

## FEATURED MEMBER

DDA is proud to highlight its newest member, Rock Industries Corporation (RIC), a Small Business Administration 8(a) certified and HUB ZONE certified company is owned by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. Originally RIC was conceived to support, the Parts-On-Demand for CONUS Operations (PODCO) program, a congressionally funded effort sponsored by Senator Byron Dorgan of North Dakota. Rock Industries has since partnered with Alion Science and Technology of Lanham, MD and has a full engineering and design department consisting of Mechanical, Industrial and Manufacturing engineers in-house.

RIC recently became a member of the Dakota Defense Alliance. General manager Mark Snider is thrilled about the new joint adventure with the cluster. "I feel this is an exciting time for RIC. Joining the alliance will create more opportunities for the organization and the tribal people of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe while continuing to improve the support for our nation's defense".

For more information contact Mark at (701)854-4766 or email [mark.snider@rockindustriescorp.com](mailto:mark.snider@rockindustriescorp.com).

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*~Mark Snider, Rock Industry Corporation~*

## LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Dear Friends,**

What a great day to be an American!

People all over the United States and our servicemen and women around the world woke up this morning to the news that American special forces had killed Osama bin Laden.

The details are still being revealed, but we've sent a clear statement to the world once again that we are a country that will not back down and we have the tools and expertise to carry out operations like this anywhere in the world -- there is no place to hide.

I am so proud to be an American and proud to be a North Dakotan.

Congratulations to our heroes in uniform and to all the unsung heroes behind the scenes who help our country produce the finest military technology in the world-- some of it made right here in North Dakota.

*Kristin Hedger*

Executive Director, DDA



## **SOUTH DAKOTA MATCHMAKING EVENT: BIG SUCCESS**

DDA held its' APEC Matchmaking event for South Dakota members and potential clients in Sioux Falls, SD on APRIL 19<sup>th</sup> at the Washington Pavillion. 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. This was a one-day event consisted of organized one-on-one matchmaking sessions with people from Raytheon, GE Aviation, TechLink, SBA, Manufacturing & Technology Solutions, APEC, DDA, SD PTAC, and Enterprise Solutions. We had 13 businesses 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 this region. A total of 35 people were in attendance including staff from Rep. Kristi Noem's (SD-R) office.

Terry Downing, Manager of Special Operations for Raytheon in San Diego and a representative for the South West Innovation Cluster (SWIC) keynoted the networking luncheon that day.

DDA received high remarks for the event and have been welcomed back to the state do host similar events, which we are looking forward to.

## **PTAC UPDATE**

UGPTI (NDSU) and DDA submitted answers to a few final questions from DLA on April 28<sup>th</sup>. This is very positive news for North Dakota. We should be hearing very shortly on an award confirmation with a potential start date of June 1, 2011.

Lastly, be on the lookout for a joint press conference with North Dakota Department of Commerce, UGPTI and DDA to publicly announce the start of the Procurement center. All members will be notified in a special report once funding has been awarded.

## **POTENTIAL GRANTS**

DDA has been diligently working on a few new grants from the Small Business Administration (SBA) that would provide funding to contribute to small business growth in our region. Award announcements should be coming within the next two months. If/when this happens, DDA is happy to announce that there will be more resources available to our members in the way of business development, job growth and overall visibility.

A small sub-contract with MN WIRE on similar work on the Advanced Power and Energy Cluster should be awarded in the coming months as well.

## **1<sup>ST</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

Also, we are looking for companies to sponsor a table at the event. If a company sponsors a table, they would have 8 spaces available to them. Not all need to be filled as we can fill them for you. This sponsorship would allow you to have a product display at the event and a banner with logo, etc. on your table. The company will be mentioned in all advertising as well.

Individual and couples pricing will be available online at the end of May.

For more information or specifics on sponsoring please contact NeTia at [netia@dakotadefensealliance.com](mailto:netia@dakotadefensealliance.com) or by calling 701.680.8079.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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 13; Fargo, ND

4<sup>th</sup> Annual DC Fly-In: September TBD; Washington, D.C.

***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](mailto:netia@dakotadefensealliance.com)  
[www.dakotadefensealliance.com](http://www.dakotadefensealliance.com)