



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
OF FLORIDA'S SPACE COAST

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EDC secures \$142,500 in State Defense Grants

\$80,000 awarded to Launch Complex 36 & 46 for programmatic environmental assessment

Brevard County, Florida (October 4, 2011) – The Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast is pleased to announce that it has been awarded \$142,500 in Florida state defense grants. This award is part of Governor Rick Scott's announcement of \$2.4M in state defense grants to local communities and organizations that support Florida military installations.

"I am proud that Florida continues to support our military bases, military service members and their families, and the defense industry through the defense grant programs," said Governor Rick Scott. "Additionally, these programs work to protect a \$65 billion economic impact, and the over 686,181 direct and indirect jobs, which the defense industry annually infuses into Florida."

The Defense Infrastructure Program addresses the infrastructure needs of Florida's military installations. The EDC was awarded an \$80,000 Defense Infrastructure Grant that will enable an increase in mission responsiveness and provide a more competitive site through decreased timelines and decreased costs, thereby increasing the attractiveness of Brevard County's launch services. The grant will provide a necessary tool for the 45th Space Wing as they pursue new contracts for military and commercial launch vehicles.

"EDC staff and volunteers worked with Space Florida and the 45th Space Wing to identify and prioritize this project," said Lynda Weatherman, president and CEO of the EDC. "This grant is an important next step for our local base as they work to broaden commercial launch operations at Kennedy Space Center."

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The EDC was also awarded a \$62,500 Defense Reinvestment Grant. This program is designed to protect, enhance and retain our military installations and their contributions to our local economy. Funding of this program enables the EDC to foster close interaction with the Departments of the Air Force and Navy, while developing a well informed, supportive body of local government and community leaders.

“The Defense Reinvestment Grant gives us the ability to leverage unique Department of Defense assets to save and create jobs and will help mitigate the economic impact from the space program transition,” said Weatherman.

Both programs are administered by Enterprise Florida, Inc. The grants are awarded annually, on a project priority basis, to communities hosting military installations.

See <http://www.floridadefense.org/grants.asp> for a breakdown of grants per recipient.

About the Economic Development Commission of Florida’s Space Coast

The Economic Development Commission of Florida’s Space Coast is dedicated to attracting new business and investment and expanding existing industry throughout the Space Coast, influencing change on government laws and regulations affecting economic development, promoting the Space Coast to encourage new investment, supporting efforts of Space Coast military installations, and relaying new programs and procedures to assist manufacturing and high tech companies. The EDC is a private, not-for-profit coalition whose stakeholders are business leaders committed to the economic growth and stability of Florida’s Space Coast. Visit www.SpaceCoastEDC.org.

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