



ALASKA – Inviting and Developing New Industry

The Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED) in partnership with the Fairbanks North Star Borough and the University of Alaska Fairbanks showcased the benefits of developing the Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) industry in Alaska at the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) 2014 Conference, held in Orlando this May. The AUVSI show provided the perfect stage to highlight Alaska as a relevant, advantageous location and business environment for UAS industry growth and development.

Alaska recognizes the industry's robust needs for privacy safeguards as a foundation for rapid, responsible development of UAS in the state. Recent legislation leads the way for UAS industry development while underlining the state's commitment to public safety as one of the top priorities. DCCED's involvement as a member of the Legislative Task Force on Unmanned Aircraft Systems carries a firm commitment to public privacy and safety as well as a dedicated effort to promote the economic potential associated with the industry. The state Task Force has considered ways to encourage the economic development and safe uses of UAS in Alaska including public education on the beneficial applications related to the safety of the state's residents.

DCCED Commissioner, Susan Bell notes, "The UAS industry holds extreme promise for long-term economic development in our state." Alaska offers an unparalleled airspace of over 663,300 square miles for UAS activity to benefit commercial and military operations and the science and research communities. Bell added, "This new industry and related support businesses will benefit from Alaska's strategic location, business development incentives, and our collective commitment to see success."

The designation as one of six U.S. Federal Aviation Association test sites for UAS activity, along with the recent first successful flight mission, further demonstrates Alaska's potential for future test site activity, support and training operations, and the myriad of additional practical applications available as the UAS industry evolves in Alaska.

The industry has sparked early development of a tech-park by the Fairbanks North Star Borough and development of a UAS training program to be offered through the University of Alaska. To encourage new business growth and development the Division of Economic Development offers competitive financing and assistance for UAS and related business ventures. Division of Economic Development Director, Joe Jacobson says the UAS industry potential for Alaska cannot be overstated, "UAS will potentially bring millions of dollars into the state and have a very positive, long-term effect on jobs in Alaska."

For more information on development activities for the UAS industry contact; Alaska Division of Economic Development (907) 269-8150, University of Alaska, Center for UAS Integration (907) 332-9913, Pan-Pacific Test Range Complex (907) 455-2104, and the FAA Alaska Region (907) 271-5438.

For a copy of the DED UAS Brochure, click here:

<http://commerce.alaska.gov/dnn/portals/6/pub/unmannedaircraftsystems.pdf>