



Request for Proposals (RFP)
Space Vandenberg: On-Call Infrastructure Planning and
Pre-Development Services

Issued by: [REACH](#)

Issue Date: May 29, 2026

Notification of Intent to Submit: June 15, 2026

Proposals Due: July 13, 2026, 5 pm

This is a procurement process led and funded by REACH, an independent 501(c)(3), made possible by a grant from the California Jobs First Regional Investment Initiative.

Disclaimer: The use of the name Vandenberg does not constitute an official endorsement by the Department of the Air Force or the Space Force. It is merely used to describe the location. All subsequent uses of the name "Vandenberg" are used to describe the location and are not an official endorsement.



1. Statement of Purpose

REACH is seeking qualified, multidisciplinary firm(s) or team(s) to provide technical pre-development services in support of a portfolio of infrastructure initiatives associated with [Space Vandenberg](#) and the Vandenberg Accelerates workstreams. Through this Request for Proposals (RFP), REACH seeks firms with demonstrated expertise in pre-development infrastructure planning and financing, engineering analyses, feasibility assessments, and project development to advance critical projects toward implementation readiness.

Rather than procuring services for a single, fully defined project scope, this Request for Proposals (RFP) establishes an on-call, task-based, bank-of-hours structure to be deployed over the grant's period of performance. Select initial tasks are identified in this RFP for required pricing, with additional assignments issued on an as-needed basis through on-call task orders. These assignments may vary in scale, complexity, and duration and will be issued in response to project readiness, stakeholder needs, funding alignment, and emerging opportunities. This structure enables REACH to efficiently access high-quality technical expertise while maintaining the flexibility needed to advance a dynamic and evolving infrastructure project portfolio.

Work performed under this structure is expected to support the progression of multiple infrastructure concepts from early-stage planning through implementation readiness. Assignments may include, but are not limited to, feasibility analyses, engineering and technical studies, site evaluations, conceptual designs, environmental review support, stakeholder coordination, cost estimation, financing and delivery strategy development, and other pre-development activities typical of complex infrastructure projects.

Through this approach, REACH aims to select a flexible and capable technical partner who can support the advancement of priority infrastructure projects over the course of the grant period, while enabling efficient deployment of resources and alignment with the broader goals of Space Vandenberg and regional economic development.

2. About Space Vandenberg

Space Vandenberg is a new initiative to advance space launch on the West Coast. Its goal is to support the expansion of space launch at Vandenberg and the Central Coast space ecosystem, strengthening the Central Coast and California's leadership in the global space economy.

Vandenberg is one of the world's most active launch sites and serves as a critical hub for launches into polar and other specialized orbits. Launch activity has increased significantly in recent years and is expected to continue its growth trajectory, creating both economic opportunity and infrastructure demands in the surrounding region.

Space Vandenberg is organized into four integrated workstreams designed to advance complementary elements of regional space industry growth:

- Space Vandenberg Entity – development and formalization of a coordinating entity to support long-term spaceport growth and regional collaboration.
- Vandenberg Works – expands workforce pathways and education programs to prepare Central Coast residents for careers in the space industry.
- Vandenberg Innovates – advances innovation, applied research, and entrepreneurship through collaboration among universities, industry partners, and federal partners.
- Vandenberg Accelerates – advances the development of key infrastructure needed to support spaceport growth. **This RFP focuses on this workstream.**

About Vandenberg Accelerates

Vandenberg Accelerates is the infrastructure-focused component of Space Vandenberg. It focuses on advancing the infrastructure needed to support the rapid growth of launch activity and the surrounding space industry ecosystem by accelerating project development timelines and preparing priority projects for future investment and construction. These efforts align with broader regional and statewide efforts to strengthen California’s leadership in the space industry while expanding access to high-quality jobs and economic opportunity.

Through ongoing engagement with federal partners and space industry stakeholders operating at and around Vandenberg, a range of infrastructure priorities and pre-development needs have been identified. These needs span multiple categories, including transportation and access improvements, analysis of shared commodities and utility systems to support future growth, harbor enhancements, development readiness of various sites to support industry activity, and evaluation of a potential off-base public viewing platform. These categories are intended to illustrate the types of assignments that may be advanced under this RFP and do not represent a fixed or exhaustive list of projects.

