

The Trump Administration Appears Poised To Hand Out Lofty “Golden Dome” Contract To Companies Owned By Elon Musk, Donald Trump Jr., And Other Wealthy Allies And Donors

SUMMARY: In an apparent instance of naked self-dealing, a prospective contract to build President Trump’s proposed Golden Dome missile defense system, reportedly favored to go to Trump ally-owned companies SpaceX, Palantir, and Anduril, would also benefit Donald Trump Jr., an [Accountable.US](#) analysis has found. The President’s son reportedly owns stakes in two of these companies, SpaceX and Anduril—the latter acquisition only being publicly [revealed](#) as of mid-May 2025—through 1789 Capital, a right-wing venture capital firm he [joined](#) following his father’s re-election.

While Elon Musk’s SpaceX, Peter Thiel’s Palantir, and Palmer Luckey’s Anduril have [each garnered revenue](#) from federal contracts prior to Trump’s re-election, the Golden Dome project is something Trump himself proposed and marshalled from only his second week in office, making it appear almost tailor-made to reward his allies and son with federal tax dollars, even as Trump has sought to [dramatically slash funding](#) for health care and education. After it [emerged](#) that the Trump-aligned companies were “frontrunners” for a key contract for the project, a source familiar with the contract talks [told Reuters](#) that there was a “departure from the usual acquisition process” due to Elon Musk’s involvement, and an “attitude” that Pentagon officials “[have] to be sensitive and deferential to Elon Musk” because of the power he wielded at the helm of DOGE.

The so-called Golden Dome is still in its planning stages, but in April 2025, Congressional Republicans [introduced legislation](#) that would allocate almost \$25 billion to begin work on the project. [Early budget estimates](#) place its overall cost in the range of \$10 billion to “several hundred billion dollars.” Trump himself [initiated](#) these plans by executive order on January 27, 2025, just eight days into his presidency.

Musk, Thiel, and Luckey have all financially backed Trump and have already reaped rewards on these investments in the form of lucrative federal contracts, with their companies’ valuations [soaring](#) to [all-time highs](#) since Trump’s re-election. Other allies of Trump and Vice President J.D. Vance, Omeed Malik, Rebekah Mercer, and Chris Buskirk, who are partners at 1789 Capital alongside Donald Trump Jr., would also profit from the deal.

The Trump Administration Could Direct Billions Of Federal Dollars To SpaceX, Palantir, And Anduril—Which Are Owned By Elon Musk, Peter Thiel, Donald Trump Jr., And Other Trump Allies And Megadonors—And Are Reported To Be “Frontrunners” For A Major Missile Defense System Contract Congressional Republicans Have Already Proposed Funding For.

Since His Second Week In Office, Trump Has Pushed For An Expensive New Missile Defense System Dubbed The “Golden Dome,” Which Has Been Projected To Cost Between Ten And “Several Hundred Billion” Dollars.

In His Second Week In Office, President Trump Signed An Executive Order Directing The Pentagon To Begin Planning For A New Missile Defense Shield Modeled After Israel’s “Iron Dome.” “Today, President Donald J. Trump signed an Executive Order to Build the Iron Dome for America [...] The Executive Order directs implementation of a next-generation missile defense shield for the United States against ballistic, hypersonic, advanced cruise missiles, and other next-generation aerial attacks... The Executive Order directs a review of theater missile defense posture to defend United States troops deployed abroad and an increase in

cooperation on missile defense technology development, capabilities, and operations with partners and allies.” [The White House, [1/27/25](#)]

- **“Iron Dome” Is An Israeli Missile Defense Shield Designed To Intercept Short-Range Rockets.** “Iron Dome is the best known of Israel's missile shields. It is designed to intercept short-range rockets, as well as shells and mortars, at ranges of between 4km and 70km from the missile launcher. There are Iron Dome batteries across Israel. Each one has three or four launchers containing 20 interceptor missiles each.” [BBC, [10/16/24](#)]

Trump's Proposed Missile Defense System Has Been Dubbed The “Golden Dome.” “The idea evokes the concept of Israel's missile defense system, but there would be several key differences between the U.S. ally's Iron Dome and Trump's so-called ‘Golden Dome.’” [The Independent, [5/10/25](#)]

