



## PRESS RELEASE

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## **AIDEA Recognized For Excellence in Economic Development** *International Economic Development Council Honors Authority with Gold Award*

(WASHINGTON, DC) – The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) at its recent Annual Conference in Cleveland, Ohio, presented the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) with a Gold Excellence in Economic Development Award in the category of Public-Private Partnerships for AIDEA’s work with the DeLong Mountain Transportation System (DMTS) and Red Dog Mine.

“On behalf of the IEDC board of directors and Excellence in Economic Development Awards Advisory Committee, congratulations to AIDEA,” said Barry Matherly, CEcD, FM, IEDC 2016 Board Chair, President & CEO of the Greater Richmond Partnership. “Not only did they work to provide a necessary service to the Northwest Arctic Borough and the State of Alaska, their participation in the awards program sheds light on their stellar projects which other communities can now use as a benchmark.”

The DMTS is a 52-mile industrial access road and port facility on the Chukchi Sea in Northwest Alaska. The port, which includes the world’s largest ore concentrate storage sheds, a bulk fuel tank farm, and a permanent accommodations complex, enables the export of ore produced from the Red Dog Mine.

AIDEA’s ownership of the DMTS and partnership with NANA Corporation (the landowner and local regional Alaska Native Corporation) and Teck Alaska, Inc. (the mine/port operator) facilitated the completion of the only U.S. Arctic mine. This project led to the formation of the Northwest Arctic Borough and now provides more than 80% of borough government revenues. DMTS and Red Dog Mine operations directly employ more than 600 people with jobs paying an annual average wage of greater than \$90,000, and with more than 700 indirect and induced jobs in nearly every region of the state attributed to the project.

IEDC's Excellence in Economic Development Awards recognize the world's best economic development programs and partnerships, marketing materials, and the year's most influential leaders. These awards honor organizations and individuals for their efforts in creating positive change in urban, suburban, and rural communities.

“The awards process is a thorough, non-biased and multi-layered process. These are extraordinary accomplishments for all winners, and an overall great effort by all participants. We look forward to next year's awards competition,” Matherly said.

**About the International Economic Development Council**

*The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 4,700 members, IEDC is the largest organization of its kind. Economic developers promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities, by creating, retaining and expanding jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth and provide a stable tax base. From public to private, rural to urban, and local to international, IEDC's members are engaged in the full range of economic development experience. Given the breadth of economic development work, our members are employed in a wide variety of settings including local, state, provincial and federal governments, public-private partnerships, chambers of commerce, universities and a variety of other institutions. IEDC's members create high-quality jobs, develop vibrant communities and improve the quality of life in their regions. [www.iedconline.org](http://www.iedconline.org)*

The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority is a public corporation of the state. AIDEA's purpose is to promote, develop and advance the general prosperity and economic welfare of the people of Alaska.

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