

WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA
Board of County Commissioners

William "Boots" McCormick, District 1
Danny Glidewell, District 2 - Vice Chair
Mike Barker, District 3- Chair
Donna Johns, District 4
Tony Anderson, District 5



P.O. Box 1355
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435
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November 22, 2022

David Bear, Chairman
Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.
P.O. Box 12007
Tallahassee, FL. 32317

RE: City of DeFuniak Springs Center for Emerging Professional Technologies in Aviation (CEPTA)
Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. Application #284

Dear Chairman:

On behalf of the Walton County Board of County Commissioners, I would like to respectfully request your support for application #284 by the City of DeFuniak Springs for Project CEPTA-Center for Emerging Professional Technologies in Aviation. At the November 22, 2022 Board of County Commissioners meeting, the board approved this letter of support and authorized its Chair to sign said letter.

It has been well documented that Walton County represents one of the Nation's fastest growing counties. As our only airport, the DeFuniak Springs Municipal Airport represents a tremendous economic asset for attracting relocating companies and advancing job creation in the region. Thanks to substantial investments from both the City of DeFuniak Springs and Walton County, along with state and Federal agencies, our airport is poised for unprecedented growth. The geographic location of the airport and proximity to I-10, places the airport in an ideal strategic location with access and connectivity for supply and distribution via road, rail, air and port.

As Walton County continues to grow in population, it is imperative we embrace emerging technologies for our workforce that align with industry pathways. Project CEPTA capitalizes on the burgeoning economic impact of unmanned aircraft systems and will place the DeFuniak Springs Municipal Airport at the forefront of innovation while helping support local economies. Therefore, we are encouraged by the potential for a strong return on investment for this exciting aviation project by providing training necessary for new high skill, high wage jobs within Walton County and Northwest Florida.

Thank you again for your consideration of this truly transformational project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Bear", is written over a horizontal line.

Chair
Walton County Board of County Commissioners

A. Russell Hughes
Superintendent of Schools



145 Park Street
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435
850.892.1100
Fax 850.892.1191
www.walton.k12.fl.us

To Whom It May Concern:

Walton County School District is pleased to provide this letter of support for the *Center for Electric Pilot Training and Research (CEPTER)*. Locating this project at the DeFuniak Springs Airport will directly connect business and industry with education in this area. Adjoining counties can certainly benefit from this location, as well. Project *CEPTER* supports the Walton County Career Pathways Initiative and aligns both secondary and postsecondary career educational programs with the regional economy.

The proposed project will make available a range of services to this rapidly growing community. The innovative approach of making the facility /education available to Walton County Schools for their training needs really extends the usefulness and value of this model.

We support this project and look forward to collaborating with the DeFuniak Springs City Council, Walton County Board of County Commissioners and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University as the project moves forward. Please let us know how we can further support these efforts in building strong communities through innovative education.

Sincerely,

A. Russell Hughes

Superintendent of Schools

"Preparing the Whole Child for a Life of Success"



Success from any point of view.

76 North Sixth Street
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433
Phone (850) 892-4859
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David Bear, Chairman
Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.
P.O. Box 12007
Tallahassee, FL 32317

RE: City of DeFuniak Springs Center for Emerging Professional Technologies in Aviation (CEPTA) Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. Application #284

Dear Chairman:

On behalf of the Walton County Economic Development Alliance (WCEDA), **I would like to respectfully request your support** for application #284 by the City of DeFuniak Springs for Project CEPTA.

The WCEDA has been diligent in promoting the diversification of the County's economy for the last several years and are committed to attracting new investments to the region that will create high wage, high skill jobs. Our team understands the current and expected economic landscape and are familiar with the target industries for Walton County. We are currently developing a plan of action for optimal economic growth that will benefit the entire region and look forward to implementing this new plan.

As we work to facilitate growth and expansion by supporting current and new businesses, the DeFuniak Springs Municipal Airport represents one of our greatest economic assets in Walton County. We are confident that Application #284 will make significant strides towards addressing the needs of a rapidly growing community. The expansion of our airport will also further our economic development goals and ensure we have the capacity for increased recreational and corporate traffic. Therefore, we are confident this investment will yield incredible return and provide a tremendous economic benefit to the region.

Thank you again for your consideration of this truly transformational project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Imfeld".

Bill Imfeld, Executive Director



63 S Centre Trail
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459
Phone: (850) 267-0683
Fax: (850) 267-0603
www.waltonareachamber.com

December 20, 2022

David Bear, Chairman
Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.
P.O. Box 12007
Tallahassee, FL. 32317

RE: City of DeFuniak Springs Center for Emerging Professional Technologies in Aviation (CEPTA) Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. Application #284

Dear Chairman:

On behalf of the Walton Area Chamber of Commerce, **I would like to respectfully request your support** for application #284 by the City of DeFuniak Springs for Project CEPTA.

As the only airport in Walton County, the DeFuniak Springs Municipal Airport represents one of our greatest economic assets and due to investments from both the City and County is poised for tremendous growth. Due to its central location and proximity to I-10, the geographic location of the airport makes DeFuniak Springs a prime location to establish the CEPTA program. As the Walton County area continues to grow in population, it is becoming increasingly important that we continue to grow this critical infrastructure. The construction of this project will put the airport at the forefront of innovation and keep the county's economic growth in line with its population growth.

