



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2663

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

As the southern anchor of Florida’s “space triangle”, Florida Tech is proposing to help alleviate engineering cyber talent shortages for Florida aerospace and defense industries by continuing to develop the ASCEND Center of Excellence. Florida Tech is creating a university aerospace assured engineering and educational laboratory of national distinction to help produce quality engineers to counter threats to data, design, production, and products. As a state “strategic asset”, the Florida Institute of Technology (Florida Tech) in Melbourne is uniquely positioned to help provide Florida with additional capability and highly sought after engineering graduates.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

State Agency contacted?

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	4,500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	2,500,000
Total State Funds Requested	7,000,000

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	7,000,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	7,000,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	0	5,000,000	58/59A	No

9. **Is future funding likely to be requested?**

a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**

b. **Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.**

At this time, local and federal sources are unavailable for this stage of the project.

10. **Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?**



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Yes

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

Florida Tech received a total of \$22.9 million through June of 2022 in federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic for student aid, meals and housing, COVID safety precautions and other institutional expenses.

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

Dec 2024

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

Dec 2025

12. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

Florida Institute of Technology - A STEM university in Melbourne, Florida. Facility improvements and build out will be completed in an existing operational facility.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Equipment to include agile manufacturing related, microscopy, and composite fabrication supporting ASCEND.	4,500,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Build-out additions for the ASCEND program at the new Center for Advanced Manufacturing & Innovative Design.	2,500,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		7,000,000

14. Program Performance

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



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

Introduction of cybersecurity and resiliency techniques in a program setting for multi-disciplinary aerospace and defense industry engineering students.

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

Providing students in aerospace industry related engineering disciplines exposure to cybersecurity and resiliency skill sets demanded by industry. The nation has a critical shortage of engineers who are properly trained to deal with the cybersecurity threats presented by enemy nations. Florida Tech will become a national leader in producing quality engineers prepared to deal with this threat to data, design, programs, and production.

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

University students and Florida aerospace industry and other organizations requiring engineering, cybersecurity and resiliency skill sets. Over the course of the program, greater than 800 individuals will be served.

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

Our nation has a critical shortage of engineers and professionals properly trained to deal with the threats presented by enemy nations. The ASCEND program will ensure Florida Institute of Technology is graduating a new class of "hardened engineers" prepared to deal with and manage these threats. ASCEND will increase the number of engineering graduates with an increased focus on cybersecurity and resiliency issues.

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 the contract?

Standard Contract Conditions.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

16. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- Local Entity



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University or College

Other (please specify)

d. First Name **Last Name**

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number