



# ***GRAND SKY***

Grand Forks County, ND



The Grand Forks region has a long history of supporting the military, its missions and service members. That tradition continues with the creation of Grand Sky, a state-of-the-art aviation business and technology park. Grand Forks County, in cooperation with the Base Realignment Impact Committee and the Center for Innovation Foundation, plans to create a campus focused on providing state-of-the-art facilities for unmanned aerial system (UAS) development, testing and training, sensor technology development and data analysis and management.

Grand Sky will capitalize on the depth of knowledge and research of regional educational institutions such as the University of North Dakota's Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems and Northland Community and Technical College's Aviation Maintenance Technology program. These institutions will be augmented by the nation's top private sector firms operating in the UAS sectors.



The result will be a world class project focused on UAS development, training, operations, maintenance and analysis. The initial facility, which will focus on pilot training, sensor operator training and maintenance training, is expected to be open in early 2014. Subsequent facilities will be developed based on growing demand from users and tenants. The following pages provide an overview of our initial plans.



Grand Forks County proposes to develop Grand Sky on Grand Forks Air Force Base. The project will be developed to support multiple users beginning with UAS pilot, sensor operator and maintenance training. Subsequent developments will focus on sensor development, testing and operational training. Finally, Grand Sky will be home to University Affiliated Research Centers and private firms that will provide the ability to work on the growing challenge of data analysis and management of the growing volume of information developed by land-, air- and sea-based systems.

In order to provide a quality environment for training, a new facility will be developed which can provide not only classroom training, but also hands-on educational opportunities, in both lab spaces and shop spaces. The facility will include high bay work spaces to provide real-world application of classroom activities. In addition, computer labs and simulation areas will be able to support training activities for pilots and sensor operators.

The first facility is expected to include approximately 20,000 square feet of classroom and office space for tenants and students. The high bay areas, which will be used primarily for training, will include approximately 10,000 square feet of space.



The site plan envisions a variety of hangar, aviation, shop, office and data center facilities. The overall plan includes development of up to 1.2 million square feet of space to support companies, educational institutions, government contractors and public agencies involved in the UAS sectors.

Grand Forks Air Force Base is the only Air Force base that supports both the Global Hawk and Predator RPAs. Providing training for aircraft of this type, particularly for sensor operations and maintenance, offers a synergistic integration with other UAS activities in the region.

These facilities may have access to the Grand Forks Air Force Base runway (after securing permission from the U.S. Air Force), which would offer a unique opportunity to tenants and students to gain critical insight into how RPAs are used by the military, and what opportunities there may be for future missions and support activities.

Grand Sky will work to build partnerships based on using UAS' for civilian as well as government purposes. Utilizing UAS capabilities for energy, precision agriculture and law enforcement/first responder applications is a growing and important element that Grand Sky will create location and investment opportunities around.



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FACILITY WITH HANGAR





Grand Sky is an exciting opportunity to participate in this cutting edge sector that supports the military and commercial UAS sector through the processing, exploitation and dissemination of critical data. Longer term opportunities within Grand Sky include a data center/distributed ground station, testing and evaluation of air, ground and sea based unmanned systems, maintenance facilities for UAS and research facilities to support sensor and payload packages for UAS.

Grand Forks County, through the Base Realignment Impact Committee and the Center for Innovation Foundation, is seeking expressions of interest from potential tenants, users and partners, to develop the initial phase of the Grand Sky campus.

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