Through this RFP, the Vandenberg Accelerates workstream will support these infrastructure priorities through targeted, task order pre-development activities delivered on an as-needed basis. Assignments may include detailed project scoping, technical and economic feasibility analysis, stakeholder coordination, preliminary engineering and design development, environmental review support, infrastructure and utility systems analysis, cost estimation, financial modeling, and project delivery strategy evaluation. The goal is to move these projects from early concepts to implementation-ready plans that can attract future public and private investment and support the timely deployment of over \$800 million in planned federal funding for the Spaceport of the Future at Vandenberg. This RFP supports pre-development activities required to advance infrastructure projects toward implementation readiness and future investment. Work does not include construction and instead focuses on planning, analysis, and coordination.

3. RFP Structure and Workstream Overview

This RFP is organized around four distinct workstreams. Each workstream can be bid on its own, or as part of a combined submission. Proposals may be submitted by a single firm or by a team led by a prime contractor, which may include subconsultants to provide specialized expertise. The proposing firm should clearly identify the roles and responsibilities of all team members. REACH will contract solely with the prime contractor in the case of a team.

The workstreams included in this RFP are:

1. Transportation, Commodities and Utilities
2. Harbor Enhancements
3. Site Readiness and Conceptual Development Projects
4. Infrastructure Investment Playbook and Development Funding Advisor

For Workstreams 1-3, each section includes an overview describing the focus and importance of the workstream, along with examples that illustrate the range of potential assignments that may be issued under the on-call, task order-based, bank-of-hours structure, as well as tasks that require scoped pricing. In the RFP response, firms are required to:

1) Demonstrate Capability. Demonstrate their capability to deliver across the broader range of activities within each workstream on which they are bidding, supported by relevant project experience, approach to similar assignments, staffing approaches and how the firm will manage and prioritize multiple concurrent or sequential task orders, ability to coordinate with multiple stakeholders, including federal and public sector partners, and overall technical expertise and capacity to perform work of similar scope and complexity.

2) Scope Required Projects. Propose a scope, technical approach, budget, and estimated timeline on certain initial projects identified in the workstreams. Other examples are provided for context only and are not intended to be scoped or priced unless specifically identified as a required project.

3) Provide a fee schedule. Provide a clear fee schedule for the pre-development on-call, bank-of hours structure, including hourly rates by labor category and any other relevant pricing assumptions, which will be used to scope and price future task orders under the on-call structure. Pre-development activities and deliverables under this project *may include (note: this list is not exhaustive and firms are invited to provide information on additional tasks they believe may be needed):*

- Site evaluation and preliminary project assessment
- Feasibility analysis, including technical, economic, and operational considerations

- Identification of environmental review considerations and potential permitting requirements, environmental review support and permitting strategy (i.e., federal/state, conducting programmatic EAs, supplemental EAs, and/or an EIS)
- Engineering and technical analysis
- Development of preliminary design concepts or infrastructure planning approaches (i.e., up to 35% design, conceptual layouts and/or charrettes)
- Cost estimation and project phasing analysis
- Financing modeling and identification of potential funding strategies
- Construction readiness planning and implementation roadmap development

Together, this content is intended to inform the firm’s demonstrated capability, including their ability to deliver on required projects, ongoing, on-call support, and all supported by relevant experience and technical approach to similar assignments. Additional details are provided below.

Workstream #4 can be bid in a different manner at the discretion of the applicant. Details required from this RFP are outlined in that section.

The selected firm(s) across the four workstreams will coordinate closely with REACH to ensure deliverables support project objectives and are suitable for stakeholder use, decision-making, and future advancement. For projects related to infrastructure on federal installations, deliverables must be usable by federal partners, consistent with applicable federal planning and engineering practices, and prepared with sufficient technical rigor to inform future project development, permitting, and potential construction by federal or other entities. Stakeholder coordination with REACH, federal partners, industry partners, and regional stakeholders will be required for all workstreams.

