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MINOT CITY COUNCIL APPROVES MADC'S MAGIC FUND REQUEST

With a unanimous vote, Minot City Council approved MADC's MAGIC Fund request of \$375,100 to establish Minot as the headquarters for unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) Bakken operations. The project with SkySkopes, a leading drone service provider, will generate at least \$2,307,856 in capital investments, create 15 new full-time high paying jobs (at minimum), and will lead to additional opportunities for Minot to fill a niche in this growing industry.

The State of North Dakota has invested more than \$37 million into development, marketing and attracting a UAS ecosystem. In May 2016, MADC partnered with the ND Dept. of Commerce to attend AUVSI, the largest UAS Conference in the U.S. At the conference MADC met SkySkopes, who was recently recognized as one of the top 3 UAS companies to service the oil and gas industry nation-wide. SkySkopes is the first UAS business under MADC's new MAGIC Sky Initiative, [click here](#) to read the full press release.

THE 25TH ANNUAL WILLISTON BASIN PETROLEUM CONFERENCE

MADC will be attending the 25th Annual Williston Basin Petroleum Conference (WBPC) in Regina, Saskatchewan on May 2-4, 2017. This year's event will cover production optimization, geology, regulatory, environmental issues, workshops, and case studies. With MADC's newly launched MAGIC Sky Initiative and SkySkopes's dedication to make the

Minot office their UAS Bakken Headquarters, MADC has invited SkySkopes to partner for this event. As a Gold Sponsor of the event, MADC looks forward to capitalizing on the sponsor benefits and strategically networking with the energy industry. Be sure to visit MADC's booth at C25!

MADC ATTENDS IEDC'S TECH-LED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COURSE

Stephanie Hoffart, MADC President/CEO, attended the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) Technology-led Economic Development training course on Apr. 6 – 7, 2017 in Washington, D.C.

The training course confirmed how the technology industry has high growth potential, high wage jobs, and is considered an economic multiplier that generates new wealth. For economic developers to pursue tech-businesses, an ecosystem is critical. Other key elements for success include: a quality management team, identifying proper staffing needs, internships to help keep cost down during ramp up stages, partnerships with local university and high school, mentoring entrepreneurs, networking, providing access to market, providing access to capital, providing education and skills, supporting innovation, and the ability to attract and retain skilled workforce.

"Attending this course verified that MADC is in the right direction for growing Minot's economy. MADC's newest achievement of securing SkySkopes, a leading drone service provider, which falls within the growing tech-led industry. Not only has MADC secured a business in a growing industry that provides high wage jobs and generates new wealth; but MADC has also identified and supported SkySkopes with the key elements for success through the MAGIC Sky Initiative. Attending this course was a great learning experience and it was exciting to attend an international course that MADC is currently implementing in Minot, North Dakota," explained Hoffart. [Click here](#) to read more about IEDC's Tech-Led Economic Development Course.

LOOKING FOR GREAT NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY?

[Connect Minot](#) is a free monthly meeting designed to educate, inspire, and connect entrepreneurs in the Minot area. MADC attended the Connect Minot March meeting, which featured the following inspiring entrepreneurs:

- Miranda Schuler – [Farmers Insurance Agency](#)
- Linda Johnson & Allan Mueller – [Home Sweet Home](#)

Schuler, Johnson, and Mueller shared pivotal moments in their careers, which provided great insights for the audience to learn from. [Click here](#) to read more about March's Connect Minot. Although Connect Minot is targeted towards the entrepreneurial community, the experience and expertise that's shared from the inspiring speakers could apply to anyone. Whether you are seeking entrepreneurial advice, looking to network, wanting to be inspired, or just need to get out of the office for a bit; attending Connect Minot is certainly time well-spent. The next Connect Minot will take place Wednesday, April 26th at the Hyatt House Minot at 10:00 AM.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL BANK & TRUST CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE MINOT COMMUNITY

MADC investor, [First International Bank & Trust](#) (FIB&T), is a proud supporter of the [Backpack Buddies Program](#) offered by the [Souris Valley United Way](#). The Backpack Buddies Program provides food for school children who are at risk of going hungry over the weekend. For the second week in a row, FIB&T employees donated their time to pack a total of **474 lunch bags for our local children**. Thank you FIB&T employees and management for your commitment to the Minot community and surrounding area.

Thank you for supporting economic development in the Minot area and investing in Minot's future! The following businesses renewed their yearly investment in March:

**Brokers "12" Inc.
Clayton Fegley
Cognizant
Command Center, Inc.
Douglas Mattson
Fiberglass Specialties
KK Bold
Moore Engineering, Inc.
Soaring Eagle Outerwear,
LLC**

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