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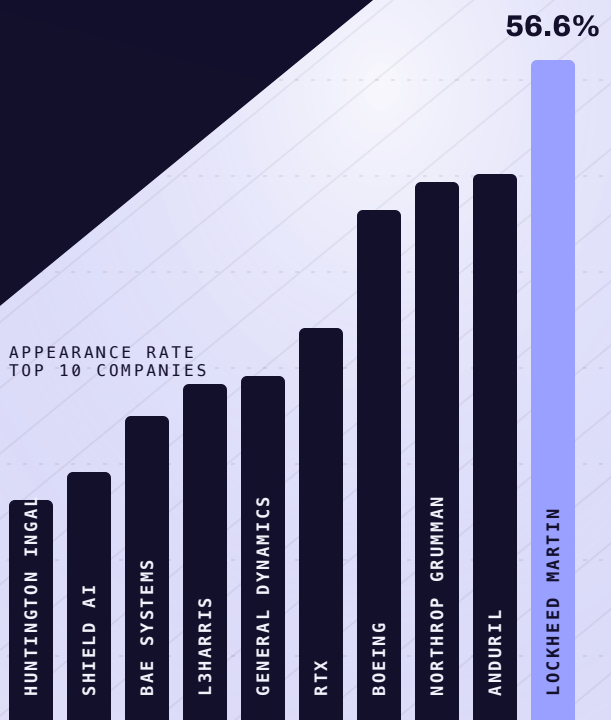
DEFENSE & AEROSPACE INDEX 2.0

Which defense companies AI engines name
288 AI answers · November 3, 2026

Measured :
November 3, 2026
24 questions × 3 runs · 288 AI answers

Engines :
ChatGPT · Claude · Gemini · Perplexity
plus 63 Google AI Overviews

Prepared by :
5W Public Relations
5wpr.com



AT A GLANCE

Lockheed Martin, Anduril and Northrop Grumman lead. All three are within the margin.

Lockheed Martin: 163/288 (56.6%; 95% interval 50.8–62.2%). Anduril: 135/288 (46.9%; 95% interval 41.2–52.6%). Their 95% intervals overlap; neither can be called the sole leader.

> Version 2. This version replaces the first version of this study, first published August 15, 2026. It uses measured counts, so the two versions are not comparable.

288
AI answers analyzed across ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini and Perplexity

56.6%
of answers named Lockheed Martin, the most-named (163 of 288)

34
tracked companies named at least once (of 35)

100%
of Google searches showed an AI Overview (63 of 63)

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KEY FINDINGS

01 What the data shows

MEASURED LEADERS

Lockheed Martin, Anduril and Northrop Grumman

Lockheed Martin, Anduril and Northrop Grumman lead this measured set. Lockheed Martin: 163/288 (56.6%; 95% interval 50.8–62.2%). Anduril: 135/288 (46.9%; 95% interval 41.2–52.6%). Their 95% intervals overlap; neither can be called the sole leader.

NAMED FIRST

87/288 (30.2%)

Lockheed Martin was the first company named in 87 of 288 answers, more than any other tracked company. Its average first position was 2.2.

OWN-SITE CITATIONS

34/288 (11.8%)

Lockheed Martin's own domains were cited in 34 of 288 grounded answers, more than any other tracked company. Anduril followed at 20 of 288. 10 of 35 tracked companies had 0 of 288.

AIO TRIGGER

63/63 (100%)

Google AI Overviews appeared on 63 of 63 searches (CI 94.3–100%).

AIO LEADER

39/63 (61.9%)

Lockheed Martin was the company named most often in AI Overviews, at 39 of 63, followed by Northrop Grumman at 27 of 63 (42.9%). In the four-engine set, Lockheed Martin was named in 163 of 288 answers (56.6%).