We know from recent examples in other parts of the state and country that the proposed aviation workforce training program will lead to a noted rise in employment opportunities and increased local economic impact. The emerging technology surrounding the advanced air mobility industry will position the region as a model for other parts of the state. Therefore, we are confident this investment will yield incredible return and provide a tremendous economic benefit to the region. The expansion of our airport will also further our economic development goals and ensure we have the capacity for increased recreational and corporate air traffic.

Thank you again for your consideration of this truly transformational project.

Kind regards,

Megan R. Harrison, IOM
President and CEO



September 27, 2022

David Bear, Chairman
Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.
P.O. Box 12007
Tallahassee, FL 32317

RE: City of DeFuniak Springs Center for Electric Pilot Training and Research (CEPTR) Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.
Application #284

Dear Chairman Bear,

Founded in 1926 and fully embracing our mission to teach the science, practice, and business of aviation and aerospace, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) is considered a higher education world leader in these endeavors. I serve as Executive Director of ERAU's Gaetz Aerospace Institute, a dual-enrollment program in over 145 Florida schools designed to introduce K-12 students to rigorous STEM-related courses as pathways to careers, college, and high-paying jobs.

Walton County Schools and ERAU enjoy strong and productive relationships across 10 secondary institutions, and I write today to affirm the ERAU Gaetz Aerospace Institute's support of the City of DeFuniak Springs' proposal (#284) to launch the Nation's first Center for Electric Pilot Training and Research (CEPTR). The Gaetz Aerospace Institute provides Walton County K-12 students with private pilot (PPL) ground school instruction, and Project CEPTR will stand in the gap to offer PPL flight training for these students.

Flight training schools represent the roots of aviation, but Boeing's 2022-2041 Pilot and Technician Outlook (PTO) forecasts a need for 602,000 new pilots within the commercial aviation sector. Receiving a PPL is a prerequisite for advancing to commercial (CPL) and airline transport pilot (ATP) certifications, and Project CEPTR is designed to accelerate the aviator pipeline and help alleviate this shortage. Embracing lower-cost, environmentally friendly electric training planes, Project CEPTR will diversify flight school access while increasing affordability.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of Project CEPTR and the City of DeFuniak Springs' commitment to transforming PPL flight training through electric aviation.

Educationally yours,

Colleen Conklin, Ed. D., RPIC
Assistant Professor & Executive Director of the Gaetz
Aerospace Institute

1 Aerospace Boulevard
Daytona Beach, FL 32114
colleen.conklin@erau.edu



November 28, 2022

Mr. David Bear, Chairman
Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.
P.O. Box 12007
Tallahassee, FL 32317

RE: City of DeFuniak Springs Center for Emerging Professional Technologies in Aviation (CEPTA)
Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. Application #284

Dear Mr. Bear,

I am writing to express support of application #284 to Triumph Gulf Coast from the City of DeFuniak Springs Center for the Emerging Professional Technologies in Aviation (CEPTA).

Florida's Great Northwest is the regional economic development organization for the Panhandle. We provide technical support, lead generation and marketing support to our economic development organizations, including Walton County. The public infrastructure improvements and training components would greatly enhance the community's competitiveness to attract private sector investment and create quality jobs.

We will support Walton County and the City of DeFuniak Springs with marketing these new assets for business. We have several platforms for domestic and international outreach and will work together with all our partners to enhance the exposure of this project to site selectors and company decision makers for new opportunities.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 850.527.0999 or jconoley@fgnw.org. Thank you for your consideration of this exciting transformational opportunity.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Conoley
President & CEO

SPACE FLORIDA



January 3, 2023

Mr. Lewis Bear
Chairman
Triumph Gulf Coast Board
P.O. Box 12007
Tallahassee, FL 32317

Dear Chairman Bear:

Space Florida is pleased to provide our support to Triumph project #284 (DeFuniak Springs Airport) submitted by the City of DeFuniak Springs.

The State of Florida represents the very best in space-related technology, innovation, business venture and exploration. Aerospace and aviation industry leaders continue to make Florida their launch pad for new discoveries, businesses, and technologies. The eight disproportionately affected counties within the Triumph footprint represent significant opportunities for partnerships between Space Florida, private business and local governments to further the aerospace industry. After discussions about project #284 and the anticipated scope for the full application, we congratulate the City on a proposed workforce training program at the airport that is estimated to create more than 8500 certifications over 10 years.

While Space Florida does not have an immediate role in proposal #284, I believe the anticipated trajectory of the airport infrastructure development will provide an opportunity for Space Florida to explore participation in the future. This airport is uniquely situated in the Panhandle near I-10 and a railway and is the only airport in Walton County – a county growing at a rapid pace. With the right infrastructure in place, the DeFuniak Springs Airport will become a hub for aviation workforce training as well as economic development.

Thank you for your service on the Triumph Board. Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact me at 321-730-5301.