Trump's Golden Dome Would Cover A Much Larger Area Than Israel's Iron Dome, Would Include A Network Of “Space-Based Interceptors” Meant For Destroying Warheads, And Has Been Called Costly And “Hugely Inefficient” By A Researcher At The Brookings Institution. “The Golden Dome would have to cover a much larger area, for starters. The Golden Dome will also have to be a lot more comprehensive, with several different systems that can locate, track and stop any kind of aerial attack the U.S. might face... But the most significant component is also the most complicated: a network of ‘space-based interceptors,’ such as lasers, that would be able to stop or destroy warheads shortly after they're launched... But this means building a massive web of interceptors to ensure they're always in the correct position, which Michael O'Hanlon, director of research in the Foreign Policy program at the Brookings Institution, argues would be costly and ‘hugely inefficient.’” [The Independent, [5/10/25](#)]

Trump Ordered Pentagon Officials To Come Up With A Blueprint For The Golden Dome By Mid-April 2025. “Trump's executive order required the Pentagon to come up with an initial blueprint for Iron Dome for America by mid-April, and those plans are what will be briefed to him in the coming days. His order also requires that at least some elements of the initiative be operational by the end of next year.” [NBC News, [4/17/25](#)]

- **Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth Reportedly Received Three Options From Pentagon Officials: The Cheapest Would Cost About \$10 Billion, A Middling Option Would Cost Less Than \$100 Billion, And The Most Expensive Would Cost “Several Hundred Billion Dollars.”** “Trump is expected to receive a briefing within days from Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and other officials about essentially three plans, or what people in national security circles refer to as ‘Goldilocks options’: small, medium and large, each with its own timeline and price tag, according to an administration official and a military official and another person familiar with the plans. Hegseth received the options from U.S. Space Command last week, according to Space Command. The most modest plan could be assembled rather quickly and cost about \$10 billion, the middle option would cost less than \$100 billion, and the largest option would cost several hundred billion dollars, those officials and the person familiar [with] the plans said.” [NBC News, [4/17/25](#)]

In April 2025, House Republicans Proposed Budget Legislation That Would Allocate Almost \$25 Billion To Begin Work On The Golden Dome.

In April 2025, Congressional Republicans Released A Budget Reconciliation Bill That Reportedly Included Nearly \$25 Billion In Funding For Trump's “Golden Dome” Initiative. “Republican leaders of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees released legislation Sunday that includes nearly \$25 billion of funding to begin work for President Donald Trump's ‘Golden Dome’ initiative. Put forward by HASC Chairman Rep. Mike Rogers of Alabama and SASC Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker of Mississippi, the reconciliation bill would give a \$150 billion boost to defense spending. By using the budget reconciliation process, Republican lawmakers are hoping to expedite funding towards 11 high-priority defense issues without threat of a Senate filibuster.” [Defense Scoop, [4/28/25](#)]

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- **The Legislation Was Released By Republican Leaders Of The House And Senate Armed Service Committees, To Be Forwarded To The House Budget Committee.** “Republican leaders of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees released legislation Sunday that includes nearly \$25 billion of funding to begin work for President Donald Trump’s ‘Golden Dome’ initiative... HASC will hold a markup session for the reconciliation bill on Tuesday where members can submit amendments, after which it will be sent to the House Budget Committee.” [Defense Scoop, [4/28/25](#)]

As Of April 2025, Elon Musk’s SpaceX, Peter Thiel’s Palantir, And Drone Maker Anduril Had Reportedly Placed A Joint Bid To Build Key Parts Of Trump’s Golden Dome And Were “Frontrunners” For The Prospective Contract.

