

Julie Sande
Commissioner

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Department of Commerce,
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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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Alaska Gear Company is Awarded 2024 Manufacturer of the Year

Tuesday, September 2, 2025 (Anchorage, Alaska) - The Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development is excited to announce Alaska Gear Company as the 2024 Made in Alaska Manufacturer of the Year.

Alaska Gear Company, previously Alaska Airframes, has been a permit holder in the Made in Alaska program since 2011. They specialize in crafting high-quality, Alaska-tested products such as Alaskan Bushwheels, Arctic Oven Hot Tents, freight and pulk sleds, and a wide variety of bags and packs.

In recent years, Alaska Gear Company has proven themselves to be at the forefront of outdoor and aviation innovation. The company has launched over four Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approved products since 2022 and expanded their line of Arctic Oven tents to suit any backcountry Alaskan adventure. Most recently, they have invested in a dedicated product development team that gives them the ability to rapidly prototype, test, and refine products in real-time with real-world feedback allowing for increased agility in product deployment. They've accomplished this by expanding their flagship manufacturing facility in Palmer and opening a large manufacturing facility in Fairbanks.

"Every year, we are proud to recognize one of our Made in Alaska permit holders whose work reflects the strength, creativity, and resilience of Alaska's manufacturing community. This award honors the Alaska Gear Company as they have met challenges head-on, grown with vision, embraced innovation, served their community, and built strong partnerships across Alaska," says Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development Commissioner Julie Sande.

Alaska Gear Company is helping to grow Alaska's economy and strengthen their community through their numerous partnerships and sponsorships. The company networks with local machine shops, powder coating companies, printing services, writers, and videographers to manufacture and market their final products, when needed. They also host open houses and aviation education classes at their main Palmer campus.

Sean McLaughlin, Alaska Gear Company CEO, states, "To our internal crew and our customer pilots and explorers, this award is for you. You made it possible. You make it matter. Thank you."

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