Texas Space Commission & SEARF: HB 3447 ($150M + $200M A&M) and the $300M Appropriation Ceiling

Pillar: Competitor States | **Basis:** TX HB 3447 & 2025 Appropriation | **Primary Source:** Texas Space Commission / Office of Governor | **As Of:** Verified Nov 16, 2026

Texas established the Texas Space Commission and Space Exploration and Aeronautics Research Fund (SEARF) under HB 3447 (2023) with $150M for SEARF grants plus $200M for the Texas A&M Space Institute, followed by an additional $300M legislative appropriation ceiling for SEARF—all statutory ceilings, not single-year cash spend.

Documented Policy & Site-Selection Record

• HB 3447 Foundation (2023): Authored by Rep. Greg Bonnen, HB 3447 created the Texas Space Commission and SEARF with $150M for competitive grants and $200M for the Texas A&M Space Institute at Johnson Space Center ($350M total authorization).

• $300M Expansion Ceiling: In the subsequent legislative cycle (2025), Texas lawmakers approved an additional $300M appropriation ceiling for SEARF grant distribution overseen by the Texas Space Commission.

• Eligible Recipients: SEARF grants target private aerospace companies, universities, and research institutions for advanced manufacturing, robotics, lunar/Mars systems, and workforce infrastructure.

• Ceiling vs. Spend: Both the $150M initial allocation and the $300M expansion represent legislative authorization ceilings deployed across competitive grant rounds—not an automatic cash payout to any single company.

Texas Space Commission & SEARF Statutory Breakdown

Component	Authorization Ceiling	Scope & Status
HB 3447 SEARF (2023)	$150M (Ceiling)	Initial competitive grant pool; awards rolled out 2025–2026
HB 3447 TX A&M Space Inst.	$200M (Ceiling)	State-funded R&D & training facility at JSC Exploration Park
2025 SEARF Expansion	$300M (Ceiling)	Additional legislative grant appropriation for next funding cycles
Account Structure	SEARF Account 1203	Administered by Texas Space Commission (Governor's Office)

Founder, Staffer & Site-Selector Takeaways

• Founder Takeaway: Texas offers competitive R&D and manufacturing grants at $100M+ program scale, but awards require formal applications, milestone compliance, and Texas-based execution.

• Staffer Takeaway: Label Texas's $300M figure accurately as a legislative appropriation ceiling for SEARF rather than a single-company subsidy.

Cross-Cluster Links & Primary Sources

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

• **Blue Origin WA Profile:** https://bcesg.org/blue-origin-washington-space-cluster-profile/

• **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/

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

• **Texas Legislature HB 3447 (88R):** https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=88R&Bill=HB3447

Provenance Note: Sourced from Texas Legislature HB 3447 (88R) and Texas Space Commission records. Ceilings labeled as ceilings.