

BILL POSEY

8TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEES:

SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY
SPACE SUBCOMMITTEE

FINANCIAL SERVICES

CONSUMER PROTECTION AND FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

HOUSING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, AND
INSURANCE SUBCOMMITTEE

CONGRESSIONAL ESTUARY CAUCUS, FOUNDER

HOUSE AEROSPACE CAUCUS, CO-CHAIR

REPUBLICAN STUDY COMMITTEE

CONGRESSIONAL AUTISM CAUCUS

MILITARY VETERANS CAUCUS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

www.posey.house.gov

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

2150 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

(202) 225-3671

FAX: (202) 225-3516

MAIN DISTRICT OFFICE:

2725 JUDGE FRAN JAMIESON WAY, BLDG. C

MELBOURNE, FL 32940

(321) 632-1776

FAX: (321) 639-8595

DISTRICT OFFICE:

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY ADMIN. BLDG. A

(772) 226-1701

DISTRICT OFFICE:

BREVARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT OFFICES

IN TITUSVILLE

(321) 383-6090

March 30, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting \$2,323,000 in funding for the AeroSpace Cybersecurity Engineering Development (ASCEND) project in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is Florida Institute of Technology (FIT), located at 150 West University Blvd., Melbourne, FL 32901.

With this funding, Florida Institute of Technology will develop and make available to Spacecoast businesses and Institute students state of the art cybersecurity curriculum, research, development, and applications. These capabilities will include the latest hardware and software. The objectives of the ASCEND project are to raise the cybersecurity capacities of the space sector, Spacecoast businesses, and to prepare scientists and engineers graduating from FIT ready to meet and respond to cybersecurity challenges they will face on the job. The objectives are cybersecurity businesses and cybersecurity-ready professionals to serve the growing Spacecoast and national technology sector. The strong FIT partnership with the local space technology sector and other high-tech businesses will provide boundless opportunities to achieve both services to the private sector and enriched cybersecurity and STEM educational experiences to tomorrow's workforce.

This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will increase cybersecurity, invest in the critical cybersecurity workforce, advance cybersecurity applied research, and help develop model curricula to integrate cybersecurity into STEM education. This investment in technology and human capital will make the nation more competitive in the world economy and stimulate the development of a homegrown cybersecurity sector both on the Spacecoast and nationally.

Long the focal point of science in support of our space program, the Spacecoast is rapidly becoming a national center for engineering and technology across a wide range. FIT is one of the key hubs within this expanding and nationally important technology center. FIT is a force for bringing this community together and leveraging joint resources to take on big challenges.

The State of Florida is ready to contribute to ASCEND. Initial Florida state related funding for related ASCEND funding is in preliminary appropriations budgets for the 2023 legislative session with a potential of a \$3 to \$5 million "state match" in the final 2023 Florida state budget.

This project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes described in section 272 of title 15, United States Code (b)(1) and (c)(18) as required in the subcommittee guidance. The ASCEND program can be an important resource for NIST in developing and elaborating standards for cybersecurity and related education and training. ASCEND can be a catalyst for accelerating our Federal response in this critical area.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Posey", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bill Posey
Member of Congress