Involves Eric

# Counter-drone firm Space-Eyes pays an Eric Trump entity $3.6 million in shares for advice and introductions

**A** Documented

The advisory agreement, the 300,000 share grant, its $3.6 million recorded value and Eric Trump's link to Advance Endeavor are all stated in McKinley's amended SEC registration statement, which the editor read directly in October 2026, confirming these figures. The June 2, 2026 Phase III change is in the Air Force's contract record on USAspending.

**13** sources **7** primary records **10** with an archived copy

REACHED THE FAMILY

May 27, 2026

**$3,600,000** exact

The grant-date fair value Space-Eyes recorded as a consultancy fee for the 300,000 shares its chief executive transferred to Advance Endeavor LLC on May 27, 2026 (S-4/A, Space-Eyes Note 9). The shares were not cash; their value at the merger depends on the exchange ratio and the stock price. Not included: the 8,334 shares Advance Endeavor bought from the chief executive for $100,000, which the filing dates both May 28 and July 15, 2026, since that was a purchase, not a payment to Eric Trump.

FROM Space-Eyes, Inc. (company)

CHANNEL shares granted for advisory services, through Advance Endeavor LLC

OFFICIAL ACTION

Jun 2, 2026

Six days after the grant, on June 2, 2026, the Air Force Research Laboratory signed a no-cost change to Space-Eyes' 2022 contract for maritime moving target indication, labeled "Phase III: Maritime Moving Target Indication with Multiband Satellite Integration" (USAspending, modification P00008). Phase III is the stage of the federal small business research program in which an agency can award follow-on work, including production, without a new competition. The change added no money; the contract's performance period now runs to June 3, 2027. USAspending lists four federal contracts to Space-Eyes, all signed before the grant: two Air Force contracts from 2022 for maritime moving target indication, and NASA SBIR Ignite contracts for wildfire detection signed in January 2024 (Phase I) and September 2024 (Phase II), with about $3.9 million obligated in all; the last new money was obligated in September 2025. Reuters reported on July 31, 2026 that the company disclosed in January 2026 that it was opening a Washington office and is negotiating about $35 million in contracts over five years, with the counterparties not named. Space-Eyes was not among the ten companies Breaking Defense reported on September 29, 2026 as winning the Army's counter-drone IDIQ, or the twelve companies named in the Homeland Security counter-drone awards announced August 5, 2026 (Inside Unmanned Systems)

AGENCY U.S. Air Force (Air Force Research Laboratory)

The action is dated 6 days after the payment.

## WHAT HAPPENED

On May 27, 2026, Space-Eyes, a Miami counter-drone and geospatial software company, signed a two-year Advisory Agreement with Advance Endeavor LLC. McKinley Acquisition Corp.'s amended registration statement for its planned merger with Space-Eyes, filed October 5, 2026, says the adviser is to give strategic advice, publicly and privately endorse Space-Eyes' business through its network of contacts, set up conversations with potential customers, partners and suppliers in that network, and take part in press, social media and public events. Its footnote to the Space-Eyes ownership table says Eric Trump is the sole member and may be deemed to beneficially own the shares Advance Endeavor holds.

As the sole pay for the agreement, Space-Eyes' chief executive, Jatinder Bains, personally transferred 300,000 Space-Eyes shares to Advance Endeavor. The filing says the shares were fully vested, are not subject to clawback even if the agreement is cancelled on 30 days' notice, and were recorded by the company at a grant-date fair value of $3.6 million as a consultancy fee expense. Advance Endeavor also bought 8,334 shares from Bains for $100,000, and the filing lists it with 308,334 shares, 6.13 percent of Space-Eyes, before the merger.

The companies announced on July 31, 2026 that Space-Eyes would go public by merging with McKinley, naming Eric Trump as an investor and strategic adviser; Reuters reported he had become the company's third-largest private investor. The merger was pending when the amended registration was filed on October 5, 2026; Reuters reported a planned fourth-quarter listing. Six days after the grant, on June 2, 2026, the Air Force Research Laboratory signed a no-cost change to a 2022 Space-Eyes contract for maritime moving target indication, labeled Phase III, the stage of the federal small business research program in which an agency can award follow-on work, including production, without a new competition (USAspending). Reuters reports the company is negotiating about $35 million in contracts over five years, with the counterparties not named.