April 2024: Elon Musk’s SpaceX, Peter Thiel’s Palantir, And Drone Builder Anduril Were Reportedly Partnering On A Bid To Build Key Parts Of The Golden Dome. “Elon Musk’s SpaceX and two partners have emerged as frontrunners to win a crucial part of President Donald Trump’s “Golden Dome” missile defense shield, six people familiar with the matter said. Musk’s rocket and satellite company is partnering with software maker Palantir (PLTR.O), opens new tab and drone builder Anduril on a bid to build key parts of Golden Dome, the sources said, which has drawn significant interest from the technology sector’s burgeoning base of defense startups.” [Reuters, [4/17/25](#)]

- **Palantir Is A CIA-Backed Analytics Firm Founded By Conservative Megadonor And J.D. Vance Mentor Peter Thiel.** “Vance and Thiel’s relationship dates back to 2011... Thiel later became a “pretty good mentor” to Vance, according to The Washington Post, with Vance making the switch to venture capital and joining the Thiel-co-founded Mithril Capital in 2015 as a partner, according to Politico... Thiel, who is also a co-founder of the CIA-backed analytics firm Palantir, has given millions of dollars in donations largely to Republican lawmakers and political action committees since 2010, occasionally donating to Democrats such as California Gov. Gavin Newsom and Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., according to campaign finance tracker OpenSecrets.” [Forbes, [7/16/24](#)]
- **Anduril Is A Defense Tech Company Founded By Oculus VR Headset Creator Palmer Luckey That Has Developed AI-Driven Autonomous Weapons Systems For The U.S. Military.** “With demand for military drones surging, defense tech startups like Anduril Industries are racing to build the next generation of autonomous weapons systems designed for combat across land, air, and sea, even as concerns over their use grow. Founded by Oculus VR headset creator Palmer Luckey in 2017, the California-based defense company has developed a range of modular, AI-driven systems for the US military, beating out Anduril’s competitors like Boeing and Lockheed Martin.” [Business Insider, [5/3/25](#)]

SpaceX, Palantir, And Anduril Were Reportedly “Frontrunners” In The Race To Win A Contract To Build Key Parts Of Trump’s Prospective Golden Dome Project. “Elon Musk’s SpaceX and two partners have emerged as frontrunners to win a crucial part of President Donald Trump’s “Golden Dome” missile defense shield, six people familiar with the matter said. Musk’s rocket and satellite company is partnering with software maker Palantir (PLTR.O), opens new tab and drone builder Anduril on a bid to build key parts of Golden Dome, the sources said, which has drawn significant interest from the technology sector’s burgeoning base of defense startups.” [Reuters, [4/17/25](#)]

- **Headline: “Exclusive: Musk’s SpaceX is frontrunner to build Trump’s Golden Dome missile shield.”** “Exclusive: Musk’s SpaceX is frontrunner to build Trump’s Golden Dome missile shield.” [Reuters, [4/17/25](#)]

The Companies’ Pitch Involves Building And Launching Hundreds To Thousands Of Satellites That Would Detect Missiles Launched Against The U.S. And Attempt To Shoot Them Down From Space.

“The three companies met with top officials in the Trump administration and the Pentagon in recent weeks to pitch their plan, which would build and launch 400 to more than 1,000 satellites circling the globe to sense missiles and track their movement, sources said. A separate fleet of 200 attack satellites armed with missiles or lasers would then bring enemy missiles down, three of the sources said. The SpaceX group is not expected to be involved in the weaponization of satellites, these sources said.” [Reuters, [4/17/25](#)]

According To A Source Familiar With The Talks, There Was A “Departure From The Usual Acquisition Process” Due To Musk’s Involvement, And An “Attitude” That Pentagon Officials “[Have] To Be Sensitive And Deferential To Elon Musk.”

One Source Close To The Golden Dome Contract Talks, In Which SpaceX’s Bid Was The Frontrunner, Reportedly Described Them As “A Departure From The Usual Acquisition Process.” “Elon Musk’s SpaceX and two partners have emerged as frontrunners to win a crucial part of President Donald Trump’s ‘Golden Dome’ missile defense shield, six people familiar with the matter said... One of the sources familiar with the talks described them as ‘a departure from the usual acquisition process. There’s an attitude that the national security and defense community has to be sensitive and deferential to Elon Musk because of his role in the government.’” [Reuters, [4/17/25](#)]

The Source Reportedly Told Reuters That “There’s An Attitude That The National Security And Defense Community Has To Be Sensitive And Deferential To Elon Musk Because Of His Role In The Government.” “One of the sources familiar with the talks described them as ‘a departure from the usual acquisition process. There’s an attitude that the national security and defense community has to be sensitive and deferential to Elon Musk because of his role in the government.’” [Reuters, [4/17/25](#)]