TOP DOMAIN

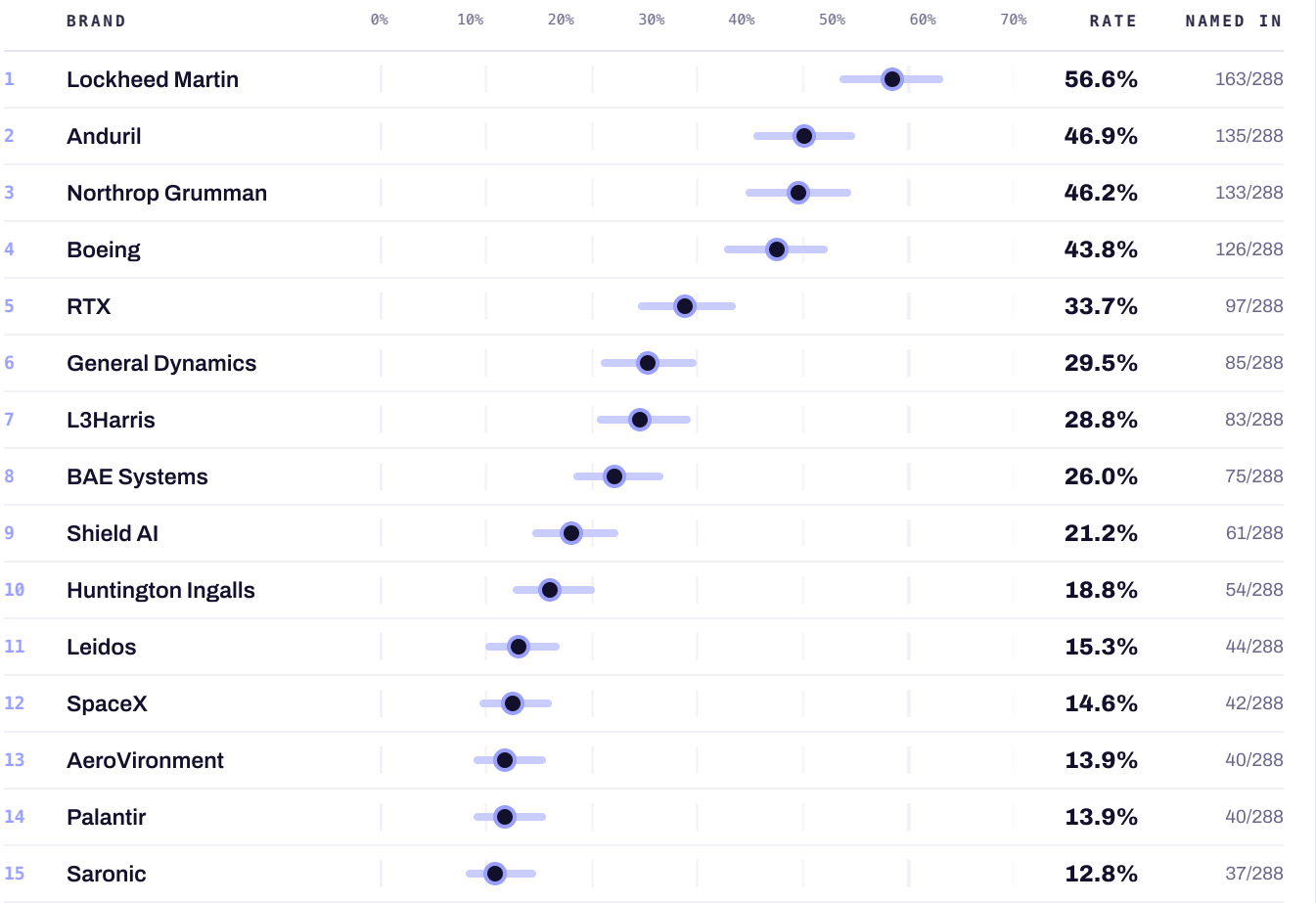
53/288 (18.4%)

en.wikipedia.org was cited in 53 of 288 grounded four-engine answers, with 80 of 2,529 citations (3.2%). newmarketpitch.com came second with 79 citations in 45 answers (15.6%).

02 THE LEADERBOARD

Which companies AI engines name

Appearance rate across 288 four-engine answers. The bar is the 95% confidence interval; overlapping bars cannot be told apart at this sample size.



