



CALL FOR PROJECTS, 2016
For the
Florida-Israel Innovation Partnership
Aerospace Track & R&D Aerospace Grant Application Process

Publication Date: September 8, 2015
Submittal Period: September 8, 2015 through February 1, 2016

Space Florida (“SF”) is dedicated to fostering the growth and development of a sustainable and world-leading aerospace industry in the State of Florida. SF promotes aerospace business development by facilitating business financing, Spaceport Operations, Research and Development, Workforce Development and innovative education programs. SF is an independent special district and a subdivision of the State of Florida and is governed by Part II of Chapter 331 of the Florida Statutes.

INTRODUCTION

In October 2013, the State of Florida and the State of Israel executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to encourage cooperation by the two countries in aerospace and other technology and life science Research and Development (R&D). As a result of the MOU, Space Florida and MATIMOP, the Israeli Industry Center for R&D (the executive agency functioning on behalf of the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) in the Israeli Ministry of Economy) implemented a program to fund joint research projects by Florida and Israeli for-profit companies in a number of research areas related to aerospace. The program received approval for a five (5) year recurring appropriation from the Florida Legislature during the 2013 Legislative Session. Barring unforeseen circumstances, SF will be appropriated \$1,000,000.00 USD annually for Fiscal Years 2014 – 2018 to provide funding to eligible Florida companies selected to participate in the program. MATIMOP-OCS has a similar amount of funding available to provide to Israeli companies who partner with an eligible Florida company in submitting a successful proposal.

The Florida-Israel Innovation Partnerships program purpose is the promoting of greater R&D Aerospace and related technologies. Eligible R&D Projects must stimulate generation and development of new or significantly improved products or processes for commercialization in global markets. Such R&D Projects include:

- Satellite Communication,
- Small satellites (including C3I for small satellites) and small launch vehicles,
- Space sensors for space applications: development, integration, calibration, and environmental testing (including radiometry, multi- and hyper-spectral),
- Bio-sensors for space research,
- Nano-materials and coatings for space applications,
- Electric power resources and solutions for space applications,
- Bio-sensors for space research,
- Microgravity research related to human life sciences,



- Unmanned aerial vehicles and systems,
- Nano-electronics, flex-electronics and low power electronics,
- Micro- and Nano- robotics technologies,
- Other aerospace related research project.

A budget of up to \$2,000,000.00 USD has been jointly allocated by the State of Israel and the State of Florida to provide grants for eligible R&D Projects. Successful companies will receive funding directly from their country according to its regulations and procedures: companies from Israel will be funded by the OCS and companies from Florida will be funded by Space Florida.

MODE OF COLLABORATION

To be eligible to apply for a grant, applicants must be a partnership consisting of at least one (1) for-profit Florida Company and one (1) for-profit Israeli company. Companies are required to comply with the application requirements set forth and program conditions respective to each funding jurisdiction.

Applicants, where one of the applying companies is a wholly owned subsidiary or joint venture of the other company, will not be considered. Applicants, where one of the applying companies has a nominal equity position in the other or a contractual business relationship (for example, in-country distributor of the other company's products), will be considered so long as the relationship is fully disclosed in the Joint Bilateral Cooperation Application Form- **See Appendix A.**

SF and MATIMOP are able to help match companies and to help identify potential application partners for this program. MATIMOP holds a database of Israeli technology companies and it provides on-demand partner matching services (<http://www.matimop.org.il/database.aspx>). SF has access to commercial databases that can assist in identifying potential Florida partners on their website: (www.spaceflorida.gov/israelpartnership). Additionally, it is expected that companies will be seeking their own partners independently.

Participation of research institutions/universities is welcome as subcontractors in accordance with each jurisdiction's funding regulations.

Each jurisdiction will fund its eligible participants in accordance with its own guidelines and procedures.

FUNDING ELIGIBILITY

In Florida: For-profit corporations or limited liability companies, with three (3) out of four (4) of the following activities located in Florida: Headquarters, Research & Development, Sales & Marketing or Manufacturing, which are defined as follows:

- Headquarters: location where the company's executive offices are located,
- Research & Development: activities related to research of relevant existing and new technologies and development of these products into new and improved products,



- Sales & Marketing: activities related to developing and increasing awareness of the company’s products (“Marketing”) and developing and increasing sales of the company’s products (“Sales”) and
- Manufacturing: activities related to the assembly, test and inspection of the company’s products.

Universities and research institutions can apply as subcontractors. Research projects should focus on the aerospace/related areas listed above.

Please refer to **Appendix B** for the complete set of Rules and Regulations governing eligibility for Florida companies seeking to apply for this grant program.

In Israel: R&D performing companies registered and operating in Israel. Universities and Research Centers can participate as sub-contractors, in line with OCS applicable rules and procedures.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must complete and submit all of the following:

1. The Joint Bilateral Cooperative Application Form included at **Appendix A**.
2. For Israeli companies only: in addition to **Appendix A** above, Israeli companies must submit the OCS National Funding Application [(i) Israeli Funding Guidelines - General (ii) OCS Funding Application – Forms (iii) OCS Funding Application – Guidelines].
3. The Cooperative Agreement, which addresses the intellectual property rights and commercialization strategy between the partnership entities. The Cooperation Agreement must be finalized and signed by a legally authorized representative of the applicants before grant awards are issued. Note that the contents of the Cooperation Agreement will not be reviewed for legality by Space Florida or MATIMOP/OCS and by accepting funding the Applicants agree to indemnify, hold harmless and release Space Florida and MATIMOP/OCS for any issues which may arise as a result of the Cooperation Agreement. Accordingly, the Applicants are encouraged to have the Cooperation Agreement reviewed by their legal counsel. A draft outline of a proposed form of Cooperation Agreement can be found in **Appendix C**.
4. The Complete Proposal for the R&D Project. Please thoroughly review this Call for Projects document along with all of the Appendixes for components to be included in the Proposal.

