

Request for Information (RFI)



State of Alaska
Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Division of Administrative Services

Date Issued: March 11, 2025

RFI #2525H074 ALASKA NON-FEDERAL AUTOMATED WEATHER OBSERVATION SYSTEMS

Introduction

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is issuing this Request for Information (RFI) to solicit input from qualified vendors capable of providing, installing, maintaining, and supporting non-federal Automated Weather Observation Systems (AWOS) in Alaska.

This RFI is for planning purposes only and does not constitute a solicitation or guarantee of future procurement. The information gathered through this process will inform the development of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the procurement and deployment of FAA-eligible, non-federal AWOS stations.

While the anticipated RFP will be for full system deployments, DOT&PF may include one or more pilot projects alongside the deployment of commercially available solutions to assess system performance in Alaskan conditions.

Background Information

DOT&PF owns and operates 237 airports in Alaska, with 151 Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) and Automated Surface Weather Observing System (ASOS) stations currently in operation. Many of these locations experience harsh winter conditions, limited accessibility, and logistical challenges, requiring reliable, durable, and low-maintenance automated weather reporting solutions.

This RFI focuses solely on Non-Federal AWOS installations, which are eligible for FAA funding but are owned and operated by state, local, or private entities.

Non-Federal AWOS systems provide essential aviation weather data and are eligible for FAA funding under Advisory Circular (AC) 150/5220-16E. The FAA does not operate or maintain these systems, but they must comply with FAA performance standards to receive funding.

DOT&PF intends to procure and deploy FAA-approved Non-Federal AWOS systems capable of meeting Alaska's operational needs. The future RFP may include provisions for a demonstration project to evaluate system performance and cost-effectiveness in real-world conditions.

Objectives of this RFI

Through this RFI, DOT&PF seeks industry input to:

- Understand the range of available technologies and their operational capabilities.
- Identify vendor qualifications and experience in deploying systems under extreme environmental conditions.
- Determine best practices for procurement, installation, and maintenance.

RFI #2525H074 ALASKA NON-FEDERAL AUTOMATED WEATHER OBSERVATION SYSTEMS

- Assess the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of various system configurations and communication methods (e.g., satellite-based reporting).
- Establish key performance criteria for system selection in the upcoming RFP.

Key Considerations for Respondents

DOT&PF is particularly interested in vendor feedback on:

- FAA compliance for Non-Federal AWOS funding eligibility
- Alignment with Tier 3 standards outlined in ASTM Document F3673-24 and FAA AC 150/5220-16E, Chapter 3 guidance.
- Vendor certification status as an FAA-approved AWOS provider.
- Cost-effectiveness, considering procurement costs, installation complexity, system accuracy, reliability, and long-term maintenance requirements.
- Adaptability to remote and extreme environments with minimal human intervention.
- Potential integration with existing AWOS networks and FAA-approved data transmission protocols.

Submission Information

Interested parties are invited (but not required) to respond and provide information related to the following:

1. Company Overview

- Company name, headquarters location, and contact information.
- Relevant experience providing automated weather observation solutions.
- Examples of past projects.

2. System Capabilities

- Description of system performance relative to ASTM F3673-24 Tier 3 or FAA AC 150/5220-16E, Chap 3.
- Remote monitoring and data transmission capabilities.
- Brief description of how proposed equipment is manufactured, tested, and calibrated according to industry standards.
- Data integration with national meteorological and aviation systems.
- Optional components such as cameras or additional sensors that may enhance system functionality.

3. Installation & Maintenance Services

- Typical installation process and timeline.
- Maintenance and calibration programs.
- Recommended spare parts and lifecycle management considerations.

4. Investment Considerations & Deployment Strategy

- The number of systems that would be attractive for new investment in Alaska.
- Recommendations on whether a geographic distribution strategy would improve system effectiveness.
- Logistics considerations, including:
 - Infrastructure needs for deployment (e.g., power supply, communications, site preparation).
 - Environmental challenges and system performance under icing, low temperatures, wind, and remote site conditions.
- Potential challenges and recommendations to mitigate risks associated with deployment in remote and extreme environments.

5. Cost Estimates

- General pricing ranges for:
 - Full capital deployment (CAPEX).
 - Long-term maintenance and monitoring costs (OPEX) over the expected system lifecycle.
 - Participation in a 12-month pilot project

6. Vendor Feedback

- Additional information, suggestions, or considerations for DOT&PF to improve project outcomes.

Submission Requirements

Responses should be in PDF or Word format and not exceed 5 pages. Attachments such as brochures, whitepapers, or case studies may be included and will not count toward the 5-page limit. Please reference "Alaska Non-Federal Automated Weather Observation Systems" in the subject line.

Responses must be received by April 1, 2025, no later than 4:00 pm Alaska Time. All responses will be submitted electronically to chris.hunt@alaska.gov

Questions concerning this RFI should be directed in writing to:

Chris Hunt

Procurement Officer

Email: chris.hunt@alaska.gov

Disclaimer

This RFI is for informational purposes only. The State of Alaska is not obligated to pursue any specific project or contract as a result of this RFI. This request does not constitute a commitment by the State to award any contracts or procure any services. Information gathered may be used to shape future solicitations and project designs.