	BRAND	RATE	NAMED IN
1	Lockheed Martin	56.6%	163/288
2	Anduril	46.9%	135/288
3	Northrop Grumman	46.2%	133/288
4	Boeing	43.8%	126/288
5	RTX	33.7%	97/288
6	General Dynamics	29.5%	85/288
7	L3Harris	28.8%	83/288
8	BAE Systems	26.0%	75/288
9	Shield AI	21.2%	61/288
10	Huntington Ingalls	18.8%	54/288
11	Leidos	15.3%	44/288
12	SpaceX	14.6%	42/288
13	AeroVironment	13.9%	40/288
14	Palantir	13.9%	40/288
15	Saronic	12.8%	37/288

02 THE LEADERBOARD

The full list

Own-domain citation is the share of 288 grounded answers that cited the tracked name's own domains (subdomains included). Citation share is of all 2,529 citations.

#	BRAND	NAMED IN	APPEARANCE RATE	95% INTERVAL	FIRST MENTION	OWN-DOMAIN CITATION	CITATION SHARE
1	Lockheed Martin	163/288	56.6%	50.8–62.2%	2.2	11.8% (34/288)	1.7%
2	Anduril	135/288	46.9%	41.2–52.6%	3	6.9% (20/288)	0.8%
3	Northrop Grumman	133/288	46.2%	40.5–52%	3.6	5.9% (17/288)	0.8%
4	Boeing	126/288	43.8%	38.1–49.5%	3.9	4.5% (13/288)	0.5%
5	RTX	97/288	33.7%	28.5–39.3%	2.9	3.8% (11/288)	0.4%
6	General Dynamics	85/288	29.5%	24.5–35%	4.2	0.3% (1/288)	0%
7	L3Harris	83/288	28.8%	23.9–34.3%	6.1	2.1% (6/288)	0.2%
8	BAE Systems	75/288	26%	21.3–31.4%	5.7	0.7% (2/288)	0.1%
9	Shield AI	61/288	21.2%	16.9–26.3%	3.5	4.2% (12/288)	0.5%
10	Huntington Ingalls	54/288	18.8%	14.7–23.7%	4.1	3.1% (9/288)	0.4%
11	Leidos	44/288	15.3%	11.6–19.9%	6.3	2.1% (6/288)	0.2%
12	SpaceX	42/288	14.6%	11–19.1%	3.1	1% (3/288)	0.2%
13	AeroVironment	40/288	13.9%	10.4–18.4%	3.5	0.7% (2/288)	0.1%
14	Palantir	40/288	13.9%	10.4–18.4%	3.9	2.4% (7/288)	0.3%
15	Saronic	37/288	12.8%	9.5–17.2%	3.7	1% (3/288)	0.1%
16	Helsing	32/288	11.1%	8–15.3%	3.6	0% (0/288)	0%
17	Rocket Lab	31/288	10.8%	7.7–14.9%	2.8	1.4% (4/288)	0.2%
18	Epirus	25/288	8.7%	5.9–12.5%	5	0% (0/288)	0%
19	Firefly Aerospace	23/288	8%	5.4–11.7%	4	0.3% (1/288)	0%
20	Skydio	23/288	8%	5.4–11.7%	4	1% (3/288)	0.1%
21	Vantor	22/288	7.6%	5.1–11.3%	2.9	0.3% (1/288)	0%
22	Kratos	21/288	7.3%	4.8–10.9%	5.1	0.3% (1/288)	0%
23	Capella Space	20/288	6.9%	4.5–10.5%	2.2	1% (3/288)	0.1%
24	Umbra	18/288	6.3%	4–9.7%	3	1.4% (4/288)	0.2%
25	Castelion	17/288	5.9%	3.7–9.2%	5.2	0% (0/288)	0%
26	Planet Labs	15/288	5.2%	3.2–8.4%	2.9	1.4% (4/288)	0.2%
27	BlackSky	14/288	4.9%	2.9–8%	3.4	2.4% (7/288)	0.3%
28	Blue Origin	12/288	4.2%	2.4–7.1%	3.9	0% (0/288)	0%

