

**COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 PROPRIETARY ITEM – FINDING IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST (FIPI)**

**INSTRUCTIONS;**

A specific patented or proprietary material, specification, or process shall not be required on a contract except as permitted in Section 8.16 of the Project Development Manual (PDM). Use this form to obtain approval of the use of a proprietary feature on a project or group of projects.

**PROPRIETARY ITEM OR PROCESS:**

Name of proprietary item or process:	Manufacturer name, address & phone No.:
French Technologie Alpine de Sécurité Gazex® Avalanche Exploder	TAS - Groupe Montagne & Neige Développement Parc d'Activités ALPESPACE – 74 Voie Magellan – 73800 SAINTE HELENE DU LAC – FRANCE Tél. : + 33 (0)4 79 65 49 00 – Fax : + 33 (0)4 79 65 49 01 – Site : www.tas-fr.com

**NEED FOR PROPRIETARY ITEM:**

Check only one	LOCATION
<input type="checkbox"/> Project Specific	Provide Project No., Project Code, and Location:
<input type="checkbox"/> Corridor Specific	Provide Corridor Description:
<input type="checkbox"/> Region-wide	Identify CDOT Region:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Statewide	
For a corridor, region-wide, or statewide request, a finding in the public interest will have a term of: (Check only one)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 Years (maximum allowable)	Specify dates of term: 1/6/14 through 12/31/16
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify term)	Specify dates of term:

**CERTIFICATION**


I hereby certify that it is in the public interest to specify the above named proprietary item or process for the following reasons: (Check all that apply)

- It is essential for synchronization.
- No equally suitable alternative exists.
- It will be used for research or experimental purposes on short sections of road. (Such use must be processed through the Research Branch of DTD. Attach documentation from DTD.)

JUSTIFICATION (required). Justification consists of information that documents the reasons marked above for use of the proprietary item or process. For research or experimentation include a work plan that describes how the research or experimental feature will be used and evaluated. Attach additional pages and documentation as necessary.

CDOT Controls avalanches in US 40 Berthoud Pass area with a military weapon- the 105mm Howitzer. This weapon requires specialized training and can be dangerous to the operator. Unexploded shells pose a potential risk to hikers. The explosion from the shells leaves shrapnel and causes surface disturbance. It has been noted that there is a limited supply of shells from the U.S. Army. Therefore this type of avalanche control will become obsolete in the future. CDOT is submitting this State wide FIPI to install permanent TAS Gazex© remotely operable avalanche exploder system. The system utilizes ignited gas mixtures of propane and oxygen to create a controlled shockwave that acts directly on the snowpack surface, taking the place of live ammunition. To the best of CDOT's knowledge, no other product is available that eliminates the handling of live explosives. We find that the public's interest would be best served by specifying this product and we request your approval in this finding.

**APPLICANT SIGNATURE**

Name	Title (CDOT Project Engineer, Branch Manager, or Program Engineer as appropriate; see flowchart in section 8.16 of the PDM):	Signature
Dave Wieder	Maintenance & Operations Branch Manager	

**APPROVAL SIGNATURES:**

Signature	CDOT Resident Engineer (Required on project specific or corridor FIPIs)	Date
Signature	CDOT Research Engineer (Required for research and experimentation FIPIs)	Date
Signature	FHWA Operations Engineer (Required for all region-wide and statewide FIPIs and FHWA oversight project level FIPIs)	Date
Signature	Other (specify)	Date

**COPIES OF APPROVED FORM TO (as appropriate):**

CDOT Project Engineer:	CDOT Resident Engineer:
CDOT Program Engineer:	CDOT Research Engineer:
CDOT Standards and Specifications Engineer (all, with draft of any required specification change):	FHWA Operations Engineer: