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MAGIC SKY INITIATIVE ADDS KEY PARTNERS

An exciting announcement was made on Sept. 27th as three strategic businesses joined MADC's MAGIC Sky Initiative, solidifying their commitment to help grow and develop the UAS industry in the Minot area. Ackerman-Estvold (based in Minot), eSmart Systems (based in Norway), and Robot Aviation (based in Norway) each offer unique expertise in the industry, making them excellent collaborators for Minot's MAGIC Sky. [Click here](#) to read more.

RECORD-BREAKING ATTENDANCE AT THE FIFTH ANNUAL B2B

Following the kickoff of the Norsk Høstfest, the 2017 Business to Business Seminar (B2B) expanded on the Scandinavian-Midwest partnership by taking a close look at the shared business opportunities. With great success and spiked interest from last year's B2B, this year's event focused further on the Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) industry and the complex technology behind this evolving industry.

This year's panelists represented the different levels of the UAS value chain:

- Bjorn Forsdal, President of [Robot Aviation USA](#)
- Knut E. Gustavsen, CVP & President North America of [eSmart Systems](#)
- Mark Nisbet, Principal Manager, North Dakota, of [Xcel Energy](#)
- Dr. Mark Hagerott, Chancellor of the [North Dakota University System](#)

The three hour event featured in-depth presentations that solidified Minot's opportunity to capitalize on the UAS industry, [click here](#) to read all the

details of the event.

MADC'S PRESIDENT/CEO ATTENDS IEDC'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MADC's President/CEO, Stephanie Hoffart, attended the [International Economic Development Council's \(IEDC\) Annual Meeting](#) on Sept. 17-20, 2017 in Toronto, Canada. As IEDC continues to be the largest organization serving economic developers, the 2017 annual meeting offered valuable workshops, training, and best practices for Hoffart to apply to the Minot area. IEDC's focus is to promote economic growth by retaining, creating, and expanding jobs that facilitate growth and offer a stable tax base for communities. MADC has found IEDC to be an excellent resource for Minot to remain competitive. [Click here](#) to read more about IEDC's Annual Conference.

MADC PURSUES NEW BUSINESS ATTRACTION

MADC recently attended two UAS conferences to drive new business attraction and actively promote MADC's MAGIC Sky Initiative. As a first time attendee for both, the [InterDrone Conference](#) and the [Drone World Expo](#), MADC gained multiple business leads for the Minot area. Invited by the North Dakota Department of Commerce, MADC joined the North Dakota Unmanned Aircraft Systems Team at the North Dakota booth, where MADC promoted Minot to an audience of 3,518 from 54 different nations. MADC also promoted Minot's MAGIC Sky at the Drone World Expo, the fourth largest UAS conference in the U.S. MADC joined industry leader, SkySkopes, at the Drone World Expo which featured speakers from around the globe, over 50 exhibitors, several workshops, and Tech Talks. As MADC is emerging into this thriving industry, it's essential to get Minot's name to key stake holders and industry leaders.

***Thank you for supporting economic development in the Minot area!
The following businesses renewed their yearly investment in
Minot's future growth and improving quality of life in August and
September:***

**American Bank Center
Cal-Dak Cabinets
Delta Vacations
EAPC Architects Engineers
GEM Federal Credit Union**

**Hight Construction, LLC.
John Stewart
Lowe's Printing, Inc.
Marketplace Foods
Metro Developers LLC.
Minot Sash & Door, Inc.
Minot State University
Mr. Duane Peterson
Olson & Burns, PC
Rehab Services, Inc.
Sleep Inn & Suites/MainStay Suites
Souris Valley Apts.
Strata Corporation
Thompson Larson Funeral Home
US Bank Minot
Ward Warehousing & Distribution
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Wilbur-Ellis Company**

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