The Pentagon Reportedly Received Interest From Over 180 Companies For Contracts Related To The Golden Dome. “The Pentagon has received interest from more than 180 companies keen to help develop and build the Golden Dome, according to a U.S. official, including defense startups like Epirus, Ursa Major and Armada. Members of the White House’s National Security Council were briefed by a handful of companies about their capabilities, four sources said.” [Reuters, [4/17/25](#)]

Donald Trump Jr. Would Profit From The Contract As A Partial Owner Of SpaceX And Anduril, Reportedly Holding A Stake Through 1789 Capital, The Right-Wing Venture Capital Firm He Joined As A Partner In 2024.

1789 Capital Is A Palm Beach, FL-Based Venture Capital Firm Founded By Key Allies Of Vice President JD Vance And Later Joined By Donald Trump Jr. “President-elect Donald Trump’s eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., is joining venture capital firm 1789 Capital, which focuses on investing in conservative companies, according to three sources familiar with his plans... The idea for 1789 Capital began at a meeting of secretive conservative donor group Rockbridge Network, which was co-founded by Buskirk and Vice President-elect JD Vance, Reuters has also reported.” [Reuters, [11/12/24](#)]

- **1789 Capital “Focuses On Investing In Conservative Companies.”** “President-elect Donald Trump’s eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., is joining venture capital firm 1789 Capital, which focuses on investing in conservative companies, according to three sources familiar with his plans.” [Reuters, [11/12/24](#)]
- **1789 Capital’s Founder Claimed The Firm Focuses On Investing In “Non-‘Woke’” Companies With Appeal To The American Right.** “Omeed Malik founded 1789 Capital this year to invest in non-“woke” companies that support the ‘parallel economy’—which Malik has also called the “patriot economy”—a topic that has increasingly become the focus of conservative pundits and consumers as they have boycotted companies like Bud Light and Target over their outreach to the LGBTQ community.” [Forbes, [10/18/23](#)]
- **November 2024: Donald Trump Jr. Joined 1789 Capital As A Partner.** “The eldest son of President-elect Donald J. Trump will not be a member of his father’s administration — he is joining a venture capital firm. Donald Trump Jr. told a crowd of a few hundred donors on Sunday that he was joining 1789 Capital, a firm whose investments include Tucker Carlson’s media company... he would be joining as a partner at 1789 Capital, according to two people with knowledge of his remarks.” [The New York Times, [11/11/24](#)]

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In March 2025, 1789 Capital Reportedly Invested A Combined \$50 Million Into SpaceX And xAI.

“According to a Monday report from Bloomberg, Donald Trump Jr. — the president’s eldest son — has invested \$50 million into SpaceX and xAI through his investment firm 1789 Capital.” [Rolling Stone, [3/10/25](#)]

- **1789 Capital’s Acquisition Of Shares Of SpaceX Was “Essentially An Insider Deal: To Participate In The Offering, You Typically Have To Receive An Invitation From Someone Already In The Club.”** “Ever since Trump joined 1789, its portfolio has begun to blossom. Despite its tiny size, the firm has been granted shares in several coveted offerings, including Elon Musk’s SpaceX. The shares, which are widely viewed as an almost certain home run, are essentially an insider deal: To participate in the offering, you typically have to receive an invitation from someone already in the club.” [Business Insider, [5/12/25](#)]

February 2025: Anduril Announced A New Funding Round With The Hope Of Raising Up To \$2.5 Billion.

“Anduril, the defense-tech startup founded by Palmer Luckey, has signed a term sheet to raise capital at a \$28 billion valuation, according to people familiar with the matter. The company is planning to raise up to \$2.5 billion in the round, said the people who asked not to be named because the details are confidential. The latest funding would double Anduril’s valuation from August.” [CNBC, [2/7/25](#)]

As Of May 2025, “Multiple Sources” Told Business Insider That 1789 Capital Was “Among The Investors” In Anduril’s Latest \$2.5 Billion Funding Round. “1789 is also investing in other companies being awarded lucrative defense contracts. Anduril, a highly regarded defense technology firm, is now raising up to \$2.5 billion. The backers of the new fundraising round have not been revealed — but I was able to confirm from multiple sources that 1789 is among the investors.” [Business Insider, [5/12/25](#)]

Major Trump Allies Elon Musk, Peter Thiel, Palmer Luckey, Omeed Malik, And Rebekah Mercer, Many Of Whom Made Significant Contributions In Support Of Trump’s 2024 Campaign, Would Also Profit From The Deal.

