

Julie Sande
Commissioner



Department of Commerce,
Community, and
Economic Development

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Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

26-004

Made in Alaska Program Opens Nominations for 2025 Manufacturer of the Year

Friday, May 8 (Anchorage, AK) — The Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development’s (DCCED) Made in Alaska Program is now accepting nominations for the 2025 Manufacturer of the Year award, recognizing outstanding Alaska businesses that demonstrate resilience, innovation, leadership and a commitment to strengthening Alaska’s economy.

The annual award honors a Made in Alaska-permitted business that has demonstrated the ability to overcome challenges, grow their business, innovate, lead within their community, and collaborate with other Alaska businesses.

Nominations will be accepted from May 8 through May 29, 2026. Anyone may nominate an eligible Made in Alaska business and self-nominations are encouraged. Nominations can be submitted online at: <https://arcg.is/jXPmi0>.

“Alaska manufacturers are doing more than creating products, they are creating jobs, expanding opportunities and helping build stronger local economies across the state,” said DCCED Commissioner Julie Sande. “Whether they are producing goods for local communities or exporting Alaska-made products to national and international markets, these businesses represent the innovation and determination that continue to move Alaska forward. We encourage Alaskans to help recognize the manufacturers making a difference.”

The 2025 Manufacturer of the Year will receive a custom engraved bowl created by the Great Alaskan Bowl Company and will be recognized through Made in Alaska Program marketing and promotional efforts, including features on the program’s website and social media channels.

In partnership with the Alaska Manufacturing Association (AKMA), the winner will also receive a complimentary one-year AKMA membership. AKMA is Alaska’s only statewide organization dedicated to supporting manufacturers through advocacy, networking opportunities, and industry resources.

“Manufacturing in Alaska takes a unique level of resilience, innovation and determination,” said Megan Militello, Executive Director of the Alaska Manufacturing Association. “The Manufacturer

of the Year award is an opportunity to recognize the businesses and individuals who are creating products, building jobs, and strengthening communities across our state. Sometimes manufacturers are so focused on the day-to-day work that they don't stop to recognize what they've built. This program helps celebrate those stories, the challenges overcome, and the impact these businesses have on Alaska's economy and future."

The 2024 Manufacturer of the Year award was presented to Alaska Gear Company, for its continued growth, investment in Alaska manufacturing, community engagement, and commitment to producing high-quality outdoor and aviation gear in Alaska.

The Made in Alaska Program promotes products that are made, manufactured or handcrafted in Alaska. Products carrying the iconic Made in Alaska mother bear and cub logo help consumers identify authentic Alaska-made goods while supporting local businesses and jobs.

To learn more about the Made in Alaska Program, visit:

www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/dcra/MadeInAlaska

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About DCCED:

The Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development's mission is to promote a healthy economy, strong communities and protect consumers in Alaska. Through its divisions, agencies and programs, the department supports economic growth, investment and opportunity across Alaska.

About AKMA:

AKMA is the only statewide organization dedicated to Alaska's manufacturing community—bringing together makers, builders, and producers from across the state. Through advocacy, networking events, and practical resources, AKMA helps manufacturers connect, collaborate and grow.

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