**The Swarm and Search AI Competition Series 2021 Challenge: Capture the Flag**

An online, AI competition designed in collaboration with AFRL,

Dstl, WBI, and GTRI

**Why:**  
International partnerships like those between world-renowned laboratories such as the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) in the United States and the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) in the United Kingdom must deliver exceptional operational capability to Air, Space and Cyber Warfighters. These organizations, who share a culture of urgency to outpace future threats, have created this challenge series, which aims to attract the best and brightest minds working with autonomous systems, solving AI challenges, and sparking innovative approaches. The goal of the challenge series is to launch and mature novel approaches that expedite rapid capability development with the potential for significant impact for search and rescue operations executed by civil and military communities, reducing risks and saving lives.

**What:**  
The Swarm and Search AI Competition Series is excited to announce the 2021 Challenge: Capture the Flag. This international competition will bring together competitive AI teams” from around the world within a virtual, digital platform. Teams will strategize and iterate their code in a scored competition, scheduled to conclude on July 19, 2021.   The teams will then provide their final code to the AFRL/Dstl judges who will conduct a final round of evaluation to determine the top teams, and their rankings.

The top 16 teams will compete during an online showdown event, scheduled for August 20, 2021. The showdown will be hosted virtually and will include technical panels from AI experts, as well as talks from government leadership about the importance of collaboration and the future of AI for defense.

Winning submissions will enjoy increased exposure within the defense and technical communities at a variety of conferences and public-facing events, in the United States and the United Kingdom.

**How:**  
Joining the challenge is free. Individuals and teams can register for competition on April 30, 2021. Scored play begins on May 28, 2021.

**Who:**

* The competition is open to participants around the globe.
* The public is invited to attend the August 20, 2021 showdown event

**When:**

* Teams form: April 30 - May 28, 2021
* Scored competition: May 29 - July 19, 2021
* Judges scoring of the final team submissions: July 19 - Aug 19, 2021
* Showdown event: August 20, 2021