

“To support a growing regional network of defense-related manufacturers through collaboration, R&D, and business development in an effort to more efficiently equip our nation’s war fighter.”

*M. McDonald
Alien Technology*

DDA Board and Alliance Members scheduling for Washington DC flyout.

By: Charissa Rubey

The tentative dates for the DC Flyout are the 2nd week in June. The goal of the flyout is for Alliance Board members to speak with legislators on behalf of alliance members and to set up procurement meetings for accompanying Alliance Members. If anyone would like further information please contact Charissa Rubey (charissa@dakotadefensealliance.com).

Defense Alliance Symposium Set for Regional Manufacturers

By: Robert Zielinski

The Dakota Defense Alliance (DDA) has teamed with NDSU, the Economic Development Association of North Dakota, and Alien Technology in the creation of an educational program series with the first event to be conducted in May, 2008. Delivered via the IVAN interactive video network to sites throughout the state, this first session will focus on equipping regional defense manufacturers with information on DDA’s resources and opportunities for collaboration.

“Our community has a history of defense-related activity that has provided us with the land, power, communications and community infrastructure that lends itself to a new generation of activity. We are currently working with local, state and federal agencies to develop a 435-acre former defense missile site, and support the efforts of the Dakota Defense Alliance to market the opportunities that exist in North Dakota.” States Carol Goodman of the Economic Development Association of North Dakota.

North Dakota has established itself as a leading community of defense related manufacturers. However, there are still many companies which have the potential of serving the defense industry. Through the symposium series these companies will learn to grow business in collaboration with prime contractors and government agencies.

Utilizing IVAN, the state-wide communication network, sites including Devils Lake, Williston, Dickinson, Minot, NDSU, UND, and NDSCS will be linked together for a 90-minute dialogue highlighting successful regional efforts and case studies. Organizations following the event will be encouraged to work through their local Economic Development office and the DDA to explore R&D, business development, and contracting opportunities.

For more information on the education series or to request participation, visit the Dakota Defense Alliance at <http://www.dakotadefensealliance.com> or contact Carol Goodman at the Economic Development Association of North Dakota at Goodman@utma.com

DDA Presence at the IEEE and RFID Summit in Las Vegas

Joint report: Kristin Hedger & Mark McDonald

Kristin Hedger, Executive Director and Director of Business Development for Killdeer Mountain Manufacturing (KMM), joined Mark McDonald of Alien Technology to present a case study review of advanced manufacturing business practices to the international summit RFID Live in conjunction with the IEEE in Las Vegas this month. They gave excellent representation of the Dakota Defense Alliance to an audience of manufacturers, engineers, and DoD officials. Their presentation centered on a project the two companies are providing for U.S. Air Force Mantech. Emerging DoD mandates for RFID implementation have led to DoD initiatives to provide model templates for defense suppliers to follow. The case study demonstrates an internal return on investment for small and medium sized businesses as well as enhanced production capabilities for quality, cost, and delivery for our nation’s defense supply chain.

The DDA will look to have further speaking roles in areas where we can further highlight the leading roles we are taking in this state to enhance our nation’s weapons system production and overall defense supply chain.