

**Commercial Space Transportation
Grants Program
Open Period**

Federal Register Notice Posted – Friday, March 18, 2011

Questions and Answers

**** New Questions and Answers are in RED ****

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. 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, related to 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 them been selected for an award. As a private company or as private individuals, this does not meet the eligibility as a public agency.
 - 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 ready the Federal Register Notice regarding this. We are trying to be proactive so that we can disperse funds in a timely and efficient

manner, should there be an appropriation. It is our hope that 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. The Commercial Space Transportation Grants Program is intended for infrastructure projects. Those projects related to on-orbit emergencies do not qualify as infrastructure projects. Looking at the list of awardees from last year, there is a “technical study” related to infrastructure that did receive funding. Although the scope of “technical” is broad, it must still fit within the infrastructure intent.
 - B. Additionally, the public agency receiving the grant must have the legal authority to engage in the project. At this time, there are no public agencies with this legal authority.

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. 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, not federal efforts.

- 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 public knowledge. 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 would be up to individual organizations, if interested.
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 would be dependent on the Mean Statistical Area. Labor rates, for example, would be different in one area of the country than they would be in another area of the country. Taking into account education and experience are also important factors in determining fair-market value.

Thursday, March 31, 2011:

1. In Title 49 §70303. Grant Applications:

(c)(2) The Secretary of Transportation shall consult with the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator of the NASA, and the heads of other appropriated agencies of the government about paragraph (1)(A) and (F) in this section.

(c)(3) If the application proposes to use Government property, the specific consent of the head of the appropriate agency has been obtained;

In the case of <specific location> would that be <various level of authority>? We realize that these codes were written before State governments became integrally involved, but now that we have reached the age of State involvement, who is the 'head of the appropriate agency' in the context of the State agencies acting as the facilitator

- A. If the application proposes to use Government property, as state, the specific consent of the head of the agency having the authority of the property is required.

Federal Government Property: For DOD property, such as a military installation, the appropriate Service Secretary (Secretary of the Air Force, Secretary of the Army, Secretary of the Navy) would need to approve. For NASA property, the NASA Administrator would need to approve. Similar level of approval would be required for all other Federal agencies.

State Government Property: Similar levels within the State Government would have to approve the use of State property. If the public agency applying for the grant has jurisdiction over the property, then the approval is not required. However, if the project imposes on other property for which another State agency has jurisdiction, approval from that State agency would be required.

Thursday, April 8, 2011:

1. How much funding will be available in FY 2011 for the Commercial Space Transportation Grants Program?

A. From the Federal Register Notice:

It must be noted that with the FY 2011 Congressional appropriation not yet enacted, the FAA's Office of Commercial Space Transportation (AST) does not currently have funding for the Commercial Space Transportation Grants Program. Should there be an appropriation for the Commercial Space Transportation Grants Program; the FAA/AST intends to swiftly execute grant awards within FY 2011. To facilitate this, the FAA/AST is requesting grant applications at this time. The FAA/AST intends to receive, process, and evaluate the applications in a timely manner, and in accordance with the notional schedule listed below, so should there be an appropriation, the recipients will already be selected and the awards can be made within FY 2011. There remains the possibility that no funds will be appropriated in FY 2011 for the Commercial Space Transportation Grants Program. If no funds are appropriated, no grant applications submitted in response to this Notice will be approved and funded.