THE LEADERBOARD

02 The full list (continued)

#	BRAND	NAMED IN	APPEARANCE RATE	95% INTERVAL	FIRST MENTION	OWN-DOMAIN CITATION	CITATION SHARE
29	**United Launch Alliance**	12/288	**4.2%**	2.4–7.1%	2.9	0% (0/288)	0%
30	**Mach Industries**	10/288	**3.5%**	1.9–6.3%	6.5	0% (0/288)	0%
31	**Relativity Space**	6/288	**2.1%**	1–4.5%	4.5	0% (0/288)	0%
32	**Vannevar Labs**	6/288	**2.1%**	1–4.5%	5.7	0% (0/288)	0%
33	**Rebellion Defense**	2/288	**0.7%**	0.2–2.5%	4	0.3% (1/288)	0%
34	**Stoke Space**	1/288	**0.3%**	0.1–1.9%	6	0% (0/288)	0%
35	**Astranis**	0/288	**0%**	0–1.3%	–	0% (0/288)	0%

03 THE LEADERBOARD

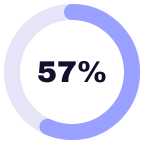
Separate table: people from the earlier edition (not ranked)

Names the earlier edition tracked, counted in the same 288 answers but not ranked against the main list. Listed alphabetically; no own-domain figure.

NAME	NAMED ANSWERS	RATE	95% INTERVAL	NAMED FIRST
Alex Karp	0/288	0.0%	0.0–1.3%	0
Brandon Tseng	0/288	0.0%	0.0–1.3%	0
Brian Schimpf	0/288	0.0%	0.0–1.3%	0
Elon Musk	1/288	0.3%	0.1–1.9%	1
Palmer Luckey	1/288	0.3%	0.1–1.9%	1
Peter Thiel	0/288	0.0%	0.0–1.3%	0
Trae Stephens	1/288	0.3%	0.1–1.9%	1

PROFILES

04 The top eight, side by side

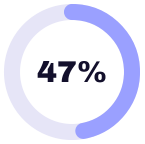


RANK 1

Lockheed Martin

163/288 answers · 95% CI 50.8–62.2%

2.2	11.8%	1.7%
first-mention position	owned-domain citation (34/288)	citation share

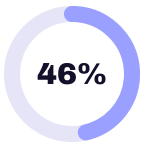


RANK 2

Anduril

135/288 answers · 95% CI 41.2–52.6%

3	6.9%	0.8%
first-mention position	owned-domain citation (20/288)	citation share

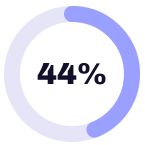


RANK 3

Northrop Grumman

133/288 answers · 95% CI 40.5–52%

3.6	5.9%	0.8%
first-mention position	owned-domain citation (17/288)	citation share

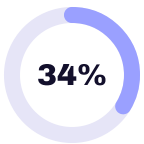


RANK 4

Boeing

126/288 answers · 95% CI 38.1–49.5%

3.9	4.5%	0.5%
first-mention position	owned-domain citation (13/288)	citation share



RANK 5

RTX

97/288 answers · 95% CI 28.5–39.3%

2.9	3.8%	0.4%
first-mention position	owned-domain citation (11/288)	citation share



RANK 6

General Dynamics

85/288 answers · 95% CI 24.5–35%

4.2	0.3%	0%
first-mention position	owned-domain citation (1/288)	citation share

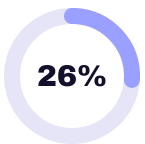


RANK 7

L3Harris

83/288 answers · 95% CI 23.9–34.3%

6.1	2.1%	0.2%
first-mention position	owned-domain citation (6/288)	citation share



RANK 8

BAE Systems

75/288 answers · 95% CI 21.3–31.4%

5.7	0.7%	0.1%
first-mention position	owned-domain citation (2/288)	citation share

HOW THE ENGINES DIFFER

05 Same questions, different answers

The four engines named the leading names at similar rates.

