

★ DAKOTA DEFENSE ALLIANCE ★

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DAKOTA DEFENSE ALLIANCE (DDA) TO HOST HIGH-PROFILE DC FLY-IN EVENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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DDA ANNOUNCES ITS 2ND ANNUAL DC FLY-IN EVENT

The Dakota Defense Alliance announces its second annual DC Fly-In event on Thursday July 16. DDA members -typically small and medium-sized business owners in North Dakota, congressional delegates and select staffers along with industry and academic leaders and contractors will be among those attending this event. "The Fly-In is tailored to a one day DC experience to hear, first-hand, the opportunities for small businesses to participate in future defense and other contracts," says DDA Executive Director Kristin Hedger.

The goals of the event are to:

- Provide ND companies the opportunity to learn about the future of the defense industry and what types of companies can be utilized,
- Hear directly from the leaders of the small business and acquisition communities about what they would like to see from our companies,
- Network with representatives of major prime contractors to build our marketplace visibility, and
- Open doors for our ND companies and to share our perspectives on challenges with policy makers of the small business and defense policy communities.

The DDA and Washington DC based Strategic Marketing Innovations Inc, have established an extensive list of speakers including a keynote opening address by Senator Byron Dorgan and closing remarks at the reception by Senator Kent Conrad. Other speakers include Mackenzie Eaglen from the Heritage Foundation who will speak on the future of DoD Spending and Creighton Greene, staff director on the Senate Armed Services Sub Committee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities. John Williams (director of the Navy's Small Business Innovative Research SBIR) program will be joined by Lisa Sobolewski (Department of Homeland Security, SBIR Program) to discuss the value of this multi- million dollar program for small businesses. A panel made up of senior corporate executives from Raytheon, DRS, L-3 and Goodrich will discuss how small businesses can work with prime contractors. Other topics include working with the missile defense agency, NASA, and the value of Intellectual Properties and Patents.

Fly-in events (including breakfast and lunch) are being held at the Washington Court Hotel on Capitol Hill and the reception following the event will be held at the Monocle Restaurant also on Capitol Hill.

We have worked with Northwest Airlines to provide discounts on airfare for those traveling to Washington, DC for this great event. For specific agenda topics and speakers and all other details please visit www.dakotadefensealliance.com and click on the DC Fly-In information link. You can also register for the event there. This is an opportunity to hear from the best on how to become the best and network yourself and your company. If you have specific questions on event details please contact Program Manager, NeTia Richards via email, netia@dakotadefensealliance.com.

www.dakotadefensealliance.com

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*"It is our hope that as we get our names out, become better informed, and network, we can secure more work for all of our companies. This is just the start, but it is the right way to set us apart from other Alliances across the country."
~Executive Director,
Kristin Hedger~*