SCHEDULE

Item	Time and Date Due (all time is EST)
Publication Date -- Call for Projects, 2016	September 8, 2015 through February 1, 2016



Submittal of Required Application Documents	No later than 12:00 Noon, Monday, February 1, 2016
Evaluation Period	February 2, 2016 through May 1, 2016
Awards	As Issued

COMMON PROJECT REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following common Project Requirements and Evaluation Criteria and in accordance with each funding jurisdictions requirements.

Technical Merit

- Significance of problem/opportunity,
- Degree of innovation (novelty) of technology,
- Technical feasibility.

Commercial Merit

- Size of potential market,
- Extent to which the need for the product or process can be validated,
- Potential disruptiveness of the technology to be developed.

Ability to carry out proposed research successfully

- Soundness of approach and work plan,
- Adequacy of management plan,
- Qualifications of key members of research team,
- Strength of the partnership and compatibility between the Israeli and Florida Company.

Ability of project participants to commercialize resulting technology successfully

- Current position in market,
- Adequacy of commercialization plan,
- Ability to secure needed financing.

Potential Economic Benefit

In Florida: please describe the expected overall economic impact of your project including the expected number of jobs to be created, retained and the benefit to the Florida company(s) or organizations participating in the project. Indicate the location(s) within the State of Florida where the project work will be conducted.

In Israel: please refer to OCS guidelines.



GRANT AWARDS

In Florida: Space Florida intends to provide grant awards under the following terms and in accordance with funding jurisdiction requirements.

Project Duration:

- Up to two (2) years. If the proposed length of the project is more than one (1) year, milestones/deliverables will be required to show that significant progress has been made at the end of the first year.

Additional Requirements:

- Florida companies will be required to provide an equal or greater amount of matching share to the grant award in any combination of equipment, services or monetary contribution for approved R&D expenditures associated with the approved grant award.
- Companies that are selected for funding will need to enter into a binding grant agreement with Space Florida that specifies the amount of the company's contribution and identifies milestones/deliverables, prior to receiving a formal grant award and being able to draw funds against it. Terms and conditions are not subject to negotiations. A template of the grant agreement can be found in **Appendix D**.

SPACE FLORIDA AND MATIMOP HAVE FULL DISCRETION AND AUTHORITY TO DETERMINE (1) WHICH APPLICANTS, IF ANY, RECEIVE GRANTS UNDER THIS PROGRAM, (2) THE AMOUNTS OF SUCH GRANTS, AND (3) WHETHER MATERIAL CHANGES TO THE PROJECT AS DESCRIBED IN THE APPLICATION SUBMITTAL DOCUMENTS ARE CAUSE FOR RESCISSION OF A PORTION OR THE ENTIRE GRANT AWARD. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS DOES NOT GUARANTEE AN AWARD OR RECEIPT OF ANY GRANT UNDER THIS PROGRAM.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional Requirements regarding Application Submittal Requirements including submittal instruction are located on the respective Appendix documents identified below. All applicants are encouraged to review all materials included in this Call for Projects before submitting any application documents. Appendixes attached to this Call for Projects are as follows:

- Appendix A Joint Bilateral Cooperation Application Form
- Appendix B Space Florida Rules and Regulations for Grant Applicants
- Appendix C Joint Draft Cooperation Agreement
- Appendix D Space Florida Grant Agreement Template

Property of SF: All information submitted by a Florida company will become part of the project file and, unless otherwise exempt or confidential in accordance with Florida law, will become a public record. All information will become the property of SF and will not be returned.



Trade Secrets and Information Confidential and Exempt from the Public Records Act:

Trade secrets and information confidential and exempt from Subsection 119.07(1) of the *Florida Statutes* and Subsection 24(a) of Article I of the Florida Constitution, is not solicited nor desired, as information to be submitted with any portion of the response to this Call for Projects. The *Florida Statutes* and the State Constitution govern whether information in a response is confidential or exempt from the Public Records Act. If information is submitted in a response which the company deems to be a trade secret or confidential and exempt from the Public Records Act, the information shall be submitted with the response in a **separate, clearly marked envelope referencing the specific statutory citation for such exemption**. SF is not obligated to agree with the company’s claim of an exemption and, by submitting a reply or other submission; the company agrees to be responsible for defending its claim that each and every portion of the separately marked information is exempt from inspection and copying under the Public Records Act. The company agrees that it shall protect, defend, and indemnify, including attorney’s fees and costs, SF for any and all claims and litigation (including litigation initiated by SF) arising from or relating to company’s claim that the separately marked portions of its reply are not subject to disclosure. If the company fails to separately mark portions of its response, or mark its response “confidential” (or other similar language) in its entirety, SF is authorized to produce the entire document, data or record submitted by the company in responding to a public records request.

Cost to Develop the Response: Costs for developing the application submittal requirements responsive to this Call for Projects are entirely the obligations of the company and shall not be chargeable in any manner to SF.

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