Alaska Aerospace Corporation Kodiak Launch Complex Modernization

FY2014 Request: **$165,400**
Reference No: **57114**

AP/AL: Appropriation
Project Type: Construction
Category: Public Protection
Location: Kodiak
House District: Kodiak/Cordova (HD 35)
Impact House District: Kodiak/Cordova (HD 35)
Contact: McHugh Pierre
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2013 - 06/30/2014
Contact Phone: (907)428-6003

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:
A weather balloon station is needed that will adequately fit larger balloons and meet storage requirements. The project will increase AAC's ability to capture mission critical meteorological data and reduce the risk of equipment damage and mission failure.

Funding:	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	Total
Gen Fund	$165,400						$165,400
Total:	$165,400	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$165,400

☐ State Match Required ☑ One-Time Project ☐ Phased - new ☐ Phased - underway ☐ On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required ☐ Amendment ☐ Mental Health Bill

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	Amount	Staff
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

No prior year funding history.

Project Description/Justification:
During a rocket launch, AAC releases weather balloons from the Kodiak Launch Complex to gather mission critical meteorological data. Proper timing of balloon release is essential to ensure a launch happens within the prescribed window of time. Requirements have increased the size of the balloon for launches to a diameter of approximately seven feet. Funding is requested to construct a weather balloon station that will adequately fit the new balloon size requirement and fulfill storage needs. AAC currently uses a 12 by 18 foot station for the preparation and launch of weather balloons. Balloons are inflated and then moved outside through an eight by eight foot door to be released. The door size poses a risk for balloon puncture and the building size does not leave adequate room for: an additional stand-by balloon to be readied; personnel movement; protection of the balloon; and storage for the balloon radiosondes (which send upper-air data back to our ground based weather office) and helium tanks. A new building would resolve these issues and also provide an environmentally controlled storage facility to reduce balloon material degradation.