GO Virginia
Region 5
Grant Proposal

Unmanned
Systems, Demonstration & Testing Facility

James W. Noel, Jr.
Director, York County Economic Development

September 21, 2017
Unmanned Systems Region 5 priority cluster with the highest average annual wages $86,840

Significant regional assets exist to support and grow this cluster, NASA, NIA, VIMS, ReAKTOR, ODU, W&M

Lack of testing/demonstration areas in Hampton Roads is an industry identified impediment to growth

Opportunity to foster economic growth through a regional cost and revenue sharing agreement

Public Private Partnership to facilitate development of surplus state property
Proposed Site

Unmanned Systems Testing and Demonstration Site
Go Virginia,
Region 5 Proposal
“Fly Zone” (testing & demonstration area) 192 acres
  • Long term ground lease (framework in place due to former golf course ground lease for same property with State)
  • Site accommodates land, air & underwater unmanned systems
  • Includes 25 acre recreational “Drone Park”

Light Industrial Park – Public Private Partnership
270 acres
  • 65 acres Phase 1 - $2.5M
  • Cost offset – Yorktown Naval Weapons Station, REPI Program
  • Co-working space for Higher-Ed and Federal Agencies
Grant Application
• $1.5M – State pool & $1.0M – HR pool
• $500K – A&E & $2.0M infrastructure development
• Participation open to all HR localities
• Gloucester involvement would further strengthen our application (cross regional participation)

Revenue Sharing
• Voluntary economic growth-sharing agreement
• Local tax revenue includes percentage of income taxes (VA Collaborative Economic Development Act)
• Additional revenue from land sales and recreational fees