

AVTEC Maritime Safety Training Facility**FY2009 Request: \$3,350,000****Reference No: 45285****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Construction**Category:** Education**Location:** Seward**Contact:** Fred Esposito**House District:** Homer/Seward (HD 35)**Contact Phone:** (907)224-4159**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2008 - 06/30/2011**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

AVTEC has been awarded a \$2 million federal Economic Development Administration grant with a \$1.35 million non-federal match requirement to construct a Maritime Safety Training Facility in Seward. A 4,800 sq ft facility will expand AVTEC's capabilities and allow them to train 114 more mariners per year to meet a critical high demand for high growth jobs in the transportation industry. A campus on the east side of Resurrection Bay currently houses a training lifeboat and davits and can accommodate additional classroom space and fire fighting training activity areas. This project will support the department's mission to advance opportunities for employment as measured by employment of the Alaska workforce.

Funding:	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$2,000,000						\$2,000,000
G/F Match	\$1,350,000						\$1,350,000
Total:	\$3,350,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,350,000

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
40% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	3,350,000	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	3,350,000	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

No previous funding has been provided for this project.

Project Description/Justification:

Alaska is the nation's Maritime State. No other state is more dependent on the maritime industry for the welfare of its population than Alaska. Nearly all food, clothing, building materials, and natural resources are shipped by vessel. No other State has more coastline or navigable waters or such a diverse maritime community. The largest of the maritime industries serving Alaska provides several thousand well-paying at sea and shore support jobs, most of which are filled by non-Alaskans. Too many Alaska maritime jobs are filled by non-Alaskans, a situation this program seeks to change by training Alaskans for maritime professions. By working directly with the employer, trainees are thoroughly prepared for the available jobs according to the employer's expectations and are required to successfully complete an apprenticeship program onboard the ship or vessel prior to permanent hire.

AVTEC's current Alaska Maritime Training Center provides courses in many aspects of vessel operations and safety for all types of ships that lead to U.S. Coast Guard approved certifications, training, and licenses. This expansion provides for the development of a new maritime safety campus across Resurrection Bay located on seven acres under a 30-year lease from the City of Seward. The campus would provide comprehensive facilities located together and adjacent to a City-owned harbor and dock. The campus includes a ship fire training simulator, classroom facilities, and safety training lab.

AVTEC's Maritime Safety Training Facility Project was initiated in 2004 to provide qualified, highly skilled, maritime professionals, trained in the unique Alaskan environment, for the diverse community of marine transportation industry employers.

A 4,800 sq ft facility will expand AVTEC's capabilities and enable them to train 114 more mariners per year to meet a critical high demand for high growth jobs in the transportation industry. The facility will include a classroom to accommodate 15 students, instructor office space, a gear utility room for secure storage, air pack room for Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) racks and bottles, lobby/locker/break area, an apparatus bay for staging of equipment and instruction, mechanical room, janitor closet, men's shower/restroom, women's shower/restroom, and a mezzanine for storage. The grant will fund the facility structure and contents (training equipment and furnishings).

Significant new state and federal investments are being made in AVTEC's maritime programs, including funding for additional instructors and major technology and infrastructure upgrades. A new campus on the east side of Resurrection Bay currently houses the lifeboat and davits and can accommodate additional classroom space and fire fighting training activity areas.

In 2003, there were about 750 jobs in Alaska's water transportation industry plus an additional 890 persons employed by the Alaska Marine Highway System. Yet this workforce represents only a fraction of the maritime jobs required to serve Alaska. Maritime employment includes not only mariners on ships and commercial fisheries, but barge operators and tankermen, shipyard employees, and operators of tug boats, ferries, water taxis, lighterage and hovercraft. The diverse maritime employer community in Alaska is in need of qualified, skilled maritime professionals.

Alaska provides a large pool of Alaskans willing to work in challenging maritime industry jobs. However, the best jobs require technical training, years of sea service and a license or qualified merchant mariner's document issued by the Coast Guard. Natural resource industry growth will be the job growth catalyst in Alaska as new pipelines are built, mines are opened, and surface and marine transportation industries and their supporting infrastructure are expanded to transport our vast resources.

Maritime professionals recognize the importance of having qualified, skilled mariners operating vessels and marine facilities to ensure an environmentally sound and safe operation. Experts agree that the key to reducing or eliminating the human error factor during operations is education and training. This project is designed to get to the heart of this issue by providing Alaska resident mariners the opportunity to receive the training they need to become and remain proficient in their profession here in Alaska at AVTEC's Alaska Maritime Safety Training Facility. Only a motivated, trained and competent mariner can ensure safe maritime operations.

The Business Partnership Division's mission is to develop and support workforce development programs designed to meet Alaskan employers needs which this project would support. One measure of mission success is increased unsubsidized employment through job training such as that which this project will help to deliver. This project capitalizes on the quality maritime program being delivered at AVTEC. This project trains Alaskans for good jobs in the maritime transportation industry.

The State of Alaska, Department of Labor and Workforce Development, through AVTEC's Maritime Training Center, seeks to promote employment for more Alaskans in the maritime industry, increase the number of Alaskans serving in the maritime industry through linkages with employers, recruit and train mariners in Alaska, man and manage vessels sailing Alaska waters with mariners trained at AVTEC at the state of the art Maritime Training Center in Seward, Alaska. AVTEC's Maritime Training Center is well known throughout Alaska and the West Coast as the premier maritime training center for maritime careers with courses offered year round that are tailored to meet the needs of employers and employees. AVTEC provides qualified, highly skilled, maritime professionals, trained in the unique Alaskan environment, for the diverse community of marine transportation industry employers.

AVTEC seeks to promote employment of more Alaskans in the maritime industry by building awareness among high school students, recruiting promising young Alaskans, matching affordable training programs to maritime employer needs, and placing qualified Alaskans in well-paying maritime industry jobs. AVTEC will provide support services for students enrolled in this training including Adult Basic Education and Job Placement.

Construction Project Budget Estimate:

Administrative Expenses - \$260,000
Fees and Inspection - \$390,000
Site Work - \$356,000
Construction - \$1,940,000
Equipment - \$14,000
Contingencies - \$373,000
Miscellaneous - \$17,000

Once completed annual operating costs of the facility are estimated to be approximately \$12,000 per year which would be absorbed within existing operating funding as they would be offset by no longer having to rent space from the City of Kenai to provide maritime training.