ChatGPT

	72 ASKED	72 RETURNED	72 GROUNDED
Lockheed Martin			**58.3%**
Northrop Grumman			**47.2%**
Boeing			**44.4%**
Anduril			**41.7%**
RTX			**36.1%**
General Dynamics			**29.2%**

Claude

	72 ASKED	72 RETURNED	72 GROUNDED
Lockheed Martin			**56.9%**
Boeing			**47.2%**
Anduril			**45.8%**
Northrop Grumman			**45.8%**
RTX			**36.1%**
General Dynamics			**33.3%**

Gemini

	72 ASKED	72 RETURNED	72 GROUNDED
Lockheed Martin			**59.7%**
Anduril			**52.8%**
Boeing			**48.6%**
Northrop Grumman			**44.4%**
RTX			**29.2%**
L3Harris			**29.2%**

Perplexity

	72 ASKED	72 RETURNED	72 GROUNDED
Lockheed Martin			**51.4%**
Anduril			**47.2%**
Northrop Grumman			**47.2%**
Boeing			**34.7%**
RTX			**33.3%**
BAE Systems			**31.9%**

06

GOOGLE AI OVERVIEWS

The fifth engine

Google AI Overviews were captured through 63 U.S. desktop searches and scored only where an overview appeared, so five-engine figures use 288 + 63 = 351 answers.



TRIGGER RATE

Google AI Overviews appeared on 63 of 63 searches (100%, CI 94.3–100%). The other 0 searches showed no overview. Within the 63 overviews, Lockheed Martin was named in 39 (61.9%), Northrop Grumman was named in 27 (42.9%), Anduril was named in 24 (38.1%), Boeing was named in 23 (36.5%). youtube.com was the most-cited source, with 29 citations and an appearance in 24 of 63 overviews.

FIVE-ENGINE RANK (FOUR-ENGINE RANK IN ARROWS)

1	Lockheed Martin	57.5%	=
2	Northrop Grumman	45.6%	▲ 1
3	Anduril	45.3%	▼ 1
4	Boeing	42.5%	=
5	RTX	33.6%	=
6	L3Harris	29.6%	▲ 1
7	General Dynamics	27.9%	▼ 1
8	BAE Systems	25.1%	=
9	Shield AI	21.7%	=
10	Huntington Ingalls	16.5%	=

LEADERS BY QUESTION

07 Who each question surfaces first

Six questions from the set. Each tile uses that question's own four-engine answers as the denominator.

Q01 · 12 ANSWERS

Lockheed Martin 100%

TIED WITH RTX, NORTHROP GRUMMAN

RTX	100%
Northrop Grumman	100%

AI Overview shown on 0 of 0 searches

Q02 · 12 ANSWERS

Lockheed Martin 100%

TIED WITH RTX, GENERAL DYNAMICS

RTX	100%
General Dynamics	100%

AI Overview shown on 3 of 3 searches

Q03 · 12 ANSWERS

Northrop Grumman 100%

TIED WITH AEROVIRONMENT

AeroVironment	100%
Anduril	91.7%

AI Overview shown on 1 of 1 searches

Q04 · 12 ANSWERS

Anduril 100%

TIED WITH LOCKHEED MARTIN, BAE SYSTEMS

Lockheed Martin	100%
BAE Systems	100%

AI Overview shown on 3 of 3 searches

Q05 · 12 ANSWERS

Palantir 91.7%

Anduril	83.3%
Shield AI	83.3%

AI Overview shown on 3 of 3 searches

Q06 · 12 ANSWERS

RTX 100%

TIED WITH ANDURIL, LOCKHEED MARTIN

Anduril	100%
Lockheed Martin	100%

AI Overview shown on 3 of 3 searches

08

WHO THE ENGINES CITE

Most-cited domains

The four engines produced 2,529 citations in total. en.wikipedia.org was cited most often, with 80 citations (3.2%) across 53 answers. Next came newmarketpitch.com (79), marketsandmarkets.com (53), lockheedmartin.com (42), fortunebusinessinsights.com (29), mordorintelligence.com (29).

