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Press Release

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## **Economic Development Strategy for Unmanned Aircraft Systems in Alaska**

The Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, in close collaboration with the University of Alaska Center for Economic Development, has identified opportunities for the state to benefit from the emerging Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) industry. The report, *Unmanned Aircraft Systems: An Economic Development Strategy for Alaska*, describes an approach focused on growing sectors related to the UAS industry, advancing technologies in aerospace and aviation, and identifying opportunities for the Alaska workforce of the future. The strategy can be viewed at <http://commerce.state.ak.us/dnn/Portals/6/pub/AlaskaUASStrategy.pdf>.

“The Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft System Integration has positioned Alaska as leader in UAS testing and integration into commercial airspace,” said Ethan Tyler, manager for the Alaska Division of Economic Development. “However, testing is just the tip of the iceberg. Alaska has an opportunity to leverage its geographic and technical assets to increase economic opportunities and job creation in communities across the state.”

Key long-term objectives include attracting UAS anchor firms to Alaska, promoting UAS and aerospace research and development, and advancing UAS training and science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education. The strategy will continue to be updated to reflect technological, political, and policy changes in both the public and private sectors

The mission of the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED) is to promote a healthy economy, support strong communities, and protect consumers in Alaska. The Division of Economic Development supports the growth and diversification of Alaska's economy through business assistance, financing, promotion, and public policy. For additional information about DCCED divisions and corporate agencies, please visit [www.commerce.alaska.gov](http://www.commerce.alaska.gov).

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