

**PRESS RELEASE**

Karsten Rodvik  
Project Manager, External Affairs  
907-269-3024

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## **AEA Signs MOU with Sandia National Laboratories**

(Anchorage) - The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Sandia National Laboratories (Sandia) for scientific and technical cooperation between the two organizations.

Sandia is a national security lab involved in research and development relying on strong science, technology and engineering programs in part to support security mission areas, one of which is Energy and Infrastructure Assurance. Sandia works closely with industry, small business, universities and government agencies to bring new technologies to the marketplace and has been active on the North Slope of Alaska for many years.

Sandia and AEA intend to share information as appropriate on energy and related technologies including, but not limited to, wind, solar, biomass, tidal, hydropower, geothermal, energy storage, oil and gas, and energy infrastructure “surety,” meaning safety, security and sustainability.

“The two organizations have many common interests,” said Bernie Zak, Liaison for Alaska Programs for Sandia Labs. “Of note, AEA is leading the way with its remote location energy experience in Alaska, and this has widespread interest and possible application in the energy assurance field.”

The parties intend to communicate quarterly or more often to discuss current and potential activities of common interest, future direction and potential collaboration. In outlining management and program guidelines, the MOU envisions direct communication between officials of the two entities and notes that the MOU “shall not be used to obligate or commit funds or as the basis for the transfer of funds.”

“AEA’s mission to reduce the cost of energy in Alaska has led us to engineer and pioneer some innovative energy solutions, particularly in remote areas,” said AEA Executive Director Ron Miller. “AEA works closely with the Department of Energy now, so our collaboration with Sandia is in line with that effort to support the national interest at the same time we are working to improve the energy situation in Alaska.”

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