FOUR AI ENGINES · SHARE OF 288 GROUNDED ANSWERS

en.wikipedia.org	**18.4%**
marketsandmarkets.c...	**17%**
newmarketpitch.com	**15.6%**
lockheedmartin.com	**11.5%**
fortunebusinessinsights....	**10.1%**
mordorintelligence.com	**10.1%**
researchandmarkets.com	**9.4%**
defensenews.com	**8.3%**
wikipedia.org	**8.3%**
anduril.com	**6.9%**

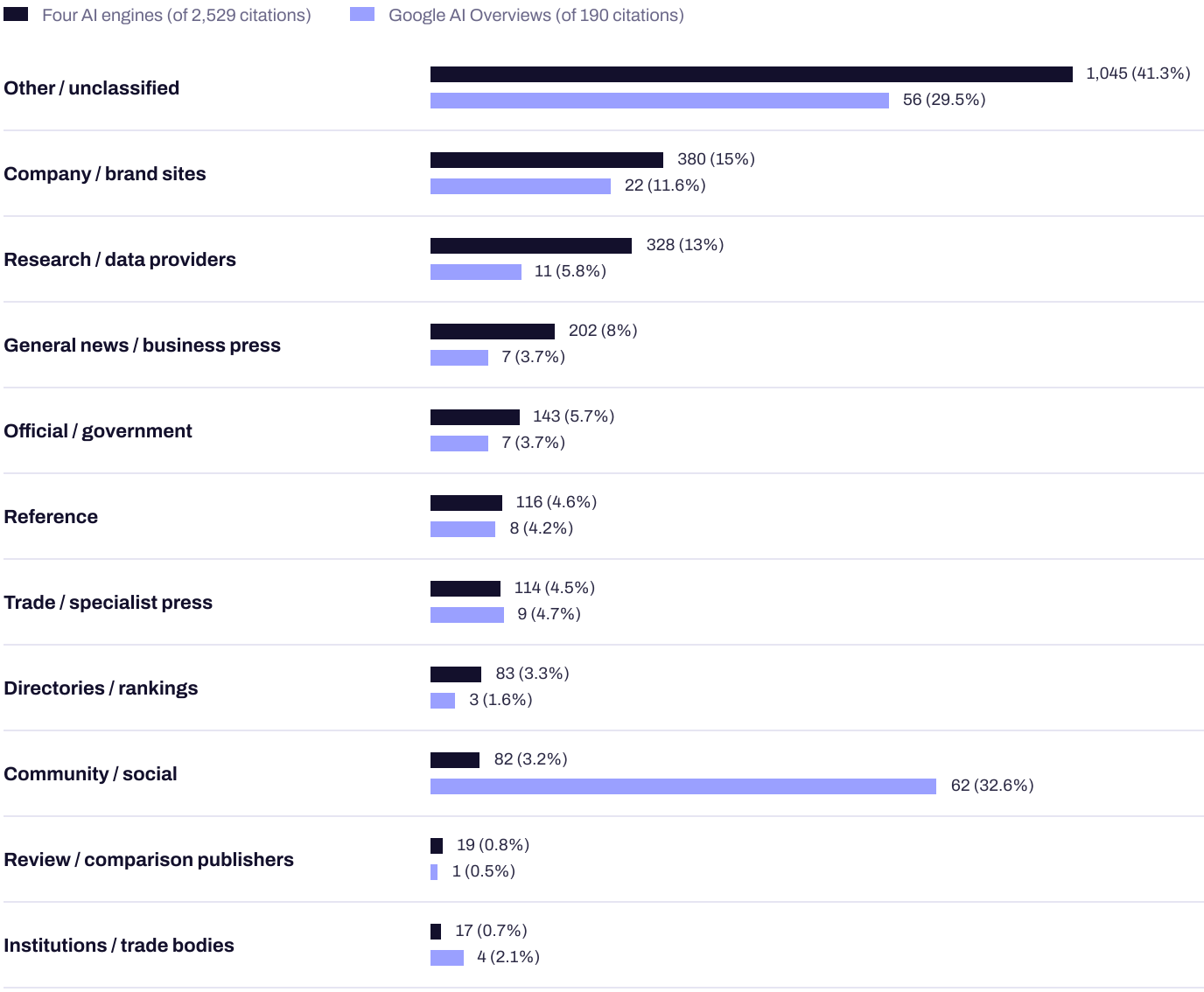
GOOGLE AI OVERVIEWS · SHARE OF 63 OVERVIEWS

youtube.com	**38.1%**
facebook.com	**17.5%**
en.wikipedia.org	**12.7%**
instagram.com	**11.1%**
linkedin.com	**9.5%**
reddit.com	**7.9%**
landbase.com	**6.3%**
sphericalinsights.com	**6.3%**
unmannedsystemstechn...	**6.3%**
brennancenter.org	**4.8%**

09 WHO THE ENGINES CITE

Citation share by source type

Share of all citations by the type of site cited.



