



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1309

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

This request is for the development of a Workforce Training for Mechatronics C (MECCA) Hub in South Florida. Mechatronics plays a significant role in industries such as advanced manufacturing, advanced technology, engineering with electronics (AI, telecoms, robotics), large automated distribution centers, electric vehicle technology, aerospace, sustainability and resilience, cybersecurity, computer engineering, building automation and animations. At MECCA, students will learn in-demand workforce readiness skills in state-of-the art applied learning environment. Since Miami Dade College is also adept at educating through an equity lens, MECCA will enrich the workforce with new talent. Through upskilling and other programs, MECCA will deliver rapid and stackable credentials to equip students for high-skill and high-wage jobs. As a collaborative, solutions-driven, and interdisciplinary space that brings industry and education together, MECCA will be a talent hub for the community.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	21,787,500
Total State Funds Requested	21,787,500

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	21,787,500	94%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	1,500,000	6%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	23,287,500	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

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

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.



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

Yes

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

Miami Dade College received federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic to assist students with technology related resources for remote learning, financial assistance, sanitizing efforts, student services support, among others.

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

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

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

Fourth Quarter
2023

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

Second Quarter
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.

District Board of Trustees for Miami Dade College is the owner and entity.

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	Furnishings, Fixtures and Equipment, Owner Direct Purchases	6,285,043
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Other Professional Services, Renderings, Permit & Inspection Services, Pre Construction Services	341,415
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Construction Cost Estimates	15,161,042
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		21,787,500

14. Program Performance

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



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MECCA Hub aims to attract and train students, who might not otherwise consider or be prepared for a mechatronics pathway to gain the skills for these in-demand and high-wage jobs. As MECCA helps to fill the 200,000 new jobs in STEM fields in Florida expected by 2030, it will also develop partnerships in engineering, technology, and robotics industries to identify the best curriculum, secure state-of-the-art specialized equipment, and create an immerse and applied learning environment. These funds will allow MECCA to be created, staffed, and aligned with industry to achieve these goals.

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

MECCA Hub aims to attract and train students, who might not otherwise consider or be prepared for a mechatronics pathway to gain the skills for these in-demand and high-wage jobs. As MECCA helps to fill the 200,000 new jobs in STEM fields in Florida expected by 2030, it will also develop partnerships in engineering, technology, and robotics industries to identify the best curriculum, secure state-of-the-art specialized equipment, and create an immerse and applied learning environment. These funds will allow MECCA to be created, staffed, and aligned with industry to achieve these goals.

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

MECCA Hub direct services will include: workforce training, advisement, student success coaching, tutoring and other academic support, guest lectures from industry, hands on experiential learning, internships/visits, career exploration and job placement support. Students will earn stackable credentials (industry certifications, college credit certificates and associate degrees) in engineering, automation, or manufacturing amongst others.

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

MECCA Hub expects to extend the services to over 1,600 students currently in the MDC pipeline with interests in engineering, technology, robotics, architecture, and animation/graphic arts. Outreach will also be made to direct entry students from high schools (FTIC), non-traditional adults, displaced workers, and individuals in-field seeking to up skill and credentials. This population tends to be under-served as 67% of Miami Dade College students live below the national poverty line and 50% of the direct entry students are first generation college students.

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

MECCA Hub will introduce students to workforce readiness skills in mechatronics using high impact teaching and learning strategies. By end of Fall, 50% of students will be exposed to mechatronics with 80% of those able to receive academic/student services from a student success coach or advisor through career exploration activities in Spring. One hundred students will be awarded stipends to support internships or research. Two faculty members will receive training to use equipment or learn the latest trends in the field. A panel of business and industry experts (that will be operational within the first quarter and continue to meet quarterly) will help align the curriculum to industry needs.

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?

Work with the agency to determine appropriate performance metrics and reporting for the project.

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



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