Elon Musk, Who Owned A Reported \$147 Billion Stake In SpaceX As Of December 2024, Was The Single Largest Political Donor Of The 2024 Cycle, Spending At Least \$288 Million In Support Of Donald Trump And Other Republican Candidates—And Amassing “An Extraordinary Amount Of [Political] Power” As A Result.

According To An Analysis Of FEC Filings By The Washington Post, Elon Musk Spent At Least \$288 Million To Bolster Trump And Other Republican Candidates In The 2024 Election. “Billionaire Elon Musk spent at least \$288 million to help elect President Donald Trump and other Republican candidates, according to a Washington Post analysis of new Federal Election Commission filings that offered an end-of-year snapshot of what was spent during the 2024 election cycle.” [The Washington Post, [1/31/25](#)]

- **The Washington Post: The Study’s Findings “Cement Musk’s Status As The Biggest Political Donor Of The [2024] Presidential Cycle,” In The Wake Of Which Musk Has “Amassed An Extraordinary Amount Of Power” And Has Been “Decried By Critics As A De Facto, Unelected President.”** “Friday’s FEC filings cement Musk’s status as the biggest political donor of the recent presidential cycle at a moment when he has amassed an extraordinary amount of power as a member of Trump’s inner circle — and as he is decried by critics as a de facto, unelected co-president.” [The Washington Post, [1/31/25](#)]

As Of December 2024, Elon Musk Owned An Estimated 42 Percent Stake In SpaceX, Which Was Valued At \$350 Billion At The Time, Making Musk’s Stake Worth Around \$147 Billion. “SpaceX, founded in 2002, is worth \$350 billion based on a private share sale during December 2024. Musk owns an estimated 42% stake.” [Forbes, accessed [5/13/25](#)]

As Of April 2025, SpaceX Had Been Awarded More Than \$525 Million In Federal Contracts Since The Start Of Donald Trump’s Second Presidential Term. “It also noted that Musk’s rocket company SpaceX has

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already been awarded federal contracts worth more than \$525 [million] since Donald Trump returned to power, on top of at nearly \$21 billion his companies have landed since 2008.” [The Independent, [4/8/25](#)]

While Musk Targeted Hundreds Of Thousands Of Federal Workers In Mass Layoffs As Head Of The “Department Of Government Efficiency,” These Cuts Conspicuously Spared Department Of Transportation Employees Who Provide Support Services For SpaceX And Starlink’s Space Launches, Prompting Questions Of Conflict Of Interest. ““Elon Musk’s “department of government efficiency” (Doge) and the Trump administration have spared the jobs of US Department of Transportation employees who provide support services for spacecraft launches by Musk’s companies, SpaceX and Starlink – a revelation that raises a new round of conflict of interest questions around Doge... While the administration and Doge have targeted hundreds of thousands of federal employees, critics say the decision shows Musk is willing to allow federal workers to remain employed if their work benefits him.” [The Guardian, [4/18/25](#)]

Silicon Valley Billionaire Peter Thiel, Who Fueled Vice President Vance’s Venture Capital Career And Subsequent Rise In Politics, Owns An Approximate \$13.8 Billion Stake In Palantir And Owns Significant Stakes In SpaceX And Anduril Through His Venture Capital Firm, Founders Fund.