WHAT THE DATA SUGGESTS

10 How can companies improve their AI visibility?

These steps follow from the measured results above. They describe what the engines cited in this study and are not a guarantee of results.

STEP	WHAT THIS STUDY MEASURED
Put your facts on your own domain.	Lockheed Martin's own domains were cited in 11.8% of grounded answers, Anduril's in 6.9% and Northrop Grumman's in 5.9%.
Keep your facts accurate on the sites engines cite.	The most-cited sites other than the tracked names' own were en.wikipedia.org (in 18.4% of grounded answers), marketsandmarkets.com (17.0%), newmarketpitch.com (15.6%), fortunebusinessinsights.com (10.1%) and mordorintelligence.com (10.1%). Research and data providers supplied 13.0% of citations and general news and business press 8.0%.
Check each engine separately.	Gemini named Boeing in 48.6% of answers against 34.7% on Perplexity. Perplexity named BAE Systems in 31.9% of answers against 19.4% on Gemini.
Watch names outside the tracked list.	Saab AB (33 answers), Elbit Systems Ltd (24 answers), General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (22 answers), Israel Aerospace Industries Ltd. (22 answers), China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (21 answers) were named often but were not tracked.
Re-run the same questions every month.	Compare counts and intervals, not ranks. The 24 questions are in the appendix.

QUESTIONS PEOPLE ASK

11 What AI answers

Q1 Which companies lead these AI answers?

Lockheed Martin, Anduril and Northrop Grumman lead this measured set. Lockheed Martin: 163/288 (56.6%; 95% interval 50.8–62.2%). Anduril: 135/288 (46.9%; 95% interval 41.2–52.6%). Their 95% intervals overlap; neither can be called the sole leader.

Q2 Which company is named first most often?

Lockheed Martin was the first company named in 87 of 288 answers, with an average first position of 2.2.

Q3 How often do Google AI Overviews appear for these questions?

An overview appeared on 63 of 63 searches (100%, CI 94.3–100%). Within those 63 overviews, Lockheed Martin was named most often, in 39 (61.9%).

Q4 Which sources do the engines cite?

Across 2,529 four-engine citations, en.wikipedia.org was cited most (80 citations, in 53 of 288 grounded answers), followed by newmarketpitch.com (79 citations).

Q5 Do the four engines agree?

Largely. No tracked name differed by more than 12 points between engines.

METHODOLOGY

12 How this study was measured

24	×	3	×	4	=	288	+	63
questions		runs each		AI engines		answers		Google searches · 63 AI Overviews

24 questions asked three times on each of ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini and Perplexity, measured November 3, 2026. United States, English; Google retrieval uses desktop results. Models: gpt-5-mini, claude-sonnet-5-5, gemini-3.6-flash only, sonar-pro. Google AI Overviews come from DataForSEO, not inferred chat answers. Appearance counts returned text, including ungrounded answers; citation rates use grounded answers. Longer overlapping names suppress shorter ones; First mention is the earliest eligible name order. Own-domain rates include declared domains and subdomains; shared parent scopes may count for multiple names and cannot be summed as unique citations.

ENGINE	MODEL IDS CALLED	ASKED	RETURNED	GROUNDED
ChatGPT	gpt-5-mini	72	72	72
Claude	claude-sonnet-5-5	72	72	72
Gemini	gemini-3.6-flash	72	72	72
Perplexity	sonar-pro	72	72	72
Google AI Overviews	DataForSEO Google SERP (live, advanced)	63	63 shown	63

Own-domain citations count a domain plus all its subdomains, with the same rule in every table.

METRIC DEFINITIONS

- Appearance rate: answers naming the tracked name ÷ answers returned, with Wilson 95% intervals.
- First mention: average order in which the tracked name first appears (1 = first).
- Own-domain citation: grounded answers citing the tracked name's domains ÷ grounded answers.
- Citation share: citations to the tracked name's domains ÷ all citations.

