

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:	Strydent Autonomous Technologies, Inc.
Proposal Title:	AI-Enabled Autonomous Underwater Vehicle Regional Defense & Commercial Infrastructure Project and Workforce Training, Alignment & Amplification Initiative (“ Project AUV ”)
Amount of Triumph Funds Requested:	\$60,000,000
Total Estimated Project Cost:	\$197,000,000 (based on turnkey facility acquisition)

Brief Description of Individual/Entity/Organization:

Strydent Autonomous Technologies, Inc. (“**Strydent**”) is a next generation manufacturer of AI-enabled Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (“**AUVs**”) and other assets for government and commercial applications to support operations from the seabed to space including defense, undersea fiber optic cable and oil and gas pipeline monitoring & maintenance, shipping port security, coral reef monitoring, cislunar security, and more. Strydent is a mission-driven organization focused on developing the next generation of scientific and engineering products advancing innovative, under-sea and space research to develop solutions supporting the advancement of society. Strategic partnerships with academia, government, industry, and small business are core to our efforts to provide the United States with asset protection including, for example, under the Golden Dome Initiative from the seabed to the Moon, Mars and beyond. Strydent was recently awarded a contract under the Missile Defense Agency’s \$151B SHIELD Initiative. Strydent’s manufacturing readiness capabilities enable the government and commercial sectors to maintain, monitor and protect their assets at scale.

For example, Strydent already works with Research Scientists at the University of West Florida in the IHMC Department. Activities at the University focus on advancements in advanced manufacturing technology, systems technology, medical instrumentation, and technology commercialization. Strydent aims to commercialize research activities based on Strydent’s proprietary technology through the proposed AUV Initiative to provide a pathway for faculty, students, and advisors at universities in northwest Florida including the University of West Florida to continue to advance their careers in a commercial setting at Strydent. Strydent is further committed to investing in the economic, technological, and academic development of the State of Florida in general and northwest Florida, in particular. Strydent engaged with Governor DeSantis’s office, and Strydent is excited and honored to have already received a business development package from the Florida Department of Commerce supporting its efforts, which we attach to this proposal for your reference.

Contact Information:

Primary Contact: Dean L. Fanelli, Ph.D.
Title: CEO
Business Mailing Address: 2125 Biscayne Blvd., Ste 204, Miami, FL 33137
Telephone Number: 202-302-5994
Email Address: dfanelli@strydentdefense.com
Website: strydentdefense.com (user/password will be provided)

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

Strydent will commercialize technology out of its facility in Lynn Haven, FL and seeks to collaborate with the University of West Florida, Florida State University, and the broader Northwest Florida area as well as all high schools, colleges, universities, vocational schools, and other job training and workforce organizations in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Gulf, Franklin, and Wakulla counties to establish job training and employment opportunities for all eight Northwest Florida counties.

In addition, Strydent is working closely with the United States Government and its agencies in connection with various initiatives, as well as the individual federal Departments for specific requirements to include, without limitation, the Department of the Navy and Department of Energy, protecting the world’s resources and promoting peace.

REQUIRED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Proposed Project: Strydent through Project AUV will unleash regional growth by establishing Northwest Florida as a national center for Autonomy and AI Innovation related to AUV and space technologies. At its core it will create and enhance the establishment and expansion of the academic regional innovation, education, and workforce development capacity that is manufacturing-ready for scale up as needed. An existing 133,000 square foot campus, located on 24 acres in Lynn Haven, has already been identified; following closing of an award under Triumph Gulf Coast, it is the target site, subject to input from the State, to be acquired and renovated into a manufacturing facility for Project AUV which will expand and exceed the scope of any existing high technology AI facility in Northwest Florida. This makes Project AUV a manufacturing-ready project that can scale on demand to deliver

immediate capability for government and commercial industry requirements. Project AUV will attract national and international professionals in the areas of software engineering of advanced AI, robotics, and electrical and mechanical engineering. As a result, it will create new high-paying jobs, attracting and retaining desired talent, enhancing the STEM pipeline, supporting local entrepreneurs and veterans, and increasing the establishment and growth of partnerships between private, academic, and public sectors within and beyond Northwest Florida.

Strydent is in the process of forming relationships with local colleges and universities and has already established relationships with the US federal government. More detail will be provided to Triumph Gulf Coast regarding these relationships subject to certain approvals and non-disclosure restrictions.

Amount and identity of other sources of funds for the proposed project: \$100M+.

Strydent will be seeking additional funding in excess of \$100M from private and public investments and through its federal government awards including the MDA SHIELD Initiative and other sources. Strydent will be seeking approximately 30% of its funding from Triumph Gulf Coast.

Location of the project: Lynn Haven, Florida

Strydent's Project AUV regional headquarters campus seeks to initially occupy 100% of The Atlantis Center in Lynn Haven, Florida comprised of a 133,000 square foot facility including training rooms, conference center, and manufacturing space (to be configured and built out by Strydent at additional cost) which sits on approximately 24 acres of land on North Bay. Strydent is open to discussion on other available properties.

Summary description of the proposed program, including how the program will be transformational and promote economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties:

Project AUV is aligned with current state-of-the-art technology requirements for U.S. security and commercial customers. The creation of a wide range of jobs for all strata, ranging from high school diploma to Ph.D., for Northwest Florida residents and beyond, including professors, teachers, R&D, engineers, human resources, assembly line high tech systems integrators, security professionals, federal and state grant research coordinators, IT professionals, security managers, administrators, student interns, and more. Project AUV will drive traditional and cutting-edge areas of technology such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, space technology, robotics and machine learning, swarm technology and autonomy, robotic manufacturing, advanced materials, advanced sensors, software development, simulation, and much more. Multiple engineering disciplines will be central to Project AUV delivering its manufactured products for space, artificial intelligence, and underwater sensing sectors. Project AUV products will support sophisticated communications systems, mechanical & aerospace systems, and industrial base systems covering electrical, computer, materials, chemical and information science.

The proposed investment will be truly transformational for the Northwest Florida region due to the unique nature of the Project AUV focus and the proximity to test and evaluation opportunities in the Gulf of America and the Atlantic Seabed. New unique areas of business and technology, which are in the highest demand in the national and allied communities, will be driven by this investment. As a result, Project AUV and Northwest Florida have the potential to be world renowned and transformational given the emerging nature of the seabed to space focus of the initiative.

Summary timeline for the proposed project: 3 years / 2026-2029

Project AUV will result in immediate impact in Year 1 due to the critical nature of the technology involved and client driven requirements and delivery schedules. The total funds are expected to be spent in the first 3 years. The result will be immediate job creation and the highest regional economic impact.

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.

*Strydent seeks to reserve the ability to apply for any other applicable avenues that it may fit.

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.