The Florida Senate
Local Funding Initiative Request
Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1170

1. Project Title Emergency Operations Support - SaaS-Based Hyperlocal Weather Radar Coverage - Expansion

2. Senate Sponsor Joe Gruters

3. Date of Request 10/15/2025

4. Project/Program Description

This request seeks funding to lease three (3) advanced X-band, 2.4 kW dual-polarization Doppler weather radars for a three-year term to expand Florida's severe weather monitoring capabilities. This request would add 3 radars to StormQuant's 3 existing installations in Marion, Flagler and Collier counties to support EOC operations. This request would add an additional 9 Weather Viewer Workstations to the existing 9 installed in EOCs in those counties and at FDEM's HQ in Tallahassee. The additional radars will close existing coverage gaps and provide comprehensive radar coverage for central and southern Florida. Our advanced technology improves early warning of severe weather including hurricanes, tornadoes, fires and other airborne threats and provides critical real-time data to emergency management agencies. Leasing ensures rapid deployment, cost efficiency, and immediate public safety benefits without the upfront capital costs of permanent installations.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Division of Emergency Management

State Agency contacted? No

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	3,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	**3,000,000**

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	3,000,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	**3,000,000**	**100%**

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2023-24	0	2,000,000	2681	No

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 3,000,000

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

FEMA, NOAA and/or other Federal sources.

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

10. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

○ Planning ○ Design ○ Construction ◉ N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

11. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

12. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/ Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/ Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	3-year leases and turnkey managed operations for: - Three (3) X-band, 2.4 kW dual-pol Doppler radars (leased). - Meshed radar networking, and secure data storage. - Installation/commissioning, operator training, and 24/7 monitoring & support. - 3 Weather viewer workstations included per radar lease ($30,000 value per license) No fixed capital outlay, services and equipment are provided under lease/operational contracts.	3,000,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		**3,000,000**

13. Program Performance

a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?

The specific goal that will be achieved by this funding is weather radar coverage across central and southern Florida and to fill existing radar coverage gaps. There are currently large radar gaps in central and southern Florida that leave many communities without proper coverage from extreme weather events. StormQuant has already deployed a commercial RSaaS solution addressing radar coverage gaps in Flagler, Marion and Collier County. Our proprietary X-band dual-pol radar system combined with our patented Weather Viewer software surpasses the capabilities of today's legacy systems. StormQuant's advancements in both its hardware and software offerings enables Florida's EOCs to better respond and react to life threatening weather events.

b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

- Lease, deploy, and operate three radar units at FDEM-prioritized sites that include backup power, network access and existing mounting infrastructure (see Flagler and Marion county installations).
- Mesh new StormQuant radar installations with existing StormQuant, NEXRAD and TDWR radars to provide comprehensive radar coverage across the covered areas down to ~3,000 feet where most life-threatening weather occurs.
- Integrate live radar feeds with StormQuant's SaaS platform and EOC systems, including 3D/2D interrogation and alerting capabilities set at the local level.
- Deliver operator training, monthly performance reporting, and maintain high-availability service.

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

Hyperlocal, Real-Time Weather Monitoring and Visualization: Seamless radar data integration into patented 3D Weather Viewer software offers high-resolution updates for tracking storms, rainfall totals, precipitation types (e.g., rain, hail), and hazards like microbursts, winds, lightning, and wildfire plumes, enabling early detection in NEXRAD blind spots like valleys and cities.
Automated, User-Defined Critical Alerts: Local EOCs will set custom thresholds based on local terrain and infrastructure, sending 24/7 hyperlocal (distance/environment-based) email/SMS alerts to residents, schools, utilities, airports, etc., for earlier, more accurate warnings on floods or hurricanes, cutting response times and aiding proactive safety measures.
Enhanced Public Safety and Resilience: Patented meshing of new radars with NEXRAD ensures reliable coverage against outages or attenuation, aiding rapid decisions by emergency teams.

d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

The target population served by this project includes Florida residents and businesses in high-risk regions vulnerable to severe weather events such as flash floods, hurricanes, and storms, with enhanced low-altitude radar coverage and localized alerts improving public safety and emergency response. The project focuses on the following counties, divided into northern and southern bands each covered by 3 StormQuant radars:

Northern Band: Levy, Citrus, Marion, Sumter, Lake, Volusia, Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns, Clay, Alachua, Gilchrist, and half of Orange County.
Southern Band: Collier, Lee, Hendry, Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach.

With 3 new radars added to the 3 current installations, approximately 11.34 million individuals are expected to be served, based on 2025 population estimates:

The 6 radars will provide comprehensive coverage of the discussed counties, with resilient data meshing to protect major population centers from weather threats.

e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?

Access to hyperlocal weather radar data improves everyday life with more actionable information that keeps citizens and infrastructure safe in an underserved market. Recent serious threats to civilian lives have been increasing due to tropical cyclones, tornadoes, hurricanes, localized heavy rains, flooding, hail, and other meteorological events. Utilize high-resolution, hyperlocal, 3D and 2D mapping of current and emerging atmospheric conditions at lower elevations to detect and forecast severe weather for county and state emergency operations teams. Deliver lifesaving weather radar data to county and state emergency operations teams to provide faster and more geographically specific emergency alerts for hazardous weather events like severe thunderstorms, tropical cyclones, floods, and tornadoes. Prevent accidents and improve emergency alerts for hazardous weather events to save lives, protect property, and infrastructure.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for in the contract?

Disbursed funds for deliverables not met will be returned to the state.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster? Yes

a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?

- ☑ Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- ☐ Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- ☐ Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infastructure)

b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):

N/A

15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?

- ☐ Yes, Applied
- ☐ Yes, Received
- ☐ No
- ☑ No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:

b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:

16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?

- ☐ Yes, Applied
- ☑ Yes, Received
- ☐ No
- ☐ No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):

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FY 23-24 Specific Appropriation #2681

17. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Charles **Last Name** Exley

b. Organization StormQuant, Inc

c. E-mail Address ce@stormquant.com

d. Phone Number (415)710-7743 **Ext.**

18. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization StormQuant, Inc

b. Municipality and County Statewide

c. Organization Type

☑For Profit Entity

☐Non Profit 501(c)(3)

☐Non Profit 501(c)(4)

☐Local Entity

☐University or College

☐Other (please specify)

d. First Name Charles **Last Name** Exley

e. E-mail Address ce@stormquant.com

f. Phone Number (415)710-7743 **Ext.**

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name Carlos San Jose

b. Firm Name Corcoran Partners

c. E-mail Address carlos@corcoranpartners.com

d. Phone Number (305)987-9591

The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.