Sincerely,

Frank DiBello
President and CEO
Space Florida

cc: City of DeFuniak Springs Council
Walton County Board of County Commissioners



1808 Concept Ct. Suite 200
Daytona Beach, FL 32114
386.314.7829
Info@CensysTech.com

December 21, 2022

Mr. David Bear
Chairman
Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.
P.O. Box 12007
Tallahassee, Florida 32317

RE: Project #284 at DeFuniak Springs Municipal Airfield (54J)

Dear Chairman Bear:

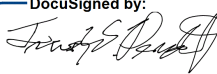
Censys Technologies Corporation is a Florida based emerging technology aerospace manufacturer that leads the industry in advanced Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) operational waivers.

DeFuniak Springs Municipal Airfield presents an incredible opportunity to utilize an existing public airfield in FAA Class G (uncontrolled) airspace that is centrally located in Florida's panhandle to support emerging technology growth across the region.

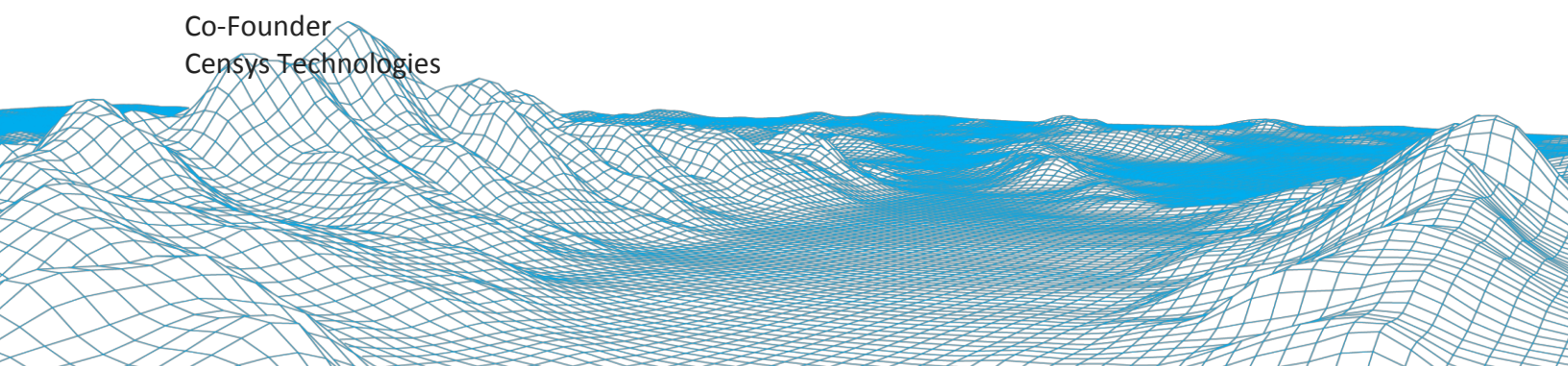
With the enhanced infrastructure for emerging technology and Unmanned Safety Institute's training and workforce development initiatives in the region, Censys Technologies would strongly consider relocating its maintenance, assembly, and repair to 54J. This location is centrally located to the FL panhandle and provides at least 4 regional airports for commercial travel.

Emerging technology is changing the way companies do business. This project connects the dots between needed infrastructure, collaboration between remotely piloted and traditional aviation, and workforce required to power it all.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Trevor Perrott
Chief Executive Officer
Co-Founder
Censys Technologies



December 21, 2022

Mr. David Bear
Chairman
Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.
P.O. Box 12007
Tallahassee, Florida 32317

RE: Project #284 at DeFuniak Springs Municipal Airfield (54J)

Dear Chairman Bear:

Unmanned Safety Institute (USI) is a proud contributor to the state of Florida's aerospace workforce through aviation safety-based certification. With 18,000 logged training flights and over 11,000 safety-based certifications earned, USI leads the global emerging technology training industry in its data driven, risk-based approach to organizational standardization.

Project #284 presents an incredible opportunity to utilize an existing public airfield in FAA Class G (uncontrolled) airspace that is centrally located in Florida's panhandle, to deliver best in class flight training and certification for emerging aeronautical technologies.

USI intends to contribute \$13.8 Million over a 10-year period to increase the region's potential tied to this emerging technology, improving in-demand skill sets, income expectations, and overall industry growth. Emerging technologies are much more than small multi-rotor aircraft providing infrastructure and asset inspection. Rather, this emerging technology includes a wide application of robotics and implementation of new sustainable aviation fuels, vertical takeoff and landing aircraft, alternative propulsion technologies and cargo mobility platforms which enable rural package delivery more efficiently.

It is an incredible time to be at the forefront of modern aviation and as such, DeFuniak Springs airport (54J) infrastructure enhancements present a unique, timely and valuable opportunity for the Florida panhandle to be a base of operations for emerging technology skillset development for both the current and future workforce. 54J infrastructure enhancements will provide the necessary improvements to build upon the geographic advantages of DeFuniak Springs, enable increased general aviation and corporate travel, and provide a footprint that is necessary and welcoming for future growth.

Sincerely,



Joshua Olds
President & CEO
Co-Founder
Unmanned Safety Institute