Out-of-State Outreach Roster: How SC, OH, ID, IL, TX & FL Pitch Aerospace Founders

Pillar: Competitor States | **Basis:** Lapsa Outreach Record & Disclosure Boundary | **Primary Source:** State EDO Outreach (Stop-and-Report Gate) | **As Of:** Sept–Nov 2026

In September 2026, Stoke Space CEO Andy Lapsa named six states—South Carolina, Texas, Florida, Ohio, Idaho, and Illinois—whose economic development teams reached out within weeks; while Texas and Florida carry documented space-specific appropriations, SC, OH, ID, and IL rely on general manufacturing/R&D tools with no space-specific dollar ceiling in our sourced record.

Documented Policy & Site-Selection Record

• Dated Outreach Record: At Seattle Space Week in September 2026, Stoke Space CEO Andy Lapsa stated that economic development teams from South Carolina, Texas, Florida, Ohio, Idaho, and Illinois had contacted him within a couple of weeks.

• Verified Space-Specific Instruments: Texas (SEARF / Texas Space Commission) and Florida (Space Florida / FDOT SIP) have explicit statutory space funds and documented multi-hundred-million-dollar ceilings.

• Stop-and-Report Evidence Boundary: For South Carolina, Ohio, Idaho, and Illinois, our sourced policy record documents proactive EDO outreach to Stoke Space, but does not contain a verified, space-specific statutory grant fund comparable to TX or FL.

• Operational Lesson: Even without a dedicated space-commission statute, state EDOs win mindshare through rapid, founder-level outbound recruitment.

Six-State Outreach Evidence Classification

State	Outreach Documented?	Space-Specific Program in Sourced Record
Texas	Yes (Lapsa Sept 2026)	Texas Space Commission / SEARF ($150M + $300M ceilings)
Florida	Yes (Lapsa Sept 2026)	Space Florida / FDOT SIP (e.g., Relativity up to $134M ceiling)
South Carolina	Yes (Lapsa Sept 2026)	General EDO / manufacturing outreach; no space-specific figure cited
Ohio, Idaho, Illinois	Yes (Lapsa Sept 2026)	General EDO / R&D outreach; no space-specific figure cited

Founder, Staffer & Site-Selector Takeaways

• Staffer Takeaway: Proactive outbound calls from state EDOs matter to founders almost as much as statutory tax rates—especially when Washington's Commerce desk is perceived as passive.

• Evidence Rule: BC ESG reports general outreach for SC/OH/ID/IL without fabricating unverified space-specific dollar totals.

Cross-Cluster Links & Primary Sources

• **WA Space Cluster Hub (#1382):** https://bcesg.org/washington-space-cluster-census/

• **Stoke Space WA Profile:** https://bcesg.org/stoke-space-washington-space-cluster-profile/

• **Portal Space Systems WA Profile:** https://bcesg.org/portal-space-systems-washington-space-cluster-profile/

• **Kent WA Space Cluster Profile:** https://bcesg.org/kent-wa-space-cluster-profile/

• **GeekWire Aerospace Coverage:** https://www.geekwire.com/

• **Texas Space Commission (Office of the Governor):** https://gov.texas.gov/organization/texas-space-commission

• **Space Florida (Spaceport Improvement Program):** https://www.spaceflorida.gov/

• **Stoke Space Official Site:** https://www.stokespace.com/

Provenance Note: Adheres to Stop-and-Report standard: general outreach is documented, and unverified space-specific dollar figures are not invented.