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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 15, 2014

No. 14-015

Global Spotlight on Alaska

(Juneau, Alaska) – The Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED) is savoring Alaska's recent success at the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) 2014 conference in Orlando. The state, Fairbanks North Star Borough and the University of Alaska Fairbanks worked together to showcase the benefits of developing the Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) industry in Alaska.

"The UAS industry holds extreme promise for long-term economic development in our state," said DCCED Commissioner, Susan Bell. "This new industry and related support businesses will benefit from Alaska's strategic location, business development incentives, and our collective commitment to see success."

Alaska offers an unparalleled airspace of over 663,300 square miles for UAS activity. Alaska was recently named one of the six designated military test sites for UAS activity and Alaska has already flown the first successful mission.

Currently, the University of Alaska is developing a UAS training program, Fairbanks North Star Borough is developing a tech-park, and competitive financing is available for business development. Division of Economic Development Director, Joe Jacobson, noted "UAS will potentially bring millions of dollars into the state and have a very positive effect on long-term 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>

DCCED's mission is to promote a healthy economy, strong communities, and protect consumers in Alaska.

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