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National speaker, Fallin highlight upcoming UAS Tech Forum in OKC

Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin and the senior counsel from the Small Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Coalition highlight the upcoming UAS Tech Forum Sept. 7-8 at the Renaissance Waterford Oklahoma City Hotel.

In addition to Gov. Fallin, one of the keynote speakers will be Gregory Walden from the Small UAV Coalition. For more information about the agenda, speakers and registration, please go to www.uascluster.com.

Walden, a former chief counsel of the FAA and associate deputy attorney general with the U.S. Department of Justice, is a nationally recognized authority in the fields of aviation and government ethics, with extensive experience in government service and private practice. He counsels passenger and cargo airlines; air taxi operators; companies that buy sell, lease or own aircraft; fixed-base operators; airports; security companies; shippers; and citizens groups with matters pending before the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the National Transportation Safety Board, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Congress.

Gov. Fallin urged researchers, entrepreneurs, investors and service providers to attend the UAS Tech Forum and said the state is "just scratching the surface" of the growing industry's potential.

"The UAS industry is intriguing because of the potential economic contributions it can make to existing business segments in Oklahoma like energy, agriculture, weather, defense and logistics," Gov. Fallin said. "The work our UAS leaders are doing now will pay off in the future as businesses from these traditional segments continue to learn more how this exciting industry can help their companies grow in previously unforeseen ways."

The UAS Tech Forum is part of a Cluster Initiative for UAS in the Oklahoma/South Kansas region, funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration. The Oklahoma/South Kansas UAS program is managed by an Oklahoma City-based company, Development Capital Networks (DCN), with guidance from the Oklahoma UAS Council and the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. It is one of 14 Clusters programs funded by the SBA.

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Amanda Radovic, Program Manager for the UAS Cluster Initiative, said the Forum will provide networking opportunities for a diverse audience of researchers, business executives, government agencies, investors and other service providers.

“We want to bring representatives from key components of the region’s UAS industry together, not only for the program sessions, but also to network and brainstorm,” Radovic said. “Making these kinds of connections with talented and visionary people is how we build our region and create the ideas of tomorrow.”

Other Forum sessions include:

- Pitch Presentations from seven UAS companies;
- A case study on how a federal technology became an Oklahoma start-up company;
- Regional collaborations and strategic partnerships;
- A roundtable discussion on the future of the UAS industry in the region.

About Development Capital Networks LLC:

For more than 20 years, DCN has provided specialized products, management and training to development associations and entrepreneurial networks. Its sector expertise includes regional economic development, technology transfer, development finance, entrepreneurship, venture capital and capital formation. For more about DCN, please go to www.dcnteam.com.