



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation
Administration**

DEC 28 2007

Mr. David Wartofsky
Potomac Airfield
10300 Glen Way
Ft. Washington, MD 20744

Office of the Associate
Administrator for Airports

800 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Mr. Wartofsky:

You have sent various people at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) e-mails about various Airport Improvement Program (AIP) issues. This letter addresses the eligibility of the SuperAWOS (also known as SuperUnicom) under the AIP.

FAA certifies AWOS equipment as meeting FAA standards for a specific type of AWOS. FAA certifies five types of AWOS -- AWOS A, AWOS A-V, AWOS I, AWOS II, or AWOS III, and above. The FAA has certified the SuperAWOS as meeting the FAA standard for an AWOS A and an AWOS A-V. We encourage you to pursue certification in the other categories, as increasing the number of AWOS providers makes for a more competitive procurement process.

For AIP grant projects, airports must use competitive bidding. We expect the airport to award the project contract to the responsive bidder with the lowest bid price. For an AWOS project, the bid would specify which type of AWOS the airport will install. We consider only bidders offering FAA-certified AWOS equipment for the type of AWOS bid as being responsive. We are aware that your SuperAWOS offers many of the features of AWOS I, II, III, and above, but the SuperAWOS is only FAA-certified as an AWOS A or AWOS A-V. Therefore, if you bid the SuperAWOS on projects requiring an AWOS I, II, III or above, the bid will be nonresponsive.

We are finishing a Program Guidance Letter (PGL) on using AIP grant funds on AWOS projects. We will send you a copy of this PGL and will also send it to our FAA regional and field offices as soon as it is available. We hope that publication of this guidance will eliminate any confusion when airports acquire an AWOS under AIP.

Sincerely,

D. Kirk Shaffer
Associate Administrator
for Airports