4. Workstreams

4.1 Workstream #1: Transportation, Commodities & Utilities

Overview

This workstream is intended to address launch-related transportation and logistics through a combination of longer-term corridor improvements and targeted analysis of materials and commodities movement. Together, these efforts are intended to reduce operational bottlenecks, improve the efficiency and reliability of launch-related transportation, and ensure alignment with operational and infrastructure priorities at and around Vandenberg.

A. Required Project – Commodities Roadmap (*Required Pricing*)

Increasing launch cadence is placing growing demand on the movement of commodities required for launch operations. This scope will focus on developing a coordinated roadmap for

the supply, delivery, and potential on-site production (e.g., Air Separation Unit) of key commodities, such as liquid oxygen, liquid hydrogen, methane, and nitrogen. The consultant will convene and align stakeholders—including federal partners, launch service providers (LSPs), utility providers, and commodity suppliers—to define implementable, shared solutions that support multiple users. Work will include assessment of current and projected demand across users, identification of opportunities for shared infrastructure (i.e., ASU), and evaluation of logistics and siting considerations.

This analysis should explicitly incorporate industry and federal demand, associated utility requirements, including power and water demand, electrical capacity consideration, coordination with commercial power companies, transportation logistics, as well as distinction between military and non-military infrastructure. The outcome will be a practical roadmap that outlines viable pathways, partnership structures, and sequencing needed to enable efficient, scalable, and integrated commodity solutions.

Deliverables include:

- Aggregated industry demand analysis for key commodities (e.g., liquid oxygen, liquid hydrogen, methane, and nitrogen, including the possibility of an Air Separation Unit (ASU) across current and future launch operations and payload processing activities
- Convene and coordinate stakeholders (government, LSPs, utility providers, and commodity suppliers) to define shared, base-wide solutions
- Infrastructure requirements for commodity delivery and/or on-site production (including ASU potential)
- Technical and financial feasibility of shared commodity infrastructure, including policy and lease constraints
- Preliminary costs, operating, and financing models, and other needed actions, resulting in a clear roadmap for implementation

B. Example – Alternate Ingress and Egress Route

Alternative routes in and out of Vandenberg from Highway 1 to launch points are intended to improve heavy-haul access and overall transportation efficiency across and around Vandenberg. In addition to supporting the movement of large equipment and materials for launch operations, the alternate route(s) would provide a secondary access corridor for workforce and launch operations coming from the south and to enhance resilience in the event of emergencies or other disruptions to the primary access route.

C. Example – Corridor Turnouts

Several segments of the Vandenberg corridor lack sufficient turnouts, resulting in constrained traffic flow, delays, and safety concerns for heavy-haul and operational vehicles. Additionally, the broader transportation corridor in the Central Coast region and beyond could be impacted by constraints in local and county jurisdictions. Turnouts are critical for allowing vehicles to safely pass, stage, or yield along narrow roadway segments, particularly given the size and

frequency of transport associated with launch operations. This scope could include advancing conceptual design for targeted turnout improvements to approximately the 35% design level, including identification of priority locations, development of conceptual layouts, coordination with environmental, and preliminary engineering and cost considerations, as well as a broader look at the overall transportation corridor constraints. This work is intended to support stakeholder alignment and provide sufficient definition to inform future planning, budgeting, and potential implementation by partners.

4.2 Workstream #2: Harbor Enhancements

Overview

Harbor access has been consistently identified by industry stakeholders as one of the primary operational bottlenecks affecting launch activity at Vandenberg. The harbor is critical for enabling the delivery and recovery of launch vehicles and other large equipment. Current limitations in harbor protection, docking infrastructure, and vessel access can constrain launch cadence, including missed opportunities to unload boosters during adverse sea conditions.

Existing harbor conditions present several challenges. Limited protection from sea motion impacts, along with channel depth and configuration constraints restrict safe operations to narrow weather windows. In addition, the harbor is located within a coastal environment, requiring coordination with regulatory agencies and environmental stakeholders. As launch cadence continues to increase, reliable harbor access and operations will remain essential to supporting the efficient movement, recovery, and deployment of launch-related assets critical to the long-term growth and operational resilience of Vandenberg.

