

**Commercial Space Transportation  
Grants Program  
Open Period**

**Federal Register Notice Posted – Friday, March 18, 2011**

**Questions and Answers**

Monday, March 21, 2011:

1. In the notice in the Federal Register, the year 2010 appears. Is this old language? Are you accepting application for the new grants.
  - A. The link provided with the question was from the AST website and was for the FY 2010 program, from the Federal Register Notice in 2010. A new Federal Register Notice was published on Friday, March 18, 2011. If the latest notice is not up on the AST website yet, it will be shortly, so please check back. This notice can always be accessed at the Federal Register website.
  - B. Yes, we are accepting new applications. The open period to submit applications has started. The schedule is located in the latest Federal Register Notice.
  - C. Please note in the latest Federal Register Notice the situation regarding funding. Actual awards are dependent on Congressional appropriation.
2. We wish to clarify an issue with your requirements. It is stated that "project financing must include a private component of at least 10% of the total project cost." As we are private individuals, can this component be supplied as "in-kind" funding, donating an appropriate portion of our labor?
  - A. Grants, under this program, are awarded to public agencies who have submitted, met the requirements, and then been selected for an award. Status as a private company or as private individuals, does not meet the eligibility requirement as a public agency. If a private company has a public agency for a sponsor, that public agency sponsor can apply.
  - B. Yes, there is a requirement that a minimum of 10% of the total cost of the project must come from private funding. "In-Kind" funding is acceptable, provided that it is reasonable and is assessed at fair market value for the work.
3. How much funding is being allocated to the Commercial Space Transportation Grants Program for FY 2011?
  - A. At this time, it is not clear what that amount, if any, will be. Please review the Federal Register Notice regarding this. The FAA/AST is trying to be proactive so that we can disperse funds in a timely and

efficient manner, should there be an appropriation. We hope this will not deter applicants.

4. Were there grant awards given last year, and if so to whom and how much?
  - A. Yes, there were awards given last year. A total of \$500,000 was allocated for Commercial Space Transportation Grants, and this was awarded to four different projects:
    - i. New Mexico Space Port Authority – Automated Weather Observing System - \$43,000
    - ii. Alaska Aerospace Corporation – Rocket Motor Storage Facility - \$227,195
    - iii. Jacksonville Aviation Authority – Spaceport Master Plan - \$104,805
    - iv. East Kern Airport District – Emergency Vehicle - \$125,000

Tuesday, March 22, 2011:

1. According to the Federal Register Notice, funding is available for “Technical and Environmental Studies.” Our read of this is that a broad definition of “technical” applies, in that developing an operational roadmap applying to a federal capability to address on-orbit emergencies would qualify for consideration. Would this be an accurate interpretation, or is this definition more restricted?
  - A. No. The Commercial Space Transportation Grants Program is intended to foster space transportation infrastructure development. The scope of “technical” is broad, but it must support infrastructure development.
  - B. Additionally, the public agency receiving the grant must have the legal authority to engage in the project. There are no State agencies with the legal authority to direct or participate in on-orbit activities.
2. We are faced with the interesting challenge that we reside in a state without a significant public aerospace presence (such as spaceports or NASA centers). Our first thoughts include partnerships with <specific state> Agencies and universities; we also are considering state offices from larger federal agencies. Would the latter approach be within the guidelines? Also, we would be interested if you could provide a list of example agencies who you typically see partnering with these grants to help us find additional contacts.
  - A. No. The intent for the Commercial Space Transportation Grants Program is to provide grant awards to public agencies authorized by States to support state and local efforts, and cannot be used to supplement other Federal appropriations.
  - B. In an effort to remain consistent, equitable, and fair, the FAA/AST cannot provide information related to partnerships and agencies for grants. There are spaceports that are currently licensed with the FAA/AST and that information is publically available. There are also forums in which non-licensed public entities discuss their strong desire

to be involved in and contribute to the infrastructure of the Commercial Space Transportation industry. Establishing those connections is up to individual organizations.

3. How would you prefer to establish fair-market value: simply using local averages based on degrees and experience, or is there a preferred alternative method?
  - A. Establishing fair-market value is based on prevailing market rates in your area.