

TIOGA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

P.O. Box 447
Stanley, ND 58784
Phone 701-629-8875
dakotapublic@gmail.com

Press Release

Contact: Dennis A. Lindahl;
Tioag Economic Development
Phone: 701-629-8875

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
9 A.M. EDT, APRIL 17, 2018

TIOGA COMMISSION APPROVES DEVELOPMENT LOAN FOR UAS drones

Tioga, ND - After a long consideration process the Tioga City Commission approved a development loan for \$30,000 to AeroFleet One to bring cutting edge UAS to the region.

The process began last August when AeroFleet One competed in the Tioga Innovation Competition during the 'Drone Camp for Kids' sponsored in part by the Williston Region EDC.

The Tioga Economic Development expects to meet the Tioga Commission's challenge to expand the 'Drone Camp for Kids' from K-12 education by expanding into adult pilot training programs and foster the UAS industry in the area and provide new technology opportunities in the region.

Chris Norgaard President of the Tioga EDC and the Tioga Airport Says he, 'thinks that UAS presents a unique opportunity for western ND that should be explored'.

As part of the loan agreement the company currently based in Ukraine and founded by former European Microsoft Executive Yuri Pederiy will have a new division located in Tioga, establish local operations, train and hire pilots locally.

David Grubb Chairperson of the Tioga Fund thinks they, 'have reached a fair arrangement that will minimize risk for the new startup'. The petroleum fueled drone with it's 15ft. wingspan and a payload of nearly 100 lbs has the capability of nearly 6 hours of flight. This will provide tremendous range for various payloads including monitors and sensors to service the energy,

oil and gas industry.

Once the equipment arrives in Tioga there will be a process of FAA approval, test flights and considerations for Beyond Visual Line Of Sight (BVLOS) but Tioga EDC expects that immediate ground operations and training will begin this spring.

The Tioga continues to lead the way in UAS training with it's 3rd annual 'Drone Camp for Kids' a free program open to ages 7th-12th grade, held the first weekend in August.