



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1975

1. Title of Project: Florida Severe Weather Mesonet

2. Senate Sponsor: Joe Gruters

3. Date of Submission: 02/12/2019

4. Project/Program Description:

This purpose of this project is the creation of a statewide mesonet to enhance and improve the current Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) capabilities. A mesonet is a network of automated weather and environmental monitoring stations designed to observe mesoscale meteorological events. The scope of this project is to implement fifty solar powered weather stations across the state, focusing on areas that lack current observations. The stations will collect atmospheric data and camera images every minute and upload the vital information to an emergency management dashboard/platform via cellular communications, allowing them to report during severe weather events.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds : Executive Office of the Governor

State Agency Contacted? Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2019-2020

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	970,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	
Total State Funds Requested	970,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percent
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	970,000	100.00%
Federal	0	0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.00%
Local	0	0.00%
Other	0	0.00%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	970,000	100.0%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	NonRecurring		

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year. 970,000



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10. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		
Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Purchase of fifty weather stations, and additional equipment including modems, solar panels, batteries, cameras, and mount and tower structures.	700,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Maintenance contract for three years on the equipment from the date of installation. Data storage and software development/upgrades for three years from date of awarded funding.	270,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		970,000

11. Program Performance:

a. What is the specific purpose or goal that will be achieved by the funds requested?

The purpose of this project is to provide the Division of Emergency Management with hyper-local, real-time weather data in strategic locations. This new data will provide critical information to assist FDEM in coordinating the deployment of resources to impacted areas during times of severe weather including hurricanes. With the combination of weather data coupled with images available every minute, emergency management officials and first responders will have the data and images from specific locations before areas can be accessed. The mesonet network will provide FDEM additional information to plan and respond more efficiently.

b. What are the activities and services that will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

The weather stations within the FDEM mesonet would be outfitted with high-resolution cameras and installed in strategic locations across the state. Each station must be solar powered and contain a solar powered battery back-up, be able to upload the data and camera images through cellular connection every minute, and must be rated to withstand the up to 185 mph winds. These proactive steps will ensure that the systems can report when crucial infrastructure is damaged during a severe weather event. The development of a decision support tool is required, and input from FDEM is essential to create a dashboard to view and interact with the data from the weather stations. Maintenance on the weather stations (equipment) will be provided for three years from the date of installation.



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c. What are the direct services to be provided to citizens by the appropriations project?

The citizens near the FDEM mesonet will benefit from receiving targeted responses after severe weather events. The data could be used to help federal partners, including the National Weather Service, issue severe weather watches and warnings based on the hyper-local data provided from the weather stations.

d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

The target population is the citizens near the deployed FDEM mesonet stations and those citizens in impacted areas during severe weather events

e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?

The expected outcome of implementing an emergency management focused mesonet across the state is to provide FDEM data to inform officials on local weather conditions, especially during severe weather events. The vital data will support the decision-making process when state resources are required to respond to a natural disaster. The data collected from the mesonet stations can also be used for severe weather training exercises and research efforts. The success of the program can be illustrated through a review of the installation and operation of the mesonet and how FDEM benefited from the additional data reported during future weather events.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for in the contract?

Standard contract penalties.

12. The owner(s) of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owner(s) of the facility and the entity.

N/A

13. Requestor Contact Information:

- a. **Name:** Edward Mansouri
- b. **Organization:** WeatherSTEM
- c. **E-mail Address:** emansouri@weatherstem.com
- d. **Phone Number:** (850)212-3258

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** WeatherSTEM
- b. **County:** Statewide
- c. **Organization Type:**
 - For Profit
 - Non Profit 501(c) (3)
 - Non Profit 501(c) (4)
 - Local Entity
 - University or College



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Other (Please specify)

- d. Contact Name:** Edward Mansouri
- e. E-mail Address:** emansouri@weatherstem.com
- f. Phone Number:** (850)212-3258

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. Name:** Brad Burleson
- b. Firm Name:** Ballard Partners
- c. E-mail Address:** brad@ballardfl.com
- d. Phone Number:** (850)545-2219