

"Together I hope we can bring better technology to our troubles and more jobs and business to the Dakotas."

*~Michael Blanks, CEO of
The Sharps Rifle
Company~*

FEATURED MEMBER

DDA is proud to highlight its newest member, The Sharps Rifle Company, located in Chamberlain, South Dakota. Sharps Rifle is a manufacturer and designer of small arms and munitions as well as general weapons innovation. They are small but highly connected and a great innovation driver. The ammunition plant is a member of several organizations including NSATC/NSAC and SAAMI. Their capabilities include providing rifle and ammunition manufacturing, prototypes as well as design.

As the CEO of Sharps, I would like to say on behalf of The Sharps Rifle Company and all its subsidiaries and divisions that we are proud to be granted membership in the DDA. We have a strong commitment to bringing strong, viable innovations into the fields of small arms and munitions. We look forward to partnering with the other members of the DDA to make these goals a reality and to assist the other members of the DDA in successfully obtaining their objectives as well. Together I hope we can bring better technology to our troubles and more jobs and business to the Dakotas.

The South Dakota School of Mines in Rapid City is starting an arms manufacturing cooperative and Mr. Blank is a founding partner and he would like to reach out to members of the DDA to see if there is an interest for participation. Please contact him at mike@sharpsriflecompany.com.

For more information please visit them on the web at www.TheSharpsRifleCompany.com.

LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We ended 2010 with a highly successful Matchmaking event and Cluster Kick-Off for our Advanced Power and Energy project and it looks as though this year is off to a great start as well. DDA is grateful to have had a number of fantastic opportunities unfold with these initial months of partnering with the Advanced Power and Energy Cluster and we look forward to closing the loop on many of them in the coming months. We are also looking forward to another successful Matchmaking event for South Dakota Cluster members scheduled for mid-April.

We have unprecedented opportunity at our doorstep. The global market is growing at unparalleled rates and this affords our state all new ways of contributing to our global market demands. The canvas of opportunity ranges from agriculture, energy and still in defense-- our state and our Alliance has the solutions to fit these emerging needs.

Stay tuned for more opportunities and please let us know if there is anything that we can help you with to further your success.

Kindly,

Kristin Hedger

Executive Director, DDA

APEC MATCHMAKING & KICK-OFF EVENT FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

DDA held its' Kick-Off event on December 16th, 2010 at the NDSU Alumni Center in Fargo, ND. The event was quite successful and we are very excited about the attendance for both matchmakers as well as the businesses who sought out assistance. An afternoon of organized one-on-one matchmaking sessions with people from Raytheon, General Dynamics, TechLink, SBA, Valley Angels, APEC and Trade Adjustment Assistance Center. We had 11 of our Cluster/DDA members with scheduled sessions, all of which gained valuable information. Many of our matchmakers were extremely impressed with the technology that is being created and that is advancing in North Dakota.

To provide equal opportunities to our neighbors in the South we are planning a second Matchmaking event in Sioux Falls, South Dakota scheduled for Tuesday, April 19th. We are working with SBA's Sioux Falls regional office to coordinate this effort and have to date reached out to several companies and associates to participate as a Matchmaker for the 25-minute one-on-one sessions.

Representative Kristi Noem (SD-R) has been asked to keynote the networking luncheon that day and remains to be unconfirmed but we have met with her staff and it looks promising. GE Aviation, DRS Technologies, Raytheon, General Dynamics, General Atomics, Manufacturing Technology & Solutions, Rainsource Capital and TechLink have all been asked to attend as well as local SBA and APEC leaders.

The event will take place at The Washington Pavilion in the Schulte Room from 10 AM-3 PM with lunch served from 12-1 PM. The keynote will start around 12:30 PM. The agenda and registration will be available at www.dakotadefensealliance.com next week. We would encourage you to register as soon as possible due to the fact that space and time is limited.

If you think your company may have a product or service that can be supported by this program please feel free to contact NeTia Richards at netia@dakotadefensealliance.com or by calling 701.680.8079. Also, please feel free to visit the APEC website at www.powerfordefense.com. We encourage you to send interested parties to this website and apply online, for free, of course.

PTAC UPDATE

UGPTI (NDSU) and DDA are all still patiently waiting to hear back from DLA on our proposal for federal funding to create a procurement assistance center in North Dakota. Due to the recent two-week extension on the Continuing Resolution budget we do not anticipate a confirmation until April. However, we are continuing to expand our efforts and have met with UGPTI staff who administers programs such as the Transportation Learning Network (TLN) and the Learning Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) which will be useful resources that the PTAC will leverage to effectively reach out and cover the entire state of North Dakota.

Lastly, we are still meeting with the North Dakota Department of Commerce, who has been quite supportive of our efforts and they remain positive and are looking forward to the approval so that we may market our services and help our North Dakota businesses succeed.

1ST ANNUAL DDA FUNDRAISER

DDA is proud to announce that it has begun planning for an upcoming fundraiser in hopes that we can raise money to continue our sponsorship of events for our members and other associates and also maintain day-to-day operations. As we continue to grow, our resources begin to stretch and we want to be able to effectively represent our state, and even more so, our dedicated members.

Details are still being developed but for now please know that is scheduled for Thursday, June 30th from 5-10 PM at the NDSU Alumni Center in Fargo, ND. Your ticket will get you appetizers, dinner and entertainment as well as the opportunity to see some very influential speakers who will be announced in the very near future.

We are looking for sponsors to donate "give-aways" for our gift bags that will be provided to all guests so for any of our members and associates that would like to provide us with give-away items featuring your logo, etc. we would love to include those items in the gift bags.

More details as they are being confirmed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Global Business Conference: March 30-31; Fargo, ND

APEC Matchmaking Event: April 19; Sioux Falls, SD

USDoE Power Generation: May 10-12; Kansas City, MO

UAS4 Summit: June 2-3; Grand Forks, ND

CleanTech Open: June 19-21; Grand Forks, ND

Fargo Air Show: August; Fargo, ND

4th Annual DC Fly-In: September 14-15; Washington, D.C.

***Reminder: You can pay your annual membership dues via Pay Pal now at www.dakotadefensealliance.com! You will still receive an electronic invoice, so when you do you can go online and pay securely using Pay Pal service! AND, your membership dues are tax-deductible because DDA is a non-profit organization!

If there are any specific topics, speakers, etc. you are interested in hearing from or about please let us know about them so we can adjust our Agendas for the upcoming events!

For more information on any of these topics please send an email to netia@dakotadefensealliance.com
www.dakotadefensealliance.com