A. Required Project – Harbor Business Case (*Required Pricing*)

This scope will focus on the development of a business case to evaluate viable approaches for delivery of harbor improvements and multiple options for long-term harbor operations, including a decision-framework for assessing these options. This may include consideration of models in which harbor facilities are leased to a private or third-party operator responsible for infrastructure development, maintenance, and long-term operations, as well as alternative ownership, management, and operational structures. The analysis should compare feasible options, including associated costs, risks, timelines, and operational implications, to support informed decision-making by project stakeholders.

Deliverables include:

- Development of a business case and supporting analysis to inform potential investment and delivery approaches, including evaluation of funding strategies, public-private partnerships, governance structures, and long-term operational models. The final deliverable should outline multiple potential harbor operating models, including practical solutions needed for operations, and include a decision framework for assessing and comparing these options.

B. Required Project – Harbor Development Working Group (*Required Pricing*)

REACH will convene and support a Harbor Development Working Group composed of industry, federal, state, and local government, regulatory agencies, utility and infrastructure partners, and other relevant stakeholders. This working group will serve as a forum for advancing harbor-related progress, aligning on operational requirements, understanding and advancing early regulatory and permitting discussions, and supporting key decisions needed to move project development forward.

Deliverables include:

- Consultant will support REACH in convening the working group comprised of a variety of stakeholders on a minimum of a monthly basis across the grant timeline. The consultant will support refinement and advancement of a preferred harbor improvement approach, support coordination with regulatory agencies and the development of coordinating mechanisms and frameworks.

C. Example – Environmental, Technical, and Advisory Support.

Ongoing environmental, technical, and strategic advisory support related to potential harbor upgrades, operational improvements, and long-term infrastructure planning. Work may include coordination with regulatory agencies and stakeholders; support for environmental review and permitting strategy development; technical analysis related to harbor operations, marine access, breakwater alternatives, dredging considerations, vessel access, and supporting infrastructure needs; and strategic advisory services to support project prioritization, implementation sequencing, funding alignment, environmental review, and future project decision-making

4.3 Workstream #3: Site Readiness and Conceptual Development Projects

Overview

There are sites, both within and outside the Vandenberg security perimeter, that offer potential development opportunities with varying constraints and levels of site readiness. The focus for this workstream will be on advancing site readiness through targeted environmental analysis, infrastructure assessment, and flexible pre-development support aligned with anticipated tenant demand.

A. Required Project – Off-Base Launch Viewing Platform Concept and Feasibility Development Package (1-2 sites) (*Required Pricing*)

Launch viewing has become an increasingly popular public activity on California's Central Coast as launch cadence at Vandenberg continues to grow. At present, there are unofficial viewing areas, but not a formal site that can accommodate public viewing. The purpose of this project is to evaluate the feasibility of developing an off-base public viewing platform that could safely

accommodate spectators while supporting regional tourism and community engagement with space activity at Vandenberg. This effort would build on past discussions by evaluating potential locations and identifying potential development pathways for 1-2 sites, conceptual designs, permitting considerations, and partnerships needed to advance the concept toward implementation.

Deliverables include:

- Evaluation of potential viewing platform locations, including site conditions, access, parking, and safety considerations
- Implementation roadmap to advance priority site(s) toward development including steps for permitting and environmental requirements, as well as preliminary cost estimates and potential funding avenues
- Conceptual designs for viewing platform layouts

B. Example – Site Readiness and Conceptual Development Planning

Vandenberg has undeveloped land with the potential for future development. This includes several sites within the Mission Development Zone (MDZ), an area intended to support future launch activity at Vandenberg by providing locations where industry partners can develop facilities such as payload processing facilities (PPFs), launch control centers, administrative offices, research and development, and other facilities. Other sites to be explored include federal land outside of the secure perimeter, including a potential site for a viewing platform as mentioned above. Targeted site readiness efforts through the on-call scoping will be needed to help catalyze timely development, reduce barriers, and support coordinated expansion of the sites in alignment with stakeholder needs. This could include creating a conceptual design and development/investment plan, leasing and operational models, tenant attraction plans, overall high-level site planning, and other deliverables to support implementation. There are several sites that might be considered for analysis, some seen in the map below:

