Washington’s Strategic Reserve Fund (SRF): Portal Space Systems ($350K, Dec 2025) and Scale Limits

Pillar: WA Council & Record | **Basis:** WA Commerce SRF Award (Dec 2025) | **Primary Source:** WA Dept. of Commerce / RCW 43.330.090 | **As Of:** Dec 2025 Award (verified Nov 16, 2026)

In December 2025, Washington awarded $350,000 from the Governor's Economic Development Strategic Reserve Fund via Commerce and Economic Alliance Snohomish County to support Portal Space Systems' 50,000 sq ft Bothell expansion—the primary documented state space grant, operating at a fraction of Texas or Florida ceilings.

Documented Policy & Site-Selection Record

• Documented Award: In December 2025, Governor Bob Ferguson announced a $350,000 Strategic Reserve Fund (SRF) grant awarded via WA Dept. of Commerce to Economic Alliance Snohomish County for Portal Space Systems.

• Facility & Jobs Scope: The grant supported Portal's expansion into a 50,000 sq ft Bothell facility to scale Supernova solar-thermal spacecraft manufacturing, projecting >100 jobs in 2 years and up to 700 jobs by 2030.

• Funding Mechanism: Under RCW 43.330.090, the SRF draws from sources including unclaimed lottery prize money for targeted retention and expansion projects—not a dedicated multi-hundred-million-dollar space fund.

• Scale Context: Portal's $350,000 award is a verified, disbursed state instrument, whereas Texas ($300M SEARF) and Florida (up to $134M SIP for Relativity) operate on orders-of-magnitude larger statutory ceilings.

Portal Space Systems SRF Award Profile

Parameter	Documented Value	Source
Recipient / EDO	Portal Space Systems via Economic Alliance Snohomish County	WA Governor / Commerce (Dec 2025)
Grant Amount	$350,000 (Strategic Reserve Fund)	WA Governor / Commerce (Dec 2025)
Facility Expansion	50,000 sq ft in Bothell, WA (Supernova manufacturing)	WA Commerce / Portal Space Systems
Job Projections	>100 jobs (2 yrs); up to 700 jobs by 2030 (projected)	WA Governor Release (Dec 2025)

Founder, Staffer & Site-Selector Takeaways

• Founder Takeaway: SRF grants are real and accessible through local EDOs like Economic Alliance Snohomish County, but they function as targeted bridge grants (~$350K), not factory-scale capex subsidies.

• Staffer Takeaway: Comparing a $350K disbursed grant directly against a $300M multi-year legislative authorization requires noting both scale and instrument type.

Cross-Cluster Links & Primary Sources

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

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

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

• **The 90-vs-67 Gap Analysis (#1385):** https://bcesg.org/washington-space-cluster-90-vs-67-gap/

• **Washington State Department of Commerce:** https://www.commerce.wa.gov/

• **RCW 43.330.090 (WA Strategic Reserve Fund):** https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=43.330.090

• **Portal Space Systems Official Site:** https://www.portalsystems.space/

Provenance Note: Sourced from WA Governor / Commerce Dec 2025 announcement and RCW 43.330.090. Non-advocacy brief.