



## MEMORANDUM

---

Date: August 6, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

Via: Brian L. Barroso  
City Manager

From: Matt Willman  
Utilities Director

Subject: **LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR NAVY SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH (SBIR), SMALL BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER (SBTT), AND NATIONAL ENERGY USA.** (file id 25-4088)

---

### **Introduction**

The City of Key West is providing a letter of support with respect to exploring a partnership with the Naval Air Station Key West (NAS), Navy Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs, and National Energy USA. This partnership anticipates leveraging industry experts, capabilities, and resources to develop solutions focused on reducing operating costs, increasing service capabilities, and promoting mission readiness while achieving military-civilian community benefit.

### **Background**

The City currently budgets more than \$5,000,000 annually for the hauling and disposal of waste products generated by the residents and visitors of the island community. This cost is anticipated to continually climb until we can be more resilient and sustainable. City Staff are committed to reducing input costs as much as is reasonable, to keep user rates and fees as low as possible.

Due to its remote location, NAS Key West experiences power quality and reliability issues more frequently than mainland Florida. Volatile weather events and infrastructure degradation are the leading causes of power disruption and mission downtime as identified by NAS. In addition, the remoteness of the installation also contributes to significant operational expenses for solid waste and sewage waste management.

The installation, with Navy Region Southeast support, would like to explore with National Energy USA, an opportunity to create a holistic solution for the above-mentioned problem statement. The technical solution utilizes existing installation waste stream data and electrical load requirements to develop a business case analysis for implementing a waste-to-engineered fuel solution that would support onsite power production in the Florida Keys.

### **Procurement**

This opportunity to partner with our military neighbors has a minimal financial impact on city resources. Grant funding is already in place for the initial research phase.

City Staff consider it simple due diligence to reduce solid/sewage waste transport and disposal costs for both the installation and the City of Key West whenever possible. Increasing a Phase II scope to include power and solid/sewage waste stream requirements from the City of Key West is expected to bolster the research effort and support economic justification required for full scale commercial development of this technology.

### **Recommendation**

The City Manager's Office recommends the Mayor and Commission approve this resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement, execute any necessary documents:

To support National Energy USA in its pursuit of SBIR/STTR funding to further research and pursue technology solutions for NAS Key West and the City of Key West.

Exhibits:

NASKW Support Letter June 2025