LIMITATIONS

- Only 35 tracked companies are ranked; results are not an exhaustive market ranking.
- Only the tracked companies were scored. Untracked names that appeared often were not scored, including Saab AB (33 answers), Elbit Systems Ltd (24 answers), General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (22 answers), Israel Aerospace Industries Ltd. (22 answers), China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (21 answers).
- 351 of 360 planned results were returned. 9 AI Overview lookups were excluded after at most three total attempts.
- 63 successful Google searches: 63 overviews shown; 0 without an overview. Failures are excluded, not scored as zero.
- All returned chat answers had search sources.
- Question 10 names Anduril and Lockheed Martin, so both counts include up to 12 answers to that question.
- Without that question, Anduril is named in 123 of 276 answers and stays within Lockheed Martin's margin (151 of 276).
- Removing 1 Core question naming tracked subjects leaves 276 eligible answers. The top two are Lockheed Martin (151/276) and Northrop Grumman (130/276); their order changes.
- Unverified own domains are not available, never zero or guessed. Source types use Company / brand sites only for verified official organisations; other unresolved sites are Other / unclassified.
- Wilson 95% intervals are descriptive; overlapping leading intervals do not establish a sole leader. Measurements do not endorse medical, legal, financial or product claims.
- Companies from the earlier edition plus primes, shipbuilders and space firms the questions cover. People named in the earlier edition (founders and CEOs) are not ranked; only companies are. Anduril raised $5 billion at a $61 billion valuation in May 2026 and remains private. Boeing is tracked as one company; answers about its commercial aircraft are kept but noted in review. Names the earlier edition tracked (people) are counted in a separate table that is not ranked against the main list; the main ranking and title stay on the main list. They have no own-domain figure.

APPENDIX

13 The 24 questions

Questions marked "Core question" are the original study questions, asked word for word. The others are added neutral questions.

#	QUESTION	GROUP	SOURCE
01	What are the leading defense technology companies in the US?	Defense Index 2.0	CORE QUESTION
02	Who are the biggest US defense contractors?	Defense Index 2.0	CORE QUESTION
03	Which companies make the best military drones?	Defense Index 2.0	CORE QUESTION
04	Which companies are leading in autonomous weapons systems?	Defense Index 2.0	CORE QUESTION
05	Which companies are building AI for the military?	Defense Index 2.0	CORE QUESTION
06	Which companies lead in counter-drone technology?	Defense Index 2.0	CORE QUESTION
07	What are the top space launch companies?	Defense Index 2.0	CORE QUESTION
08	Which companies provide satellite imagery to the US government?	Defense Index 2.0	CORE QUESTION
09	Which defense startups are growing the fastest?	Defense Index 2.0	CORE QUESTION
10	Anduril vs Lockheed Martin: how do their approaches differ?	Defense Index 2.0	CORE QUESTION
11	Which companies build autonomous naval vessels?	Defense Index 2.0	CORE QUESTION
12	Which companies build the most advanced fighter jets?	Defense Index 2.0	ADDED QUESTION
13	Which companies make missile defense systems for the US?	Defense Index 2.0	ADDED QUESTION
14	Who are the leading US shipbuilders for the Navy?	Defense Index 2.0	ADDED QUESTION
15	Which companies make small drones for the US Army?	Defense Index 2.0	ADDED QUESTION
16	Which companies develop directed energy weapons?	Defense Index 2.0	ADDED QUESTION
17	Which software companies have the biggest Pentagon contracts?	Defense Index 2.0	ADDED QUESTION
18	Which companies build military satellites?	Defense Index 2.0	ADDED QUESTION
19	What are the leading small satellite launch companies?	Defense Index 2.0	ADDED QUESTION
20	Which companies are developing hypersonic weapons?	Defense Index 2.0	ADDED QUESTION
21	Which defense tech companies have raised the most venture funding?	Defense Index 2.0	ADDED QUESTION
22	Which companies provide commercial radar satellite data?	Defense Index 2.0	ADDED QUESTION
23	Which companies make autonomous underwater vehicles for the military?	Defense Index 2.0	ADDED QUESTION
24	Which companies build AI-piloted aircraft?	Defense Index 2.0	ADDED QUESTION

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