

NEW SEGMENT: FEATURED MEMBER

We would like to give a big welcome to **Hurricane Electronics, Inc.** located in Florida. They are a small, woman-owned business that specializes in providing hard to find, obsolete and long lead time parts and components for aerospace and maritime industries. HEI can also build to print any part and commodity you may need. They have nearly two decades of experience for locating and sourcing electronics and hardware. Hurricane Electronics is well-known for their problem-solving, solutions-oriented business model and just recently became an AS9100 B registered company and is also ISO9001:2000 compliant.

Hurricane Electronics is comprised of a small, yet talented group of individuals that are dedicated to locating and providing parts for businesses large and small and we are glad to have them on board. "Its great to have a member who can provide sourcing services to our other manufacturing members and to other companies across the country," says Kristin Hedger, Executive Director of the DDA. Scott Gitlan, HEI says "Our company is honored to be partnered with the Dakota Defense Alliance. Many thanks to Kristin Hedger for meeting with us and developing our relationship further." To find out more information please visit them at www.hurri-elec.com or email sg@hurri-elec.com.

DDA WELCOMES ALL NEW MEMBERS

Besides HEI, the Dakota Defense Alliance is proud to announce it has two other new members who recently signed on as well. Located in Fargo, Applied Engineering provides a variety on engineering services that includes resource and project engineering with capabilities that can take on product development projects from start to finish. Check them out at www.ae-solutions.com. Another Fargo-based, Veteran-owned company has also joined us; EZ SPOT UR, a design and manufacturing company who specializes in manufacturing attachments for all kinds of equipment, components and tactical tools. Find out more by going to www.ezspotur.com. Welcome to all of our new members!

NEXT GENERATION COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

The DDA has recently partnered with Prairie Stewardship Network, Great Plains Institute and Jamestown-Stutsman Development Corporation to implement a community-wide "best, green business practices" pilot program. DDA members from Agri-Cover, Inc met with Jamestown city leaders, utility companies and project managers for an organizational meeting this last Monday night to discuss interest and next steps in pursuing an initiative to brand Jamestown as a model community for business efficiency which will lead to cost, chemical and energy savings to increase company bottom lines and reduce carbon footprints.

A Bremer Foundation grant will be used in the initial development and staffing of this project and we are working with city leaders to make best use of the one-time stimulus funding available for "green" projects. Future energy block grants may be available as a funding source in the future as well. The DDA will maintain its' original goal to help our member companies to increase efficiency from a business/production. We have a broad interest for participating in the development of this initiative and are in the process of working on a road map and milestones. Once we have a beneficial pilot we can take this program and replicate it in other communities to help them save money, energy and promote a healthier environment. The reality is that government contracts are increasingly showing preference for companies who demonstrate attentiveness to green business practices, as well as quality, cost, and on-time delivery. We are working to ensure North Dakota secures a leading edge reputation.

*"HURRICANE ELECTRONICS IS PROVIDING LEADING EDGE SOLUTIONS TO TODAYS RAPIDLY CHANGING MARKET PLACE. WE LOCATE HARD TO FIND, OBSOLETE, AND LONG LEAD TIME MILITARY AND COMMERCIAL COMPONENTS."
~Scott Gitlan, HEI~*

*"Even though I am not an engineering student, the contacts I made through my student chapter of SME at UTSA helped to obtain my current position as an Intern at IBM in Austin, Texas."
~Than Nguyen, Intern~*

SOCIETY OF MANUFACTURING ENGINEERS

Killdeer Mountain Manufacturing representative Jeremy Mercer has enlisted the DDA to assist in the development and formation of a senior chapter of Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) in North Dakota. Currently, we do not have our own chapter; any members must work with another chapter whether it is in MN, SD, etc. We have established a quintessential group of people who are dedicated to forming a chapter for our great State. A student chapter of SME exists at NDSU and we will work to collaborate efforts to ensure the best fit possible for North Dakota.

DDA and KMM hosted an interactive event last Friday to discuss the goals of an SME chapter and to enlighten those unfamiliar with the benefits it would afford businesses, employees, students, the state overall and mostly to encourage participation and gain support for formation of this chapter. Predictions for 2012 say that there will be a need for 300,000 engineers and technicians in the field, being a member of SME can help connect you to those jobs and with a ND-based chapter we can bring and sustain those jobs within our borders. Last year 175 engineering students received \$452,000 in grants and scholarships for being a member of SME; that's money they don't have to pay back. Literally, thousands of technical and white papers available to members for free, where others would pay \$60.00 to get that same information and these are just a few of the many benefits SME brings to the table.

We need a minimum of 25 people to sign a petition for chapter formation in the state in order to proceed with the first phase. Once that happens there are several steps that must occur but very typical procedures are in place and we have support from fellow SME senior chapters as well as the headquarters. The best part is, for our DDA members, we are willing to pay for a one-year membership for one person from your company (\$125.00) just so you can see the benefits and to encourage participation. We already have a few members that are interested and some outsiders involved as well. We would like to have 25 interested individuals in place before the end of the year so if you are interested please do not hesitate to contact the DDA for more information.

If you were unable to attend the live session on campus or missed the live web stream, the conference was recorded and will be archived for ten days. Please visit <http://www.ndivn.nodak.edu/> and click on Streaming Events at the bottom of the page then click on Meetings and scroll to the October 23rd meeting and play.

Message from Kristin:

I am pleased to be writing this upon returning from a meeting with the Office of the Secretary of Defense's principal Director for Special Operations Capabilities, Garry Reid. He indicated a real willingness to come to our state. He and I will likely be talking in these coming weeks to assess viable dates. Please contact me with any ideas you may have concerning an event with the Secretary of Defense's office.

I also had the good fortune of joining a small group of business owners at the White House to talk with the President's advisors on matters facing small businesses and potential policy impacts (see picture below). It is good to have a Small Business Administration as attentive as our current Administrator has proven to be. I look forward to being in touch to have a priority-setting meeting to hear your focus for 2010.

Thanks so much.
Best regards, Kristin



OTHER INITIATIVES

DDA members are collaborating on a variety of initiatives that will benefit member companies and the state of North Dakota. We are working on socializing the proposals and gaining support in order to secure funds to proceed to the next steps. Some members that are highly involved include *Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, KMM, XIO Strategies, RFID Global Solutions, Omega Solutions, and Crane-WMS*. If you have a new product or service that you think would be beneficial or have an idea that needs support or further development please feel free to contact us. We are here to help!

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

www.dakotadefensealliance.com

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