- 1265 acre area (MDZ, designated payload processing facility sites)
- 466 acre area (MDZ, designated administrative area)
- 135 acre area (MDZ, designated parking area)
- 39 acre triangle of land (outside the secure perimeter)
- Potential for housing development
- Potential viewing platform sites (see Example A below)



C. Example – Site Customer Assessments

Potential customers may need assistance with site assessment to evaluate development potential of a specific site on or off base, including existing conditions, access, infrastructure considerations, and identification of constraints and opportunities for near-term industrial or mission-support uses. This body of work would be responsive to emerging tenant needs and evolving planning efforts, and could include on-call technical support to evaluate specific development opportunities as they arise.

4.4 Workstream #4: Infrastructure Investment Playbook and Development Funding Advisor

REACH is seeking the development of an Infrastructure Investment Playbook for the Space Vandenberg infrastructure portfolio that can be used by REACH, the Space Vandenberg entity, and project partners. This effort will compile and translate technical findings from identified projects into a cohesive set of materials that articulate project opportunities, development pathways, and potential investment approaches. The firm will work with project-specific consultants (pending selection in this RFP of those firms) to gather inputs and ensure consistency across projects. The selected firm will also serve as a development advisor for REACH, supporting efforts to move specific projects to implementation. A key focus will be to explore how enhanced use leases and similar arrangements can be operationalized to advance select projects.

Deliverables include (Required Pricing):

Preparation of Investment Playbook materials that translate project-level analyses into clear development pathways, funding strategies, and financing opportunities, including scope,

phasing, cost considerations, delivery structures, and potential public and private funding approaches.

- **Conduct Investment and Development Analysis**

In partnership with REACH and relevant stakeholders, identify and evaluate potential infrastructure investment opportunities both on and off base, develop supporting business case materials, conduct financial analyses, and assess potential ownership, governance, financing, and operating structures.

Work may include:

- Analysis of at least seven infrastructure priorities and development of detailed narratives, implementation considerations, and financing models for three to five priority projects
- Identification of potential public and private funding opportunities, including preparation of a minimum of six funding or financing proposals aligned with the Infrastructure Investment Playbook
- Evaluation of project delivery approaches, public-private partnership structures, leasing strategies, and long-term operational models

- **Develop Investor and Partnership Materials**

Conduct research, collect stakeholder input, and develop strategic messaging and supporting materials that effectively communicate project value, regional impact, implementation readiness, and alignment with investor, funding, and partner priorities.

Work may include:

- Development of investor and partner pitch materials for priority infrastructure projects identified through the Vandenberg Accelerates workstreams and broader project scoping efforts, including both on-base and off-base opportunities
- Preparation of conceptual visuals, graphics, charts, renderings, and pitchbook presentation materials to support project communication and investment attraction efforts
- In partnership with REACH, preparation and delivery of up to five investor or partner presentations (virtual unless local)

- **Ongoing Strategic Advisory and Funding Support**

Provide ongoing strategic advisory support to REACH related to project advancement, funding strategy development, partnership identification, and investment attraction. This work may be issued through the on-call, task order-based, bank-of-hours structure and may include support for development of project proposals and pitchbook, identification of potential funding partners, and evaluation of public-private partnership or alternative delivery and operational opportunities.

5. RFP and Project Timeline

The estimated project timeline is as follows:

RFP Released	May 29, 2026
Notice of Intent to Submit* deadline	June 15, 2026
Deadline to submit written questions	June 22, 2026, 9 am
Written responses to questions provided**	July 1, 2026
Proposal submission deadline	July 13, 2026, 5 pm
Consultant Interviews	Week of July 20, 2026
Consultant Selection	Week of July 27, 2026
Contract Scoping	Week of August 3, 2026
Estimated Project Start	August 17, 2026
Contract Timeline	August 17, 2026 - April 30, 2028

Proposals must be received no later than **5:00 PM Pacific Time on July 13, 2026**. Late submissions may not be considered.

