



CALIFORNIA ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY CORRIDORS INITIATIVE (CAAMCI): EXHIBIT A

BUDGET REQUEST: \$9.5M

**SERVING THE CENTRAL COAST'S PRIMARILY RURAL AND
MAJORITY-MINORITY TRI-COUNTY REGION OF SAN
BENITO, SANTA CRUZ, AND MONTEREY**

The **Monterey Bay Tech Hub's California Advanced Air Mobility Corridors Initiative (CAAMCI)** will launch the state's first testing corridor network for clean-energy-powered defense drones and other advanced aerospace systems—**boosting R&D, filling infrastructure gaps, and accelerating job access and growth** in one of California's most dynamic and critical strategic sectors.

**PREPARED BY MONTEREY BAY ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
ON BEHALF OF THE MONTEREY BAY TECH HUB**

ORGANIZATION TYPE: NONPROFIT (501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION

SECTOR FOCUS: SPACE, DEFENCE, AND SATELLITES SECTOR (ACCELERATE)

PROJECT TYPE : INFRASTRUCTURE AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



PROJECT NARRATIVE: EXHIBIT B



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With a \$9.5 million request, Monterey Bay Tech Hub's California Advanced Air Mobility Corridors Initiative (CAAMCI) will establish California's first FAA-compliant testing corridor for clean energy-powered defense drones and advanced aerospace vehicles. Anchored in the tri-county Monterey Bay region and strategically integrated with innovation assets in Kern and Ventura Counties, CAAMCI underscores the cluster's mission: **to build connected infrastructure, generate next-generation careers, and ensure California doesn't just compete—but continues to lead in space and defense innovation.** This corridor capability is essential for California to remain competitive with states proactively investing in infrastructure and incentives to capture more innovation and commercialization in this industry segment, including Ohio, New York, Nevada, Texas, Florida, Colorado, and Georgia. Incorporating **public general aviation airports** in a largely **rural region** enables **CAAMCI to develop a safe, scalable AAM corridor that enhances flight capabilities and testing on the Central Coast.** The initiative builds on the existing presence of manufacturers such as Joby Aviation, Wisk, Archer, Parallel Flight, Elroy Air, and Guardian Agriculture in the **Monterey Bay area, the highest concentration of AAM companies in the U.S.**

California's position in aerospace, drone, defense, and space innovation is threatened by growing sector leadership in other states. To accelerate competitiveness and quality job creation, CAAMCI will coordinate an investment strategy that supports aerospace defense-related systems from Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) to next-generation aircraft to satellites, while promoting equitable growth in the region and responding to global climate imperatives. This strategy aligns with **community-vetted Uplift Central Coast** and **Kern County** regional plans and the **California Jobs First State Economic Blueprint - Accelerate Category.**

CAAMCI is one of six projects in the Central Coast Kern County Space, Defense & Satellites Cluster—a comprehensive cluster covering counties of Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Kern, and including defense-related infrastructure, public-private innovation facilities, research and development platforms, and sustainable testing corridors. **The six projects in the cluster aim to:**

- **Advance** aerospace defense-related technologies (electric/hydrogen dual-purpose aircraft, satellite technology, unmanned aerial vehicles—including those with existing federal defense partnerships and investment)
- **Modernize** national defense readiness with infrastructure for R&D, testing, and deployment
- **Build** inclusive job pipelines and entrepreneurship within underserved communities
- **Attract** federal, private, and philanthropic investment through regional coordination

CAAMCI delivers on all California Jobs First priorities: job creation, equity, climate action, and innovation infrastructure. It supports the state's regional economic strategy by positioning aerospace and defense as key drivers of prosperity and honors the Blueprint's North Star by **creating, attracting, and increasing access to good-paying jobs.** The initiative will utilize existing capital, connect higher education with emerging technologies, and accelerate the readiness of defense and commercial systems.