

## **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: Panama City – Bay County Airport and Industrial District (Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport)

Proposal Title: Project “Joe”

Amount of Triumph Funds Requested:

25,000,000

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$85,000,000

#### Brief Description of Individual/Entity/Organization:

The Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport (ECP) opened in May of 2010 offering the Region new opportunities in air travel as well as aerospace manufacturing and repair. Prior to the opening of ECP, Air travel from Panama City was from PFN, which served the City of Panama City and its surrounding communities with regional jet service to Atlanta. In May 2010, PFN closed and ECP opened with a 10,000-foot runway and land for development. ECP brought to the region Southwest Airlines, United Airlines, American Airlines and the up gauging of Delta aircraft, thus becoming the first Main Line Station for Delta Airlines in the Panhandle. United Airlines added service to Houston’s George Bush Intercontinental Airport with connections to more than 160 cities worldwide, and American Airlines introduced flights to Charlotte, Dallas- Ft Worth, and Washington D.C., with connections to more than 32 countries. During the spring and summer season there are additional city pairs to include but not limited to Denver, Chicago, Indianapolis, Boston, Philadelphia and many more. In addition to adding new service routes to locations, ECP has continued to surpass expectations for passenger traffic. In 2009, one of the final years of operation at the prior airport location, the airport saw approximately 312,000 total passengers. In 2023, the annual passenger traffic reached nearly 1.7M.

The Airport owns 4,000 acres in Northwest Bay County with 1,200 acres in Phase 1 and an additional 2,800 acres for development much with runway access. The Airport focus is on passenger growth, job development and education. ECP will serve and as the future home of Premier Aviation an aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul facility and enhancing the partnership with Haney’s Technical College’s Airframe and Powerplant Program.

ECP continues to be in the spotlight of site consultants due to its proximity to the beach, 4 lane highway system, and quick and easy access to the global air traffic network.

#### Contact Information

Primary Contact:

Title:

Mailing Address:

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Becca Hardin

President, Bay EDA, an agent of the Bay County, Commission

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

- Panama City - Bay County Airport and Industrial District (Airport Authority/ECP/Airport)
- Bay District Schools – Tom P. Haney Technical College – Aviation Academy
- Bay Economic Development Alliance
- Bay County Commission
- CareerSource Gulf Coast
- Gulf Coast State College
- Florida State University – Panama City
- Space Florida

### **REQUIRED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In a maximum of two (2) pages, please describe the proposed project or program and anticipated outcomes including (i) the amount of funds being sought from Triumph Gulf Coast; (ii) the amount and identity of other sources of funds for the proposed project or program; (iii) the location of the project or program; (iv) 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, and (v) a summary timeline for the proposed project or program.

### **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.

**Executive Summary:**

Code Name: **Project JOE** Industry: **Aviation MRO** Location: **Bay County, Florida**

Project estimated investment: **\$85,000,000**

**Job Creation: 500 by the end of 2029**, with an average salary estimated at \$60,000 which is more than 115% of the average wage in Bay County.

The aviation industry is a key target market for recruitment in Bay County, Florida. Project Joe will be an excellent asset to the region and will complement the accelerated growth at our airport. Project Joe is a world-class leader in the commercial aerospace industry, providing integrated solutions. Focusing on maximized operational efficiency, its key services include: engine MROs, engine field services, material repair and trading. The company provides solutions for General Electric, Pratt & Whitney and CFM International operations. Services include MRO, material sales/repairs, asset trading and engine field services. Project Joe has five locations to include sites in Florida, South Carolina and Rome, Italy.

This project will create 500 new jobs in Bay County and will infuse more than \$85M into our local economy. There are three components to the structure of the project:

1. The company has a contract on an existing 140ksf facility in Bay County, Florida. This facility will be used to house the company's warehouse and parts distribution division. The building sits on 36 acres. The company plans to locate members of their supply chain network on this property to create their own supplier industrial park in support of their parts distribution business.
2. The company plans to construct a 100,000sf hangar adjacent to the ECP 10,000ft runway. The hangar will contain 6 to 8 lines of maintenance for narrow and wide body aircraft. Capacity is also required for back shops like avionics, engine work, sheet metal and machining.
3. In addition to building a MRO hangar at ECP, the company plans to also build an engine test cell on their site at ECP. This will be one of the few test cells that exist in the southeast. The estimated cost of the test cell alone is \$65M.

Working with the Airport Authority, Bay County Commission and Space Florida, the Triumph funds will be used to help with the upfront costs of the construction of the MRO hangar. The company will enter a 30-year land lease with the Airport Authority. Space Florida will own the hangar and will enter a 30-year lease with the company.

This project is not only important to Bay County because of the assets at our airport, but because the company plans to work closely with the existing FAA approved A & P aviation mechanics program at Haney Technical College and throughout the 8 county Triumph Gulf Coast area. We have doubled our A & P student capacity at Haney Technical College and could triple it by the end of 2024.

There are various factors that make the Bay County area favorable for MRO operations and Project Joe.

- Most of the jobs in the Panhandle are in the service and hospitality industry and are seasonal.
- Gulf Coast State College, along with Haney Technical College, will facilitate tailored training courses for all employees.
- Due to the partnership of Triumph Gulf Coast, there are now several A & P certification programs at state colleges throughout Northwest Florida.
- Career Source Gulf Coast has agreed to assist in advertising open positions & source candidates.
- Military bases in the areas also offer additional opportunities to create programs to hire veterans.
- In addition, this project will complement the growth at our airport where we had more than 1.7 million passengers in 2023.

Description	Estimated Timeline	Status
Site review	Q2-2024	complete
Triumph Funding	Q3-2024	In progress
Building Contractor selection for hangar construction	Q3-2024	
Building commencement	Q4-2024	
Building complete	Q1-2026	
Installing machine/equipment	Q1-2026	
Start maintenance operations	Q1-2026	