



# TEXAS SPACE COMMISSION

## APPLICATION

# Space Exploration and Aeronautics Research Fund (SEARF)

Governmental Entities, including all institutions of higher education.

## INTRODUCTION

The **Space Exploration and Aeronautics Research Fund** is used to provide grants to eligible entities for the purposes of:

- development of emerging technologies required for any aspect of human spaceflight;
- research involving any aspect of space exploration and spaceflight;
- workforce training to promote space exploration and spaceflight;
- curation of post-mission materials involved in space exploration and space flight; and
- development of infrastructure useful or necessary for the establishment or maintenance of a spaceport.

Entities eligible for **Space Exploration and Aeronautics Research Fund** grants include governmental entities with which the Texas Space Commission (TSC) has entered into an intergovernmental agreement for that purpose.

If a project is approved for a grant offer using the **Space Exploration and Aeronautics Research Fund**, an applicant must execute a grant agreement that ensures Texas taxpayer funds are spent effectively, efficiently, and in accordance with State law.

For more information, contact TSC staff at (512) 463-8575 or visit [space.texas.gov](https://space.texas.gov).

## SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants must submit a complete form electronically to TSC staff at [SEARF@space.texas.gov](mailto:SEARF@space.texas.gov).

- Please include all requested information for each section.
- Where no response is possible, please respond with “N/A.”
- Electronic signatures are permissible.
- Accuracy and thoroughness in your responses is appreciated and will avoid delays in processing.
- Attachments and additional pages are not required unless otherwise specified.
- TSC staff will develop performance documents or grant agreements using details provided.
- TSC staff will request supplemental information if necessary.
- TSC staff will determine completeness and will not review incomplete submissions.
- This form is subject to modification. If the form is modified before the application is complete, TSC staff will request any necessary additional information.

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

Exact name of the governmental entity applying for a grant from the **Space Exploration and Aeronautics Research Fund** (Applicant)

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## PROJECT CATEGORY

Please indicate which eligible purposes apply to the project. (Check all that apply)

- Emerging technology for spaceflight
- Research involving any aspect of space exploration and spaceflight
- Workforce training
- Curation of innovative technologies and post-mission materials
- Spaceport infrastructure establishment or maintenance

## PROJECT SUMMARY

A short project description (200 words or less):

Who are the project leads or principal researchers? (100 words or less). Attach biographies/CVs of key team members.

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How would the grant funds be spent? (100 words or less):

How would this funding further space exploration or aeronautics research in the proposed community and in the state? (100 words or less):

How would this funding enhance workforce development efforts in Texas? (100 words or less):

How would this project or research impact the aerospace industry overall? (100 words or less):

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Where in Texas would the funding be expended? (100 words or less):

Will any of the funding be used out of the state or out of the country? If yes, please provide detail. (100 words or less):

What, if any, expectations does Applicant have regarding intellectual property protection?

**For research projects, please complete the next three sections:**

Please provide an overview of the entity's Technology Readiness Level both at the start of the project and anticipated Technology Readiness Level at project completion. (100 words or less):

What are the technical merits and research objectives contained in the proposal? (100 words or less):

Please outline the technology transition and/or commercialization plan for the research project.

## PROJECTED DATES AND MILESTONES

If more than 4 phases are planned for the project, please attach supplemental information for all phases. For research projects, please attach proposed research timeline and milestone schedule.

Phase 1 Start: \_\_\_\_\_ Phase 1 Complete: \_\_\_\_\_

Purchase Phase 1 Equipment: \_\_\_\_\_

Phase 2 Start: \_\_\_\_\_ Phase 2 Complete: \_\_\_\_\_

Purchase Phase 2 Equipment: \_\_\_\_\_

Phase 3 Start: \_\_\_\_\_ Phase 3 Complete: \_\_\_\_\_

Purchase Phase 3 Equipment: \_\_\_\_\_

Phase 4 Start: \_\_\_\_\_ Phase 4 Complete: \_\_\_\_\_

Purchase Phase 4 Equipment: \_\_\_\_\_

Begin Operations: \_\_\_\_\_ Fully Operational: \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSED GRANT BUDGET**

Grant funds may only be awarded to accomplish the purposes of the **Space Exploration and Aeronautics Research Fund** enumerated in Chapter 482, Texas Government Code.

