



TEXAS SPACE COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 24, 2025

\$21.5 million approved by Texas Space Commission for SEARF grant awards

Austin, TX – Today, during an Open Meeting, the Texas Space Commission (TSC) board of directors voted to approve grant applications that total \$21.5 million for four proposed projects.

<u>Applicant / Eligible Entity</u>	<u>City / County</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>
• The Borderplex Alliance	El Paso	\$19,758,376
• El Paso County	El Paso	\$800,000
• Concho Valley Council of Governments	San Angelo	\$500,000
• South Plains Assoc. of Governments	Lubbock	\$500,000

“Today is a milestone day for us as we begin the process of awarding grants. Thank you to the Board and staff for your dedication to getting this process established and your diligence in doing it right.” said Gwen Griffin, chair of the TSC board. “The four awards approved today will support companies in Texas to partner with the U.S. Space Force, assess the feasibility of an aerospace corridor between El Paso and Midland, and understand how various regions in Texas can best engage with the burgeoning space economy.”

In September 2024, the TSC published an application online for its Space Exploration & Aeronautics Research Fund (SEARF) grant program. The deadline to submit applications was January 21, 2025. During the application window, 284 grant requests totaling \$3.46 billion were received from 140 unique entities.

“With governing rules in place, each Board member is working through all of the compliant applications as quickly as possible. We know applicants are anxious to see the Commission increase its cadence of awards,” said Norman Garza Jr., TSC executive director.

In 2023, the 88th Texas Legislature passed and Governor Greg Abbott signed House Bill 3447 by Representative Greg Bonnen to establish the TSC and Texas Aerospace Research & Space Economy Consortium (TARSEC). The total appropriations by the Legislature for SEARF grant program is \$150 million.

The TSC board plans to meet again on February 10th and February 28th to consider more grant applications.

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