## POTENTIAL VIOLATION

No legal question has been raised by anyone with standing or expertise in the sources reviewed, so this field is left blank rather than supplied by the ledger.

## THEIR RESPONSE

The filing says Eric Trump disclaims beneficial ownership of the Space-Eyes shares held by Advance Endeavor except to the extent of his pecuniary interest. In the companies' July 31, 2026 release he called the technology critical for the nation's safety. He declined to tell Bloomberg the value of his stake, and his representatives did not answer Reuters' questions about steps to avoid conflicts of interest. McKinley's chief executive, Peter Wright, told Reuters on Aug 21, 2026 that Eric Trump "brings a phenomenal lens."

## SOURCES

**McKinley Acquisition Corp. (SEC Form S-4/A)** Oct 5, 2026 primary

Amended registration statement: Advisory Agreement, related party transactions, beneficial ownership of Space-Eyes, and Space-Eyes interim financial statements (Note 9)

archived copy

The editor read the advisory agreement, the related party transactions, the ownership table and Note 9 directly in October 2026 and confirmed the figures

**McKinley Acquisition Corp. (SEC Form S-4)** Aug 12, 2026 primary

Registration statement

archive pending

EDGAR full text search lists this filing as containing "Eric Trump"; the passages were read in the October 5 amendment

**McKinley Acquisition Corp. (SEC Form 8-K, Exhibit 99.1)** Jul 31, 2026 primary

Joint press release announcing the business combination

archive pending

**Reuters (via The Star)** Jul 31, 2026 news

Eric Trump-backed defense technology company Space-Eyes to go public in $638 million SPAC deal

archived copy Read through The Star's syndicated copy

**Bloomberg News (via Yahoo Finance)** Jul 31, 2026 news

Eric Trump Expands Family's Defense Portfolio With Space-Eyes

archived copy

**Reuters (via The Star)** Aug 21, 2026 news

Eric Trump-backed Space-Eyes to appoint ex-Delta Force officer and ex-banker

archived copy Read through The Star's syndicated copy

**DroneXL** Aug 27, 2026 news

Eric Trump Gets 6% Of Counter-Drone Firm Space-Eyes For His Rolodex

archived copy Summarizes the Wall Street Journal; the WSJ original was not opened

**USAspending.gov** Mar 8, 2022 primary

Contract FA945322CA021 to Space-Eyes, Inc. (Maritime Moving Target Indicator GIISR analytics engine), Department of the Air Force

archived copy Read through the USAspending API record (api.usaspending.gov), Oct 25, 2026

**USAspending.gov** May 25, 2022 primary

Contract FA945322CA024 to Space-Eyes, Inc. (Maritime Moving Target Indicator with multiband satellite integration), Department of the Air Force

archived copy

Read through the USAspending API record (api.usaspending.gov), Oct 25, 2026, including modification P00008 of June 2, 2026: "Phase III: Maritime Moving Target Indication with Multiband Satellite Integration", a supplemental agreement for work within scope, $0; performance period now ends June 3, 2027

**USAspending.gov** Jan 18, 2024 primary

Contract 80NSSC24PA311 to Space-Eyes, Inc. (SBIR Phase I Ignite, wildfire prediction and detection), NASA

archived copy Read through the USAspending API record (api.usaspending.gov), Oct 25, 2026

**USAspending.gov** Sep 12, 2024 primary

Contract 80NSSC24CA214 to Space-Eyes, Inc. (SBIR Phase II Ignite, wildfire prediction and detection), NASA

archived copy Read through the USAspending API record (api.usaspending.gov), Oct 25, 2026

**Breaking Defense** Sep 29, 2026 news

Army awards up to $7B in sprawling counter-drone IDIQ

archive pending

**Inside Unmanned Systems** Aug 2026 news

DHS Awards $1.5 Billion Counter-UAS Contract to 12 Companies

archived copy Article shows no publication date; DHS announced the awards on Aug 5, 2026

Last verified Oct 25, 2026.

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## REACH CONGRESS

Committees with jurisdiction over this kind of action:

HOUSE Armed Services, Oversight and Government Reform

SENATE Armed Services, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

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Both links go to the official finders. This page stores no contact information.

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