**Space Exploration and Aeronautics Research Fund Request: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Category	Estimated Amount
<b>Construction Costs<sup>1</sup></b>	
• New Construction	\$
• Rehabilitation/Modernization/Renovation Construction	\$
<b>Equipment<sup>2</sup></b>	
• Capital Equipment	\$
• Training Equipment	\$
<b>Research and Development<sup>3</sup></b>	
• Research	\$
• Development	\$
<b>Total (must equal the request amount above)</b>	\$

<sup>1</sup> "Construction Costs" means construction of new buildings or renovation of existing buildings (including the installation of fixed equipment, but excluding the cost of land acquisition and off-site improvements). New construction, or activities that would change the "footprint" of an existing facility (e.g., relocation of existing exterior walls, roofs, or floors, attachment of fire escapes), is considered an allowable construction cost.

<sup>2</sup> "Equipment" means tangible, nonexpendable personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit. Applicant may use equipment paid for with TSC funds for any purpose related to space exploration or aeronautics research, as long as the primary use of such equipment remains for grant-related purposes.

<sup>3</sup> "Research" is defined as a systematic study directed toward fuller scientific knowledge or understanding of the subject studied. "Development" is the systematic use of knowledge and understanding gained from research directed toward the production of useful materials, devices, systems, or methods, including design and development of prototypes and processes.



## FACILITY SUMMARY

Exact location of proposed facility (if applicable)

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Will Applicant own the facility? [*drop down menu*]

## COMMITTED SOURCES OF FUNDING

Governmental Entity/Institution      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Participation                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Other    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total**    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

TSC, as a state agency, must comply with the Texas Public Information Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 552 (PIA). Applicant is encouraged to familiarize itself with the PIA before submitting its application or other information to TSC. Under the PIA, TSC may, but is not guaranteed to, have authority to maintain the confidentiality of the name of and other information related to an applicant seeking funding from TSC. If a public information request related to Applicant is submitted to TSC, TSC staff will (1) promptly notify Applicant of the request; (2) if appropriate, take all possible actions with the Attorney General of Texas to prevent release of the information, including asserting applicable exceptions to disclosure under the Act; and (3) notify Applicant of the opportunity to participate in the process. If concerned about the release of information under the PIA, Applicant should seek the advice of legal counsel.

Applicant acknowledges that discussions related to this application shall be treated as confidential, and that a good faith effort will be made to prevent the disclosure of any such discussions. However, TSC's Board of Directors must conduct deliberations regarding grant awards in open meetings held in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551. Accordingly, if Applicant's request is advanced to a review by

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the full TSC Board of Directors, information about Applicant’s project will be publicly disclosed, including Applicant’s identity, a general description of the project, recommended grant award amounts, and other information TSC determines, in its sole discretion, is necessary to appropriately conduct grant award deliberations.

If a grant award is recommended in response to this application, Applicant agrees it will not disclose any information related to the negotiations or subsequent grant agreement unless authorized by TSC. TSC may terminate any further discussions of this application if Applicant breaches confidentiality.

**ON-SITE COMPLIANCE REVIEW NOTICE**

In the event that a **Space Exploration and Aeronautics Research Fund** grant contract is executed between TSC and Applicant, TSC reserves the right throughout the term of the grant contract to conduct an on-site compliance review of Applicant’s records relevant to the performance of the grant contract. Applicant may be selected for on-site review based upon risk assessment criteria determined by TSC.

**CERTIFICATION OF APPLICATION AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Authorized Applicant Representative (Applicant Entity Contact)**

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Entity \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Best Contact Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Certification of Application:**

To the best of my knowledge and belief, the information contained in this **Space Exploration and Aeronautics Research Fund** application is true and correct, as evidenced by my signature below.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Primary Applicant Representative)*

**STATEMENT SUPPORTING THE GRANT APPLICATION**

*(To be completed by member of governing board or senior leadership of governmental entity.)*

I certify, to the best of my information and belief, that the above information supplied by the Primary Applicant Representative is true and correct in all material respects.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Certifying Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title of Certifying Official

Signature

Date