



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1217

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 and physical resiliency 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 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? Yes

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	3,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	4,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	7,000,000

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (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 2025-2026	7,000,000	100%

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

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2024-25	0	5,000,000	59 / 61	No

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

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.



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Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

10. 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)?

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

12/03/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/03/2026

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

Florida Institute of Technology - A STEM university in Melbourne, Florida. Facility improvements to accommodate a baseline Secured Compartmented Information Facility will be completed in an existing operational building complex.

11. 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 will receive funding with SCIF operations to be managed by the Florida Tech Research Institute, a wholly owned non profit subsidiary of the Florida Institute of Technology, which conducts classified work.

12. 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		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Equipment to include composite fabrication supporting ASCEND.	3,000,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Begin build-out of Phase 1 Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF) with building climate control at innovation and manufacturing complex.	4,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		7,000,000

13. Program Performance

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



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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 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.

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

Introduction of cybersecurity and resiliency techniques with 'clearance-ready' opportunities 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 in the contract?

Standard contract conditions.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?

a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?

- Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):

15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:



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b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:

16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):

17. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

18. 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
- University or College
- Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number Ext.

19. Lobbyist Contact Information



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a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.