

Media Advisory – Nov. 12, 2009

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County solicits comments on grant application

The public is invited to comment on Snohomish County's recent grant application for capital improvements at the Washington Aerospace Training and Research Center located at Paine Field.

Snohomish County's Economic Development Division submitted an Innovative Partnership Zone (IPZ) grant application worth \$500,000 to the state Department of Commerce in early November. The application is for grant funds that will be used to make specific upgrades to the existing facility to be used for the training and research center. Funds have been acquired to make tenant improvements including staircase modification, electrical installations and floor coverings.

These grant funds are being requested for the next phase of renovations to the center site and building, including, but not limited to, comprehensive and state-of-the-art retrofitting, parking lot resurfacing, building signage and acquisition of technical equipment with a life-cycle of 13 years or more.

The Washington Aerospace Training and Research Center is based at the Snohomish County Airport, Paine Field within the county's IPZ. It will serve as a hub for training and research to support Washington state's aerospace industry, which contributes \$36 billion annually to the state economy and represents nearly 1/6th of Washington state's Gross Domestic Product.

Snohomish County owns a 33,000-square-foot building with several high bays. The county has leased the building to the Aerospace Futures Alliance, which has signed an operating agreement with Edmonds Community College to provide management of the center.

The center will serve as a clearinghouse for world class research and technology transfer in three areas of research identified by the University of Washington and Washington State University: advanced materials, clean technologies and information technology (E-science). In addition to collaborating with these state research institutions, the center will link the work of three related Centers of Excellence: the National Science Foundation National Resource Center for Materials Technology Education, the Federal Aviation Administration Center of Excellence for Advanced Materials in Transport Aircraft Structures and the Washington State Center of Excellence for Aerospace and Advanced Materials Manufacturing.

To comment on use of the funding or the grant, please contact Donna Ambrose, economic development manager at Snohomish County Admin-East, 6th Floor, 3000 Rockefeller, M/S 411, Everett, WA 98201-4046 or via email at donna.ambrose@snoco.org.

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