**1. Project Title**  Florida Severe Weather and Atmospheric Catastrophic Events Sensor Enhancements

**2. Senate Sponsor**  Corey Simon

**3. Date of Request**  3/7/2025

**4. Project/Program Description**

The requested funding will significantly expand the state's network of high-risk lightning sensors. The sensors offer real-time data of high-risk lightning events to instantly detect fires. The state can operationalize the data to improve responsiveness and resource allocation to lightning-caused wildfires.

**5. State Agency to receive requested funds**  Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

**State Agency contacted?**  Yes

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

| Type of Funding | Amount |
|---|---|
| Operating | 500,000 |
| Fixed Capital Outlay | 0 |
| **Total State Funds Requested** | **500,000** |

**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) | 500,000 | 43% |
| **Matching Funds** | | |
| Federal | 550,000 | 48% |
| State (excluding the amount of this request) | 0 | 0% |
| Local | 0 | 0% |
| Other | 100,000 | 9% |
| **Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026** | **1,150,000** | **100%** |

**8. Has this project previously received state funding?**  No

   If yes, provide the most recent instance:

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

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

   **a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**  500,000

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

   Federal and Private Funding

# 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)?**

**c. What is the estimated start date of construction?**

**d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?**

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

**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.**

**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 | Purchase of a patented proprietary weather hardware package which includes the following: hardware mounting pole, solar panel, battery box, remote switch assembly, essential circuitry and modems. | 500,000 |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study | | 0 |
| **Operational Costs** | | |
| 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 | | 0 |
| **Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)** | | **500,000** |

**13. Program Performance**

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

The purpose is to provide High-Risk-Lightning and severe weather data accessibility into existing platforms through strategically located, edge computing sensors with real-time alert capabilities. Detectors will be immediately deployed to high hazard risk areas where severe events are likely based on existing fuel and environmental factors. Initial deployment and maintenance will be regular to achieve optimal results.

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

High-Risk-Lightning detectors are providing real time data on lightning ignited wildfires and Pyrocumulonimbi clouds in Florida today, so that fire officials can detect the ones that will start fires immediately and take appropriate action. However, the current deployment only covers about 5% (or 3,150 square miles) of the coverage area needed and the continued full integration with ForeFlight must be deployed at larger scale throughout the state.

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

Provides Florida Forestry Services and local communities access to real-time data that has the ability to prevent potential catastrophic wildfire events. The speed, resilience and accuracy will help improve situational awareness, enhance disaster response, and accelerate recovery efforts ultimately reducing the risk citizens face from wildfire and severe weather threats.

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

The targeted population for this project will look to serve the gulf coast communities of Florida. The deployment of real time sensors will seek to cover approximately 7500 square miles in the region where fuels and risk of wildfire continue to be a real time threat.

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

The continued integration of FNN's HRLTM data with ForeFlight for the Florida Forest Service will significantly enhance wildfire detection and response capabilities in Florida. By combining FNN's AI-driven HRL sensors with Florida Forest Service's aerial surveillance expertise, local communities will benefit from faster, more precise wildfire response. This collaboration will improve early warning systems, allowing firefighting teams to proactively address ignition points before they escalate into large-scale wildfires. As a result, Florida's residents, natural ecosystems, and critical infrastructure will experience increased protection, reduced economic losses, and improved public safety.

**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?**

Return of State Funds

**14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?** No

  **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 infastructure)

  **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#:**

**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** | Istvan | **Last Name** | Kereszy

**b. Organization** | Fire Neural Network

**c. E-mail Address** | istvan.kereszy@fireneuralnetwork.com

**d. Phone Number** | (954)681-1770 | **Ext.**

**18. Recipient Contact Information**

**a. Organization** | Florida Forest Services

**b. Municipality and County** | Statewide

**c. Organization Type**

☐ For Profit Entity

☐ Non Profit 501(c)(3)

☐ Non Profit 501(c)(4)

☐ Local Entity

☐ University or College

☑ Other (please specify)  State Agency

**d. First Name** | Rick | **Last Name** | Dolan

**e. E-mail Address** | richard.dolan@fdacs.gov

**f. Phone Number** | (850)681-5800 | **Ext.**

**19. Lobbyist Contact Information**

**a. Name** | Adrian Lukis

**b. Firm Name**　Ballard Partners

**c. E-mail Address**　adrian@BALLARDPARTNERS.COM

**d. Phone Number**　(850)577-0444

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