Peter Thiel Has Been Vice President J.D. Vance’s “Most Prominent Benefactor Over The Years,” Having Hired Vance In 2017 And Later Contributed \$15 Million To His 2022 Ohio Senate Campaign. “Vance’s most prominent benefactor over the years is Peter Thiel, the iconoclastic tech pioneer and investor. Thiel hired Vance at his global investment firm in 2017, and then nurtured Vance’s political rise, donating \$15 million to his 2022 Ohio Senate campaign and helping him win a closely fought GOP primary before going on to capture the seat in the general election.” [CBS News, [7/16/24](#)]

- **Thiel Reportedly Introduced Vance To Trump At A Mar-a-Lago Event In 2021.** “Thiel brought Vance to his very first meeting with Trump at Mar-a-Lago in February 2021, according to the New York Times.” [CBS News, [7/16/24](#)]

Peter Thiel Contributed \$1.25 Million To Trump’s 2016 Presidential Campaign And “Sunk Millions Into More Underperforming MAGA Candidates In Subsequent Election Cycles.” “Peter Thiel, the tech billionaire who supported Donald Trump in 2016 and sunk millions more into underperforming [MAGA] candidates in subsequent election cycles, has confirmed rumors that he is stepping away from 2024 political funding. In an interview with the Atlantic, Thiel said voting for Trump “was like a not very articulate scream for help” and that things had not turned out the way he had hoped when he donated \$1.25m to Trump and Trump-affiliated political funds eight years ago.” [The Guardian, [11/10/24](#)]

As Of November 2024, The Most Recent Disclosure Reporting On Peter Thiel’s Ownership, Thiel Held A 4.5 Percent Stake In Palantir—Worth Approximately \$13.8 Billion As Of May 2025.

| NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS |
|---|
| Peter Thiel |
| [...] |
| PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9) |
| 4.5%(4) |

[SEC, Palantir Technologies, Schedule 13G/A, [11/14/24](#)]

- **Thiel Co-Founded Palantir And Has Served On Its Board Of Directors Since 2003.** “Mr. Thiel is one of our co-founders and has served as the Chairman of our Board of Directors since 2003.” [Palantir, accessed [5/14/25](#)]
- **As Of May 2025, Palantir Had A Reported Market Cap Of \$306.5 Billion.** “As of May 2025 Palantir has a market cap of \$306.50 Billion USD. This makes Palantir the world’s 30th most valuable company by market cap according to our data.” [CompaniesMarketCap.com, accessed [5/14/25](#)]

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Peter Thiel Runs Founders Fund, A Multi-Billion Dollar Late Stage Venture Fund. “Founders Fund, the venture capital firm run by billionaire Peter Thiel, has closed a \$4.6 billion late-stage venture fund, according to a Friday filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.” [CNBC, [4/11/25](#)]

As Of December 2024, Founders Fund Reportedly Held A 10.4 Percent Stake In SpaceX, Worth Approximately \$36.4 Billion In Light Of SpaceX's \$350 Billion Valuation. “SpaceX’s latest tender offer will reportedly value the firm at US\$350b, making it the most valuable private firm in the world... Founders Fund: This venture capital firm, co-founded by Peter Thiel, holds about 10.4% of SpaceX. Their early investment helped establish the company as a serious aerospace player.” [Hello Stake, [12/9/24](#)]

Founders Fund Seed Funded Anduril In 2017 As Its Lead Investor, Was A Lead Investor Again In 2018, And In August 2024, Was One Of Two Lead Investors In A \$1.5 Billion Funding Round That Brought The Company's Valuation Up To \$14 Billion.

1. Seed Round

- **Amount Raised:** Not publicly disclosed
- **Date:** August 2017
- **Lead Investors:** Founders Fund
- **Valuation at Round:** Not publicly disclosed
- **Motivation Behind the Round:** To establish the company and develop initial product offerings.

[...]

2. Series A

- **Amount Raised:** \$41M
- **Date:** June 2018
- **Lead Investors:** Founders Fund

[...]

8. Series F

- **Amount Raised:** \$1.5B
- **Date:** August 2024
- **Lead Investors:** Founders Fund, Sands Capital Ventures
- **Valuation at Round:** \$14B

[Clay, [3/25/25](#)]

- **In February 2025, Founders Fund Was Reported To Be Leading Anduril's Latest Funding Round, A \$2.5 Billion Ask To Bring The Company To A \$28 Billion Valuation, With Founders Fund Potentially Committing "\$1 Billion."** “Another major focus is Anduril, the defence tech startup that is all set to raise \$2.5 billion at a \$28 billion valuation. Founders Fund is reportedly leading this round and making its largest single investment ever, potentially a \$1 billion commitment.” [Tech Funding News, [2/13/25](#)]

Republican Backers Omeed Malik And Rebekah Mercer, Along With J.D. Vance's Rockbridge Network Co-Founder Chris Buskirk, Would Be Set To Profit As Donald Trump Jr.'s Partners At 1789 Capital.

