin integration. Conduct STP-S30 technical analysis and payload integration rideshare. Initiate STP Small Launch STP-S31 (every 2 yrs) Mission Unique and Integration Costs. Collaborate on technical analysis and other future missions as required. Rapidly respond to implement system resiliency and situational awareness necessary to operate in the contested space domain. Activities may include, but are not limited to program office support, studies, technical analysis, experimentation, prototyping, and activities that may leverage commercial and international opportunities.</p> <p><b>FY 2024 to FY 2025 Increase/Decrease Statement:</b> FY2025 decreased due to acquisition delay of STPSat-8.</p>				
<p><b>Title:</b> Launch Vehicle and Launch Services</p> <p><b>Description:</b> Purchase launch services, launch vehicles, and launch vehicle support for the full spectrum of DoD on-orbit R&amp;D (e.g. space vehicle, free-flyer payloads, hosted payloads, etc.), enabling spaceflight worthiness and "Do No Harm" certification for Space Systems Command (SSC) and US Space Force (USSF) HQ.</p> <p><b>FY 2024 Plans:</b> Continue to Support spaceflight worthiness and "Do No Harm" Certification. Execute STP-S29A, S29B, STP S28B, S28C, and other small launch initiatives as required. Continue STP-5 medium launch initiative. Plan and complete technical analysis for commercial rideshare launch of DoD SERB experiments and International Space Access Review Board (ISARB)-approved experiments. Conduct STPSat-7 and STP-H10 launch activities, and conduct other launch activities as required.</p> <p><b>FY 2025 Plans:</b> Continue to Support spaceflight worthiness and "Do No Harm" Certification. Execute STP-S29A, STP-S29B, STP-AR1, and other small launch initiatives as required. Continue STP-5 medium launch initiative. Plan and complete technical analysis for commercial rideshare launch of DoD SERB experiments and ISARB-approved experiments. Conduct STPSat-7, STP-H10 and Transporter-10 (T-10) launch activities, and conduct other launch activities as required.</p> <p><b>FY 2024 to FY 2025 Increase/Decrease Statement:</b> FY 2025 increased due to multiple simultaneous launch activities during this year.</p>		7.057	7.164	12.690
<p><b>Title:</b> On-Orbit Satellite Operations</p> <p><b>Description:</b> Execute first-year operations and operations support for STP-sponsored missions.</p> <p><b>FY 2024 Plans:</b> Continue on-orbit operations for SPIRRAL (Space Power InfraRed Regulation and Analysis of Lifetime). Continue on-going operations for ISS payloads and DoD SERB payloads as requested. Complete Mission Operations for STP-H9, STP-S28A</p>		0.776	2.000	1.529

**UNCLASSIFIED**

<b>Exhibit R-2, RDT&amp;E Budget Item Justification:</b> PB 2025 Air Force	<b>Date:</b> March 2024
----------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------

<b>Appropriation/Budget Activity</b> 3620F: <i>Research, Development, Test &amp; Evaluation, Space Force I BA 6: RDT&amp;E Management Support</i>	<b>R-1 Program Element (Number/Name)</b> PE 1206864SF / <i>Space Test Program (STP)</i>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<b>C. Accomplishments/Planned Programs (\$ in Millions)</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>
<p>(RECURVE payload), STP-S28B (XVI payload), STP-S28C (EPIC Athena payload), STP-S28AR1, STP-27VPD (Coordinated Ionospheric Reconstruction Cubesat Experiment (CIRCE) and Experiment for Characterizing the Lower Ionosphere and Prediction of Sporadic-E (ECLIPSE) payloads). Prepare on-orbit operations for STP-H10, STP-S29A, W/V-band Satellite Communications Experiment-Transponder (WSCE-T), and STPSat-7.</p> <p><b>FY 2025 Plans:</b> Continue on-orbit operations for SPIRRAL. Continue on-going operations for ISS payloads and DoD SERB payloads as requested. Complete Mission Operations for STP-H9, STP-S28A (RECURVE payload), STP-T8 (XVI payload), STP-T10 (EPIC Athena payload), and STP-AR1. Initiate and conduct on-orbit operations for STP-H10, STPSat-7 and STP-S29A. Prepare on-orbit operations for W/V-band Satellite Communications Experiment-Transponder (WSCE-T) and SIRI-III.</p> <p><b>FY 2024 to FY 2025 Increase/Decrease Statement:</b> FY 2025 decreased due to completion of some specific mission operations.</p>			
<b>Accomplishments/Planned Programs Subtotals</b>	27.104	30.192	30.279

**D. Other Program Funding Summary (\$ in Millions)**

N/A

**Remarks**

**E. Acquisition Strategy**

STP will continue to use the competitively awarded Department Of Defense (DoD) Human-rated Payload Support Task Order (DHSTO) contract (awarded August 2018) to support DoD payloads on National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) exploration vehicles as well as other available space transportation capabilities. STP will conduct acquisition activities to award a follow-on contract to the DHSTO. STP will competitively award the Space Test Experiments Platform (STEP) 2.0 contract (FY 2024) for bus acquisition, payload integration, and on-orbit support. STP will use existing mission partner contracts to leverage cost savings or technological efficiencies, including partnerships with AFRL (including the Research and Development Integrated Space Experiments (RISE) contract), and other mission partners. Acquisition strategies will be developed to determine the need for additional contracts to meet payload integration, launch and on-orbit operations requirements. Additionally, STP uses an SSC Advisory & Assistance Support (A&AS) contract (SSC Acquisition and Finance Support (SAFS)-II and its follow-on SAFS-III), and a SSC SETA contract SSC Technical Support-III (STS-III), as well as FFRDC support through Aerospace.