

TRIUMPH GULF COAST, INC. PRE-APPLICATION FORM

Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. ("Triumph Gulf Coast") has created a pre-application process to provide initial consideration of eligibility for potential ideas of projects or programs that may seek an award of funding. Applicants are required to participate in the pre-application process. Notwithstanding the response from Triumph Gulf Coast on the pre-application form, an Applicant may still elect to submit an Application.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Individual/Entity/Organization: Integrated Solutions for Systems, Inc.

Proposal Title: Panhandle Advanced Research and Collaboration Site

Amount of Triumph Funds Requested: \$15,000,000

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$45,000,000

Brief Description of Individual/Entity/Organization: IS4S is a defense contractor doing business in Northwest Florida ingratiated into the weapons research, development, test, and evaluation activities for Team Eglin.

Contact Information

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Names of co-applicants, partners or other entities, organizations that will have a role in the proposed project or program: Space Florida

REQUIRED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Integrated Solutions for Systems, Inc. (IS4S) is requesting \$15,000,000 to help create a multi-entity workforce development engine with collaboration from the Department of Defense (DoD), supporting defense industry partners and academic institutions. This initiative will be the impetus for a long-term transformative defense related growth track with tremendous economic impact to the region. The balance of the funding will be sourced from private companies and financial institutions secured through a partnership with Space Florida.

The initial phase of the effort will be a \$45,000,000 development centered in the region, immediately outside the west gate of Eglin Air Force Base (AFB). Adjacent to the University of Florida Research and Engineering Education Facility, IS4S will lead the development of secure Department of Defense (DoD) collaborative environments within immediate proximity to defense industry office space and education facilities. This synergy of proximity will not only aid the industry and customer relationship but will expose high value engineering talent to multiple potential employers through organized internship

programs and joint research efforts. This collaborative environment will operate as a nexus for feeding high value talent into the weapons research, development, test, and evaluation enterprise on both the government and industry side by pipelining new graduates through Northwest Florida and acting as a talent magnet for external recruitment. This unique opportunity creates a collaborative environment among government, industry, and academia that is focused on the weapons development enterprise at Eglin AFB.

Based on feedback solicited by Congressman Gaetz' office from defense contractors located near Eglin AFB when asked about the primary barriers to growing their business in Northwest Florida, responses centered around two issues: insufficient access to the government customer and difficulty attracting high value talent. This effort, known as the Panhandle Advanced Research and Collaboration Site (PARCS) addresses both issues. By collocating industry office space with weapons program offices, barriers to collaboration and exchange of necessary information are removed, giving local contractors greater opportunity to win lucrative contracts and more rapidly develop our Nation's next generation warfighting capabilities. Furthermore, this opportunity will act as an attractant for new businesses to locate and grow in this environment in addition to the academic partnerships designed to pipeline graduates into the local workforce. According to information released by the Air Force and generated by the University of West Florida Haas Center, this PARCS opportunity will create 2,500 new jobs to the local area and result in \$88.6 million dollars in economic impact.

Defense spending has long been the primary economic driver of Northwest Florida. This quality provides the Panhandle with an invaluable financial hedge against the lucrative but volatile tourism industry. However, we do not fully maximize the value of this resource and every year billions of dollars appropriated for defense spending flow through Eglin AFB only to be spent out of state. By creating opportunity for defense industry growth, we can not only address our Nation's warfighting needs in a more economical, rapid, and innovative way, but we can ensure that funding pours into and accelerates the growth of the local economy for decades. This project will serve as a key differentiator among other defense-heavy economies in the Nation and coupled with our beautiful natural resources and quality of life, will shine a spotlight on Northwest Florida as the premier place for highly technical careers to grow and thrive. Partnered with the University of Florida, Space Florida, Team Eglin, in conjunction with support from local, state, and federally elected officials, economic development groups, military support organizations, and other regional stakeholders, IS4S will lead a consolidated growth track that will not only attract new defense related jobs, but just as importantly, will help retain more federally appropriated defense spending to Northwest Florida instead of that money going outside of the state.

The full vision of this development opportunity includes the addition of new education facilities focused on engineering, a massive, congressionally funded 520,000 ft² Weapons and Technology Integration Center, and hundreds of acres of pristine office buildings creating a focal point for new defense industry growth in the area, driving innovation and accelerating economic activity. The PARCS opportunity has the potential to not only accelerate weapons development but be a driver toward future innovations in other high-tech sectors such as high-performance computing, modeling and simulation, digital engineering, artificial intelligence and machine learning, cyber defense, data science and many more. The first phase of the project will span five years, beginning once the contract is secured. Through collaboration with the weapons directorate, secure collaboration space will be designed and constructed. Concurrently, industry partnerships will be finalized, and design and construction of those facilities will be initiated. Also running in tandem will be the initial development of the academic

engagement formalizing the genesis of the workforce development pipeline. Ongoing engagement with Air Force decision makers and elected lawmakers at the federal level will focus on collocating the Weapons and Technology Integration Center.