Omeed Malik Is A Corporate Executive Who Became A Prominent Republican Donor During The COVID-19 Pandemic. “Five years ago, Omeed Malik was a self-described “run-of-the-mill corporate

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Democrat,” with a seat on the Council on Foreign Relations, a summer house in the Hamptons, and stints at Bank of America and white-shoe law firm Weil, Gotshal under his belt. Then Covid happened. Chafing under government mandates he found illogical and corporate limits on speech that felt to him like censorship, he moved from Manhattan to Florida and began hanging out with Republican donors. He discovered a business opportunity in a so-called parallel economy of conservative-friendly companies. Now, he is one of their financiers. Malik this year launched 1789 Capital, which aims to capitalize on the opportunities that it sees left open by the “wokeness” of more traditional sources of capital.” [The Wall Street Journal, [10/17/23](#)]

- **Malik Contributed A Total Of \$66,512 To Support Conservative Candidates In The 2024 Election Cycle, Including Contributions Supporting Trump’s Save America PAC, Ron DeSantis, And Robert F. Kennedy Jr.** [OpenSecrets, donor lookup, accessed [5/14/25](#)]

Rebekah Mercer Is A Republican Heiress Who Has Been Called “The Right’s Most Important Megadonor,” Funding “Political Campaigns, Super PACs And Think Tanks” On Behalf Of Her Father, Hedge Fund Manager Robert Mercer. “With Donald Trump’s dominance of the Republican Party, Rebekah Mercer has supplanted the Koch brothers as the right’s most important megadonor... Like the Kochs, Mercer, 43—who manages the political giving underwritten by her father, hedge fund magnate Robert Mercer—funds political campaigns, super PACs and think tanks, and has invested in a political data operation, Cambridge Analytica.” [Politico, accessed [5/12/25](#)]

- **Robert Mercer Reportedly Contributed \$814,339 To The Trump 47 Committee In The 2024 Election Cycle.** “Robert Mercer, a former hedge fund CEO who, according to The New York Times, is a billionaire, has given \$814,399 to the Trump 47 Committee. Both Robert and his daughter Rebekah have been major contributors to pro-Trump and influential anti-establishment conservative causes, including funneling money to the right-wing Breitbart website and the conservative social media app Parler.” [Business Insider, [10/28/24](#)]

Chris Buskirk Is A Conservative Commentator Who Co-Founded The Rockbridge Network Alongside JD Vance. “Rockbridge began with more humility. Back in 2019, Mr. Vance, then best known as the author of ‘Hillbilly Elegy,’ and a conservative media figure named Chris Buskirk began informally hosting a series of small dinners with the hopes of laying groundwork for Mr. Vance’s political career and, eventually, of building a Trump-aligned alternative to the Koch Network... Mr. Buskirk, a former contributing opinion writer to The Times who founded a pro-Trump publication called American Greatness in 2016, had limited experience working directly in politics.” [The New York Times, [11/20/24](#)]

1789 Capital Was Co-Founded By Chris Burkirk, Omeed Malik, And Rebekah Mercer. “1789 Capital is a roughly \$150 million venture capital firm based in Palm Beach, Florida, and owned by entrepreneur Chris Buskirk, financier and Trump donor Omeed Malik and hedge fund heiress Rebekah Mercer, Reuters previously reported.” [Reuters, [11/12/24](#)]

- **1789 Capital Was Conceived Of At A Rockbridge Network Summit In 2022.** “Rockbridge has also served as an incubator for new ventures. At a 2022 Rockbridge summit, Buskirk, investor Malik, hedge fund heiress Mercer and former Arizona congressional candidate Masters started discussing how to finance a ‘parallel economy’ of conservative businesses, one attendee said. That would eventually become 1789 Capital, a \$150 million Palm Beach-based venture capital firm owned by Buskirk, Malik and Mercer, the source added.” [Reuters, [8/20/24](#)]
- **The Rockbridge Network Is A “Secretive” Silicon Valley-Friendly Conservative Donor Network JD Vance Established In 2019.** “The fall gathering of a secretive group of wealthy tech executives and their allies who have ascended swiftly within the Republican Party’s donor class: the Rockbridge Network. The group, which was co-founded five years ago by JD Vance, sprouted from an informal set of dinners into a powerful coalition of Republican donors who have given more than \$100 million to Rockbridge projects since 2019, according to a person close to the group, helping lead Silicon Valley’s march to the right.” [The New York Times, [11/20/24](#)]

