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Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release: October 12, 2023

DNR, UAA Partner on Global Navigation Satellite System

The collaboration will enhance the statewide GNSS infrastructure through the ACORN network

Anchorage, Alaska – DNR and the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) College of Engineering have embarked on a pioneering partnership to establish a cutting-edge Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) reference station at the Engineering and Industry Building at UAA. This strategic collaboration aims to revolutionize Alaska's technical resources - fostering growth, efficiency and opportunities for economic development across the state. The GNSS reference station at UAA will serve as a catalyst for groundbreaking advancements in geospatial technology benefiting both the academic community and the broader public. Through real-time GNSS corrections, UAA students and faculty in the Geomatics program will be empowered to conduct fieldwork, fostering hands-on learning experiences and elevating the quality of research and educational outcomes.

Alaska's Continuously Operating Reference Network (ACORN) is led by DNR in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities to establish a statewide GNSS reference network capable of providing centimeter-level satellite-based positioning services to the public. The potential applications of ACORN are vast, spanning from land surveys to infrastructure and hazard mapping, and guidance support for connected vehicles.

"We are excited to join forces with the University of Alaska Anchorage in this transformative collaboration," **said Peter Flint, ACORN Program Manager with DNR's Division of Mining, Land and Water**. "This partnership marks a significant step forward in advancing Alaska's technological landscape and serves as a model for how the state can partner with existing institutions to provide the necessary infrastructure for 21st Century location-based technology development in Alaska. Together we are shaping the future unprecedented possibilities."

GNSS reference networks are widely prevalent in the Lower 48 and throughout the world. Connecting Alaska's GNSS infrastructure presents an opportunity to modernize Alaska's technical resources, saving time, cutting costs and providing opportunities for Alaska to attract new business investment in areas that require access to the latest GNSS technology.

UAA is a leader in Geomatics and educates a highly skilled workforce knowledgeable in geospatial sciences and technologies. UAA offers education embracing the traditional disciplines of land surveying, mapping, geodesy and photogrammetry, together with the newer disciplines of high-density spatial data, LiDAR, and GIS. With the Bachelor of Science degree accredited by the Applied and Natural Science Accreditation Commission of ABET, associate degree, and an Occupational Endorsement Certificate in GIS, UAA is enabeling students to seize high-demand opportunities across the geospatial industries in Alaska and beyond.

"By hosting the DNR GNSS reference station on our campus, UAA remains at the forefront of geospatial education and research, equipping our students to become trailblazers in this dynamic field' said Dr. Kenrick Mock, Dean of the College of Engineering, University of Alaska Anchorage. "We are excited about the positive impact this collaboration will have on our community and the state of Alaska."

For more information on the ACORN program contact ACORN@alaska.gov

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