Email all Notices of Intent to Submit, written questions, and proposals in PDF format to:
spacevandenbergsadmin@reachcentralcoast.org

***Notice of Intent to Submit Requirement**

Firms intending to submit a proposal must submit a Notice of Intent to Submit to REACH by the deadline listed in the timeline above. Submission of a Notice of Intent to Submit is required in order to receive invitations to participate in the written Q&A. The Notice of Intent should include: firm name, primary contact person and contact information, and identification of the workstream(s) the firm intends to pursue.

****Q&A Opportunity**

REACH will provide an opportunity for prospective applicants to submit written questions related to the workstreams and to the RFP itself. Written responses in the aggregate will be provided back to all potential applicants who submitted a Notice of Intent to Submit. The purpose of the written responses is to provide additional project context, clarify technical questions related to

the project scopes, and support informed proposal development by prospective applicants.

6. Proposal Submission Requirements and Guidelines

Proposal Components

Proposals should include the following components and should be a reasonable length; appendices should be heavily utilized to ensure key content is included in the up front proposal:

- Cover letter and point of contact
- Firm(s) overview and relevant experience
- For the workstreams on which the firm is bidding, understanding of each workstream and desired project outcomes
- Technical approach to possible pre-development activities
- Project team and staffing plan, including team member roles and qualifications
- Responses to required projects which should include at a minimum a scope, technical approach, budget, and estimated timeline
- Proposed fee structure for on-call, bank-of-hours and ability to meet flexible project schedule deadlines and scope quickly
- 3 examples of relevant work
- 3 references

Proposal Budget

REACH anticipates a total available project budget of up to \$3.5 million across the four workstreams. REACH reserves the right to award all, a portion, or none of the available funding, and to make one or more awards, based on proposal quality, alignment with project objectives, available funding, and final scope negotiations.

Evaluation and Selection Criteria

The following criteria will guide the evaluation process:

- Relevant experience in each of the different workstreams on which the firm is bidding
- Experience and qualifications of the team with similar infrastructure planning, engineering analysis, feasibility studies, project development, development/funding identification, or related work
- Demonstrated ability to produce technical deliverables that will meet federal requirements, including experience with California regulatory agencies
- Experience navigating regulatory, public-sector, and multi-stakeholder environments
- Strength of technical approach and defined deliverables
- Cost effectiveness and realism of approach
- Ability to meet a flexible, on-call scoping schedule

Terms and Conditions

- **Estimated Contract Term:** August 17, 2026 through April 30, 2028, corresponding to the anticipated grant period of performance.
- Final contract terms, scope, deliverables, and budget allocations will be negotiated and finalized based on the selected approach and any necessary scope refinement.
- This work is funded through a grant from the State of California under the California Jobs First program. The contractor will be required to provide information, documentation, and other contributions necessary to support grant compliance, including state reporting requirements.
- Compensation will be structured as a deliverables-based budget and will not be based on time-and-materials billing.
- Contractor team members assigned to work requiring access to Vandenberg Space Force Base must be eligible for, and able to obtain, all security clearances, approvals, credentials, or access permissions necessary to fulfill the applicable deliverables.

7. About REACH and California Jobs First

REACH is an economic development organization serving California's Central Coast. Its mission is to increase economic prosperity through big thinking, bold action, and regional collaboration. REACH works with business, education, government, and community partners to advance regional initiatives that strengthen key industries, support workforce development, and expand economic opportunity across the Central Coast.

REACH serves as the lead implementing organization for the Space Vandenberg grant and is responsible for coordinating project activities across all workstreams. REACH manages subawards and contracts, ensures compliance with agreement requirements, and works with regional, industry, and government partners to advance project objectives. While the project is closely coordinated with various stakeholders and partners, REACH is responsible for overall project delivery and implementation.

Space Vandenberg is funded through the California Jobs First Regional Investment Initiative, a statewide economic development initiative focused on expanding access to high-quality jobs while strengthening key industries across California. Through this initiative, California Jobs First provides implementation funding to regional partnerships advancing projects aligned with state economic priorities and the [California Jobs First State Economic Blueprint](#) (February 2025), including statewide coordination in the space, defense, and satellites sector. Space Vandenberg contributes to these goals by expanding workforce pathways, supporting innovation and entrepreneurship, and advancing infrastructure needed to support long-term industry growth and regional economic opportunity.