- **For Rockbridge's Donors, Vance's Election As Vice President Was "A Tantalizing Opportunity To Wield New National Influence."** "For Rockbridge, Mr. Vance's election as vice president was a crowning achievement — and a tantalizing opportunity to wield new national influence." [The New York Times, [11/20/24](#)]

1789 Capital Owns Stake In SpaceX And Was Reported To Be Among Anduril's Investors In A \$2.5 Billion Funding Round Held In 2025. "Ever since Trump joined 1789, its portfolio has begun to blossom. Despite its tiny size, the firm has been granted shares in several coveted offerings, including Elon Musk's SpaceX... Anduril, a highly regarded defense technology firm, is now raising up to \$2.5 billion. The backers of the new fundraising round have not been revealed — but I was able to confirm from multiple sources that 1789 is among the investors." [Business Insider, [5/12/25](#)]

Anduril Founder Palmer Luckey, Who Has Fundraised For Trump And Who Contributed \$989,003 In The 2024 Election Cycle Primarily In Support Of Republican Candidates, Would Also Profit From The Deal.

Palmer Luckey Is A Tech Entrepreneur Who Founded Anduril And Made His Initial Fortune As The Creator Of The Oculus Rift, A Virtual Reality Headset. "Palmer Luckey is an American inventor, innovator, and entrepreneur. He is the Founder of defense technology company Anduril Industries, designer of the Oculus Rift, a virtual reality head-mounted display, and the Founder of Oculus VR, which was acquired by Facebook in 2014 for \$2.3b." [Anduril, accessed [5/14/25](#)]

- **Palmer Luckey Is Brother In Law To Former Florida Rep. Matt Gaetz, Whom Trump Named As His Initial Pick For Attorney General Following Re-Election In 2024, But Who Removed Himself From Contention Amid A House Ethics Committee Investigation.** "Former Representative Matt Gaetz's wife, Ginger Gaetz, has stood by her husband throughout the investigation by the House Ethics Committee... In a brief post to X (formerly Twitter) after Gaetz withdrew himself from attorney general consideration, Ginger Gaetz wrote it is an 'end of the era' and that 'no one loves America more than this guy'... Her older brother is Palmer Luckey, the founder of the virtual reality company Oculus VR. He has held fundraising events for Trump in the past." [Newsweek, [12/23/24](#)]

Palmer Luckey Co-Hosted A Fundraiser For Trump In Newport Beach, CA In 2024. "Former President Trump, appearing at a fundraiser Saturday at a bayfront Newport Beach mansion, pledged to defeat 'crooked Joe Biden' in November and return to the White House to pursue an 'America First' policy that avoids unnecessary foreign entanglements and to shut down the border... The event was held at the home of health insurance company co-founder John Word and his wife, Kimberly, whose home was decorated with red, white and blue bunting across the seawall and along doors and windows on the property. Billionaire tech entrepreneur Palmer Luckey, who lives on nearby Lido Isle, was a co-host." [The Los Angeles Times, [6/8/24](#)]

Palmer Luckey Held A Fundraiser For Trump At His Home In 2020. "Former Facebook and Oculus executive Palmer Luckey will host a fundraiser for President Donald Trump at Luckey's Southern California home this weekend, according to an invitation viewed by CNBC. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence's 'Victory' campaign will hold the event in Orange County at 'The home of Nicole and Palmer Luckey' on October 18th, the invitation states. Tickets range from \$2,800 per person up to \$100,000 per person." [CNBC, [10/16/20](#)]

Palmer Luckey Contributed \$966,003 In The 2024 Political Cycle Primarily In Support Of Republican Candidates, With \$405,100 Going To Republican Leadership And Congressional PACs. [OpenSecrets, donor lookup, accessed [5/14/25](#)]