



Mojave Aerospace ACCelerator Fund

Application and Administrative Guidelines

(as Revised March 17, 2025)

Purpose

The Mojave Aerospace Accelerator (MAACC) Fund aims to accelerate the translation of technologies from research and development stages to practical applications in the defense and aerospace sectors. By providing targeted funding and strategic support, MAACC's primary goal is to bridge the gap between early-stage research and marketable or deployable solutions. Through a competitive process the Fund intends to invest up to \$400,000 to facilitate the translation of defense and aerospace technology into marketable products and/or services by enhancing strategic government-academic-industry partnerships and supporting the launch and growth of new entrepreneurial ventures.

Goals

1. **Advance Innovation:** Support promising early-stage technology with potential to address critical challenges in defense and aerospace.
2. **Bridge the Gap:** Enable the transition from research and prototyping to practical, scalable solutions.
3. **Enhance National Security:** Foster technologies that strengthen defense capabilities and support the aerospace industry.
4. **Promote Commercialization:** Position funded projects for partnerships, licensing, or integration into broader defense and aerospace programs.
5. **Inclusive Economic Growth:** Connect innovators and entrepreneurs to the defense aerospace assets located in the the Kern County Antelope Valley region to catalyze a robust innovation ecosystem, spur the creation of new defense and aerospace companies that will call the region home, and create new job opportunities for local residents.

Eligibility Criteria

The intent of the MAACC Fund is to enhance the commercial potential of dual-use technology. Investments awarded by the MAACC Fund must be used to support a company within the defense and aerospace sectors achieve significant commercialization milestones. Companies or teams that propose concrete plans to collaborate with one of the federal defense and aerospace installations within Kern County and the Antelope Valley

will be more competitive than companies that do not. Proposals from individuals or teams actively pursuing the formation a new company will focus on commercializing new technology solutions with applications in the defense and aerospace sector are also encouraged to apply and are required to certify that a company will be formed within three months of receiving any investment from MAACC.

Eligible Applicants:

1. Researchers and Innovators:
 - a. Faculty, staff, or students with research appointments or responsibilities at institutions of higher education with strong entrepreneurial interests.
2. Small and Startup companies:
 - a. Existing tech-based companies in the defense and aerospace industry with a critical need to access the unique expertise, testing, simulation, or other aspects of the defense and aerospace infrastructure with a presence in the Kern County Antelope Valley region (e.g., NASA Armstrong, NAWCWD, AFRL, 412th Test Wing, etc.).
3. Collaborative Teams:
 - a. Partnerships between academic researchers, defense contractors, and industry leaders as long as one partner is anchored within the Greater Mojave Region.

Eligible Technologies:

Technologies eligible for funding should align with defense and aerospace priorities and fall within Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 2 – 6, including:

- Advanced materials and composites for aerospace and defense applications;
- Cybersecurity technologies for military systems;
- Propulsion systems and energy-efficient technologies;
- Unmanned systems, including drones and autonomous vehicles;
- Space technologies, such as satellite systems or advanced sensors;
- Artificial intelligence and machine learning for defense analytics; and,
- Quantum communication and navigation systems.

Funding

Up to four MAACC Fund investments are expected to be made. It is anticipated that each investment will be up to \$100,000. Projects will be funded at the level deemed necessary to achieve the proposed project objectives.

Applicants are discouraged from using funding to support general overhead or indirect costs, routine operational expenses unrelated to the proposed project, travel unrelated to the project objectives, tuition, construction, renovation, legal fees, intellectual property protection costs, or permits. Allowable expenditures of MAACC Fund awards include but are not limited to the following:

- Materials;
- Supplies;
- Prototype design and development;
- Third-party technical validation, testing, or assessment; and
- Advanced market research and customer discovery activities.

Proposal Content and Process

Proposal Content

1. Full Proposal Requirements – For full consideration, proposals should contain at least the following:
 - a. A cover page with the names, role (e.g., project lead, technical contact) and contact information for all those proposed to be on the project team.
 - b. A nonconfidential description of the technology related to the proposed project. Nonconfidential descriptions should be developed with the aim of sharing it with the public.
 - c. A narrative describing the market problem to be addressed, the solution offered by the technology, why it is likely to be successful, the project aims, the proposed budget the product or service that is envisioned to be developed from the technology, the intellectual property position of the technology, customer discovery process and feedback received, and a commercialization and development plan.
 - d. A project plan and budget that includes a description of the milestones expected to be accomplished utilizing the MAACC funding and how the achievement of those milestones will drive the overall technology commercialization strategy.
 - e. A summary of any third-party commitment and prior investment made to support the overall commercialization and development of the technology.
 - f. Letters of support, commitment, or interest from at least two industry partners, or entrepreneurs planning to develop a startup company directly focused on the commercialization of the technology.
 - g. Identification of defense or federal partner (e.g., AFRL, Air Force, NAWCWD China Lake, NASA) and intended role. Include the contact information of main point of contact.
 - h. Biographies or CVs of those participating on the project team.
 - i. Signed acknowledgment that company understands that if selected for an investment, company will be required to agree to the terms of a Simple Agreement for Future Equity (SAFE) or convertible debt note prior to receiving any funding.

Evaluation Criteria

1. Technical Merit – feasibility, innovation, and uniqueness of the solution

2. Alignment with Defense/ Aerospace Needs – relevance to defense priorities or aerospace industry requirements
3. Market Potential – Commercial scalability or operational impact
4. Team Capacity – Expertise, experience, and resource availability
5. Budget and Milestones – Realistic cost estimates and achievable objectives

Proposal Submission

For full consideration, all proposals shall be submitted to maacc@b3kprosperity.com no later than 5pm PST on April 16, 2025.

Funding Announcement

Companies selected for a MAACC Fund investment will be announced at an event hosted by B3K Prosperity at a location within Kern County in late-May. More details regarding the event will be publicized at a later date.

Award Requirements

Reporting

All awardees commit to submit regular reports that provide updates on the achievement of milestones, challenges, and financial expenditures. Upon completion of the project awardees shall be expected to provide a comprehensive report that details project outcomes, technical results, commercialization project, future objectives, additional funding secured, and other elements deemed necessary by MAACC Fund Manager.

Investment Vehicle

Companies selected to receive MAACC funding will be required to agree to the terms of a Simple Agreement for Future Equity (SAFE) or convertible debt instrument with the Griffiss institute.

Mentorship

A benefit to all applicants will be access to additional programming, coaching, and mentorship resources offered by Starburst Ventures and Griffiss Institute.

Confidentiality

All proposals will be kept confidential. Any public disclosure will be first approved by the applicant. If applicants require a confidentiality agreement before participating, one can be provided and signed.

Questions?

All questions regarding this program should be e-mailed to maacc@b3kprosperity.org. All questions and answers will be posted to <https://b3kprosperity.org/maacc/>.