Involves Don Jr., Eric

A Dominari fund the brothers invest in buys into XWELL; its unit wins CDC Ebola work

C Alleged

The CDC award and its terms are in the federal award record, and the fund's stake, Dominari's placement fees and the sale are in XWELL's and the fund's SEC filings, read directly. What ties the brothers to this stake is their spokesperson's statement, reported only by ProPublica, that they are passive, minority investors in a fund that invested in XWELL; no filing names them, and their share of the XWELL series is not disclosed. The fund's 13D does show that Dominari Holdings, about 5.5% owned by each brother, controls the managers of the series. The State Department award rests on ProPublica and State's statement to it.

11 sources **10** primary records **0** with an archived copy

REACHED THE FAMILY

Feb 27, 2026

Amount not disclosed

No dollar amount is listed; the brothers' share of the fund's XWELL position is not disclosed. American Ventures LLC, Series XXIV XWELL holds 31,333 shares of Series H convertible preferred stock (convertible into 66,666,669 common shares) and warrants for 66,666,669 more (Schedule 13D, Mar 18, 2026), bought in a private placement that closed on Feb 27 and Mar 3, 2026 for $31,333,000 (XWELL 8-K, Mar 4). Its Form D reports $31,809,367 sold to 56 investors and an estimated $318,094 management fee to its manager, and names no Trump. On Sept 8, 2026 it converted 467 preferred shares into 993,617 common shares, about 9.975% of XWELL's common stock (Schedule 13D/A). Dominari Securities, whose parent Dominari Holdings is about 5.5% owned by each brother (see pt-dominari), was the exclusive placement agent, for a cash fee of 8% of gross proceeds, a 1% expense allowance and placement agent warrants; the 13D shows Dominari Holdings holding 5,248,000 XWELL warrants and describes it as the majority member of the series' manager and investment manager, controlling the voting and disposal of its XWELL securities. Those fees are company revenue, not payments to the brothers, and are not counted here.

FROM XWELL, Inc. and its subsidiary XpresTest, Inc. (company)

CHANNEL equity stake through American Ventures

OFFICIAL ACTION

Jul 6, 2026

The CDC awarded XpresTest, XWELL's biosecurity subsidiary, a contract for Ebola entry screening services (75D30126C21193), which ProPublica says covers several U.S. airports. It was signed July 6, 2026, with $18.8 million obligated and up to $35.5 million with options, through July 5, 2027. The federal award record lists it as not competed, awarded on urgency grounds with one offer; ProPublica dates the award to June. ProPublica also reports a $20 million State Department award to XpresTest under the America First Global Health Strategy for outbreak response in the Democratic Republic of Congo, beginning in September; it was not yet shown on USAspending as of Nov 9, 2026, where the same program's awards to International Medical Corps, the IFRC and Save the Children ($25 million to $35 million) appear. Also on July 6, 2026, XWELL agreed to sell XpresTest and its XpresSpa airport spas to Express Wellness Group, an affiliate of Face Haus, for $13 million; stockholders approved the sale on Oct 28, 2026, and the American Ventures series had agreed to vote its shares for it. XWELL chief executive Ezra Ernst told ProPublica the contracts played a role in the price and will go with XpresTest to the buyer

AGENCY Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Department of State

The action is dated 129 days after the payment.

WHAT HAPPENED

XWELL, formerly XpresSpa Group, runs airport spas and, through its subsidiary XpresTest, has screened travelers for disease at U.S. airports under CDC contracts since 2021. Its sale proxy says the CDC supplies substantially all of XpresTest's revenue. In late February 2026, American Ventures, a fund platform launched by Dominari Holdings, bought $31.3 million

of XWELL convertible preferred stock and warrants through a vehicle called American Ventures LLC, Series XXIV XWELL. Dominari Securities, a unit of Dominari Holdings, in which each brother owns about 5.5 percent, placed the deal for an 8 percent fee plus warrants.

The fund's filings name no Trump. The brothers' spokesperson told ProPublica they are passive, minority investors in a fund that invested in XWELL; their share of the XWELL vehicle is not disclosed.

On July 6, 2026, the CDC signed a contract with XpresTest for Ebola entry screening services, with $18.8 million obligated and up to $35.5 million with options. The federal award record lists it as not competed, awarded on urgency grounds with one offer. ProPublica also reports a $20 million State Department award for outbreak response in the Democratic Republic of Congo, beginning in September; it was not yet shown on USAspending as of Nov 9. ProPublica says XWELL announced neither award, and its chief executive, Ezra Ernst, said working abroad is new for the company and he was not sure it could do the Congo work.

The same day as the CDC award, XWELL agreed to sell XpresTest and its airport spas to Express Wellness Group, an affiliate of Face Haus, for $13 million. Stockholders approved the sale on Oct 28, 2026, with the American Ventures vehicle committed to vote for it. Ernst told ProPublica the contracts played a role in the price and will go with XpresTest to the buyer.

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

A spokesperson for Don Jr. and Eric told ProPublica they are passive, minority investors in a fund that invested in XWELL and had no involvement in or knowledge of the negotiation or procurement of any of its contracts, including government contracts. Dominari chief executive Anthony Hayes said the firm had never seen or heard of either brother using the family name to influence the granting of a government contract. Ernst said XpresTest won both contracts through competitive bidding, and the State Department said its award was made through a competitive process. The CDC did not respond to ProPublica.

SOURCES

ProPublica Nov 9, 2026 news

Firm Linked to Trump's Sons Got Nearly $40 Million in Federal Contracts to Screen for Ebola and Other Diseases

archive pending Read in full in the browser pane

USAspending.gov (Treasury) Sep 28, 2026 primary

Contract 75D30126C21193, Ebola entry screening services, CDC to XpresTest Inc.

archive pending Read through the USAspending API (award record last modified Sept 28, 2026)

XWELL, Inc. (SEC Form 8-K) Feb 25, 2026 primary

Current report: private placement securities purchase agreement

archive pending

XWELL, Inc. (SEC Form 8-K) Mar 4, 2026 primary

Current report: private placement closings and Dominari Securities placement agency

archive pending

American Ventures LLC, Series XXIV XWELL (SEC Form D) Mar 9, 2026 primary

Notice of exempt offering

archive pending

American Ventures LLC, Series XXIV XWELL and others (SEC Schedule 13D) Mar 18, 2026 primary

Beneficial ownership report on XWELL

archive pending

XWELL, Inc. (SEC Form 8-K, exhibit 99.1) Jul 9, 2026 primary

Press release on agreement to divest XpresSpa and XpresTest

archive pending

XWELL, Inc. (SEC Form 10-Q) Aug 14, 2026 primary

Quarterly report for the period ended June 30, 2026

archive pending

American Ventures LLC, Series XXIV XWELL and others (SEC Schedule 13D/A) Sep 8, 2026 primary

Amended beneficial ownership report and support agreement

archive pending

USAspending.gov (Treasury) Sep 14, 2026 primary

Award SAQMMA26CA0346, State Department outbreak response award to International Medical Corps (AFGHS)

archive pending

Read through the USAspending API; searches on Nov 9, 2026 by recipient name, XpresTest's UEI and program keywords returned no State award to XpresTest

XWELL, Inc. (SEC Form 8-K) Oct 29, 2026 primary

Current report: special meeting vote approving the sale

archive pending

Last verified Nov 9, 2026.

REACH CONGRESS

Committees with jurisdiction over this kind of action:

HOUSE Energy and Commerce, Foreign Affairs, Oversight and Government Reform

SENATE Health Education Labor and Pensions, Foreign Relations, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

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