The military mission at Eglin is poised to experience significant growth in the coming years, however Eglin has been plagued with secure space shortfalls for over a decade. Eglin faces a shortfall of 200,000 ft² of secure space, and the community has been working for years on various solutions to the problem to no avail. The current infrastructure on Eglin has been in a dismal state of disrepair for some time, further complicating growth. Military construction funding is notoriously difficult to have appropriated, often taking lower priority to new weapons development programs and thereby inhibiting the progress the DoD needs. Remote work and geographically separated staff result in inefficiencies, increasing time and reducing effective communication between industry and the customer. Secure collaboration space is desperately needed, and the PARCS opportunity is a prime impetus for galvanizing support for innovative solutions from all stakeholders.

Northwest Florida has long needed a spotlight shone on the unique career opportunities in highly technical fields that exist supporting the weapons development enterprise. This PARCS effort is a truly unique event that has the potential to make Northwest Florida not only a premiere travel destination, but a full-time home for top wage earners. The Eglin range constrains so much of the area's available land that new development is limited. In this truly rare moment, the Air Force has identified the first section of potentially hundreds of acres geographically centered in the Panhandle. If we maximize the potential of this development, it will lead to generations of steady growth. Conversely, failure to capture this moment in time will likely lead to continued long-term frustrations and stymied growth, potentially leading Air Force decision makers to locate new mission growth elsewhere in more favorable regions. This long-standing concern of military missions moving out of the area is so important because of the economic impact that has for our area. It is much easier to maintain the missions that exist here and create new opportunities for growth than it is to recover what was lost. The best way to grow these missions is to align the community at all levels with the needs of the Air Force and demonstrate in a real way that Eglin is the preferred locale for those decisionmakers to consider.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This pre-application process will **not** result in an award of funding by Triumph Gulf Coast. Rather, this process is designed to facilitate submission of ideas for potential projects or programs before the Applicant expends time and/or resources to complete a full Application. All Applicants for funding are required to complete an Application, which will be reviewed and then considered for award at the discretion of Triumph Gulf Coast Board.

Please Select the Proposal's Eligibility Category(s)

Pursuant to Section 288.8017, Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. was created to make awards from available funds to projects or programs that meet the priorities for economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties. The disproportionately affected counties are: Bay County, Escambia County, Franklin County, Gulf County, Okaloosa County, Santa Rosa County, Walton County, or Wakulla County. See, Section 288.08012.

1. From the choices below, please check the box that describes the purpose of the proposed project or program (check all that apply):

- Ad valorem tax rate reduction within disproportionately affected counties;
- Local match requirements of s. 288.0655 for projects in the disproportionately affected counties;
- Public infrastructure projects for construction, expansion, or maintenance which are shown to enhance economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties;
- Grants to local governments in the disproportionately affected counties to establish and maintain equipment and trained personnel for local action plans of response to respond to disasters, such as plans created for the Coastal Impacts Assistance Program;
- Grants to support programs that prepare students for future occupations and careers at K-20 institutions that have campuses in the disproportionately affected counties. Eligible programs include those that increase students' technology skills and knowledge; encourage industry certifications; provide rigorous, alternative pathways for students to meet high school graduation requirements; strengthen career readiness initiatives; fund high-demand programs of emphasis at the bachelor's and master's level designated by the Board of Governors; and, similar to or the same as talent retention programs created by the Chancellor of the State University System and the Commission of Education, encourage students with interest or aptitude for science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medical disciplines to pursue postsecondary education at a state university or a Florida College System institution within the disproportionately affected counties;
- Grants to support programs that provide participants in the disproportionately affected counties with transferable, sustainable workforce skills that are not confined to a single employer; and
- Grants to the tourism entity created under s. 288.1226 for the purpose of advertising and promoting tourism and Fresh From Florida, and grants to promote workforce and infrastructure, on behalf of all of the disproportionately affected counties.

Please Select the Priorities this Proposal's Outcomes will Achieve

1. Please check the box if the proposed project or program will meet any of the following priorities (check all that apply):

- Generate maximum estimated economic benefits, based on tools and models not generally employed by economic input-output analyses, including cost-benefit, return-on-investment, or dynamic scoring techniques to determine how the long-term economic growth potential of the disproportionately affected counties may be enhanced by the investment.
- Increase household income in the disproportionately affected counties above national average household income.
- Leverage or further enhance key regional assets, including educational institutions, research facilities, and military bases.
- Partner with local governments to provide funds, infrastructure, land, or other assistance for the project.
- Benefit the environment, in addition to the economy.
- Provide outcome measures.
- Partner with K-20 educational institutions or school districts located within the disproportionately affected counties as of January 1, 2017.
- Are recommended by the board of county commissioners of the county in which the project or program will be located.
- Partner with convention and visitor bureaus, tourist development councils, or chambers of commerce located within the disproportionately affected counties.