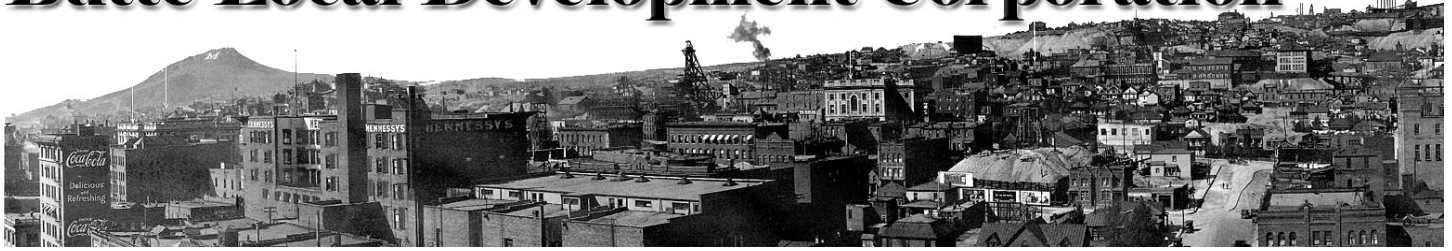


Butte Local Development Corporation



SPRING 2009

It's BLDC

Membership Time!

The Butte Local Development Corporation has begun its annual membership drive. The BLDC offers a number of membership levels and benefits for its members. All members will receive our newsletter and are invited to the Annual Meeting and Dinner.

As of this date there are 70 individuals and businesses that have shown their support for the BLDC. Their membership donations have raised more than \$19,000. If you haven't sent in your membership pledge, there is still time to do so.

To become a member of the BLDC or for more information call 723-4349 or e-mail bldc@bldc.net. Your support is greatly appreciated!

The BLDC would like to welcome new members:

Beta Factor Homecare, Butte Community Federal Credit Union, Butte Granite Works, Cavanaugh's County Celtic, K & K Roofing Inc., Miller's Shoes, Northwest Noodles 'N Wraps, Pioneer Concrete & Fuel Inc., Rocky Mountain RV, Safety & Health Services, and Sage Accounting.

BLDC Establishes PTAC Satellite Office

On February 1, 2009, the BLDC was established as a satellite office for Montana Procurement Technical Assistance Center (MTPTAC). As a satellite office the BLDC will be able to work with local businesses and individuals to provide technical assistance to those who currently are or want to participate in the government marketplace. A vast majority of the MTPTAC clients are small businesses which include small disadvantaged, minority-owned, woman-owned, HubZone, Veteran Service Disabled, or Veteran Owned Businesses. The BLDC will focus on working with businesses of all sizes located within Butte-Silver Bow.

The MTPTAC is part of a national network of professionals that work to support businesses in their efforts to market their goods

and services to the Armed Forces and other government agencies. It also acts as a bridge between local businesses and government buyers. MTPTAC is funded by the Department of Defense and hosted by local organizations such as the BLDC, which provide matching funds.

The BLDC can counsel businesses on the advantages and disadvantages of government contracting, help the business determine if they are ready to pursue government contracting, assist them in becoming a registered government contractor, direct the business how best to market themselves to government agencies or prime contractors, and advise businesses on the best data bases to monitor for potential government contracting opportunities. All of these services are provided free of charge.

Once a business successfully identifies a potential government contracting opportunity, the BLDC can help the business prepare a contract proposal. Successful bidders may have questions during the lifetime of the contract. The BLDC or state MTPTAC office will assist the business to answer any questions that may arise. Businesses who successfully service a government contract are more likely to obtain additional government market opportunities.

If a local business is interested in finding out more information regarding government contracting, please contact the BLDC at 723-4349 or bldc@bldc.net. All counseling sessions are confidential and free of charge.



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Butte AeroTec Completes First Set of Tests

The Butte AeroTec Rocket and Jet Engine Test Facility located at the Rhodia site west of Butte is a reality. On March 6, 2009 the Space Propulsion Group (SPG) of Sunnyvale, CA conducted a successful series of tests on their hybrid rocket propulsion technology at the Butte AeroTec Facility. This test represents the official opening of Butte AeroTec, as well as a significant milestone in the Montana Aerospace Development Association's (MADA's) efforts to make aerospace technology a significant part of Montana's economy. SPG is developing their hybrid rocket technology under contract to the Air Force Research Laboratory for placing small payloads into low-earth-orbit, and they have committed to a long-term partnership with Butte AeroTec for its development.

This test also represents the culmination of a monumental team effort to bring this unique ground-test facility to Montana. The initiative started back in

2004 when discussions started about relocating the test facility located in Mojave, CA to Butte. Representatives from MADA, the Montana Governor's Office of Economic Development, and the BLDC made two separate trips to Mojave, CA to inspect the Mojave Test Facility and observe jet engine testing. MADA then submitted a proposal to Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, owner of the Mojave site, to relocate the testing hardware to Butte.

Once MADA's proposal was accepted, MADA, MERDI/MSE, and Spath Engineering of Tillamook, OR moved the Mojave hardware to Butte with financial support from the Montana Department of Commerce. Butte-Silver Bow then started working with MADA to get the necessary permits and lease agreements in place, as well as secure TIFID funding to develop the Rhodia site. The TIFID Board of Directors subsequently approved \$386,000 for the project, and Butte-Silver Bow recently awarded a site-development

engineering contract to Robert Peccia and Associates to upgrade the site for propulsion testing.

This new testing facility will attract other entities such as SPG to utilize it for the testing of their rocket motors and jet engines. During the testing series, teams of engineers, scientists and technicians will be living in Butte for a week or two at a time. The money spent by these individuals while here, along with the supplies needed for the tests will be a great benefit to our local economy.

This initiative is an outstanding example of what can be accomplished when public/private partnerships are formed to pursue economic development opportunities. Additionally, it highlights the fact that smaller states such as Montana can successfully compete with larger states for high-technology economic opportunities.