Put Yourself in the Middle of Everywhere

RFID in Fargo Cass County

In Huge Ways

We're Doing Tiny Things

Bigger isn't always better. That maxim applies not only to advances in Radio Frequency Identification, but to the location of your related business. In Fargo-Cass County, we're miniaturizing data collection and transmission and partnering with companies that lead the world in advancing this cross-cutting technology. To put it simply, Fargo-Cass County is a relatively small place with huge potential for your business.

"Our work to build a Red River Research Corridor has produced a growing base of advanced research at North Dakota State University which is drawing skilled professionals and innovative businesses. That, in turn, makes the area even more attractive for entrepreneurs and businesses looking to expand to a new location."

U.S. Sen. Byron L. Dorgan

"We are working to create the best business climate in the country. The state, our universities, economic developers and private industry are leveraging our resources to commercialize research and development."

North Dakota Gov. John Hoven

Staging Ground

The RFID Frontier

If you want to be where the boundaries of RFID and related technologies are being explored and expanded every day, Fargo-Cass County is the place. Here you'll find the intellectual capital, business environment and infrastructure that make this an ideal location for your RFID-related enterprise.

North Dakota State University
NDSU, a Division I land-grant university, is dedicated to transferring technology and leveraging new discoveries and innovations for the benefit of business. NDSU is a cutting-edge university that is moving toward Carnegie Doctoral and Research University-Extensive status and has exceeded $100 million in annual research expenditures. In addition to preparing top-notch undergraduates in the sciences, engineering and business, the NDSU Graduate School provides access to exceptional master's and doctoral candidates and graduates. The Center for Nanoscale Science and Engineering, located in the NDSU Research and Technology Park, is a critical partner in advancing RFID technologies and applications (see opposite panel).

A High-Tech Hub
Fargo-Cass County has developed into a center of high-technology activity and business.

Three RFID-related companies are already located here:
- Alien Technology, a world-leading supplier of RFID hardware that improves operating efficiency in numerous business sectors.
- Packet Digital, which develops intellectual property for power management in electronic systems and is partnering with Alien and other companies to create readers and tags with extended performance and capabilities.
- Pedigree Technologies, which is exploring the potential of "smart dust" for the food processing and production sectors.

In addition to Alien, NDSU has strategic alliances with other international leaders in high-impact technologies, such as Tessera Technologies (wireless communications) and Symyx Corp. (high-throughput technologies).

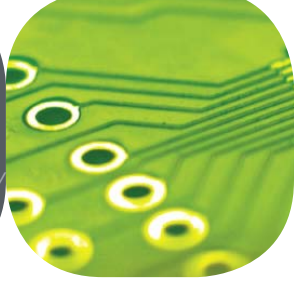
Fargo-Cass County is also home to numerous technology-focused companies that are charting the course in areas such as DNA research, laser technology, and computer software/hardware development.

Red River Valley Research Corridor
The research corridor, which runs along I-94 between NDSU in Fargo and the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, provides companies numerous advantages, from sharing knowledge to high-level multidisciplinary collaboration.

Technology Incubator
The NDSU Technology Incubator is a facilitator for transferring technology to the private sector. It allows small firms to take up residence in the high-tech business environment of a research park and provides access to faculty, students and cutting-edge equipment.

Center for High-Performance Computing
This NDSU facility will allow you to transfer massive amounts of data quickly and efficiently on a well-protected system. A major benefit is the ability to lease time without capitalizing your own computer system.

"Fargo has blossomed into a hip, college town enjoying the fruits of prosperity. Outside of town, industrial parks are full of thriving small businesses, North Dakota State University is the economic engine in the middle of it all."
USA Today, 2/24/04



Private-Public Collaboration and Support
You won't just have access to our public officials; you'll be on a first-name basis. Representatives from both political parties are on the same page, working together to develop North Dakota's business environment and infrastructure. This kind of access just doesn't exist anywhere else in the country.

Business-Friendly Environment
- Numerous state, county and city government incentives
- Right-to-work state
- Lowest workers' compensation rates in the nation
- Five-year corporate income tax exemption
- No personal property taxes
- No inventory taxes
- Low unemployment insurance rates

Exceptional Workforce
- NDSU graduates 500 engineers each year
- A metropolitan workforce of 110,000, highly productive and skilled employees with the celebrated Midwestern work ethic
- A high-level mobile workforce, with 24,000 graduate and undergraduate students from three area colleges available for full- and part-time employment
- Relatively high underemployment

Easy-Access Transportation
- Fargo-Cass County is strategically located at the intersection of two cross-country interstates, I-94 (east-west) and I-29 (north-south).
- Hector International Airport provides direct passenger flights to Minneapolis, Denver and Chicago and connects to numerous cargo destinations. It also hosts a U.S. Customs Port of Entry and two fixed-based operators for corporate air traffic.
- Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad serves North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Minnesota and the Canadian province of Manitoba with 60 trains per day.
- An intermodal facility three miles east of Fargo handles flatcar shipments of trailers, containers and other freight.

Advanced Telecommunications
Businesses in Fargo and Cass County are well connected with the latest in IT infrastructure. Data solutions available to small and large businesses include DSL, cable Internet, ISDN, wireless, T-1, Frame Relay, Sonet Ring, OC-12, DS3 and ATM.

A Diverse, Inviting Community
The Fargo area, with a metro population of 180,000, provides best of two worlds: all the benefits of a large, culturally diverse city and the quality of life, friendliness and comfort of a small town. It's a relatively small place with huge potential for your business and your employees.

Tuned In To Your Frequency

Center for Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE)

Located in the Research and Technology Park on the campus of North Dakota State University, CNSE thrives on multi-sector private and public collaborations. CNSE scientists and engineers conduct interdisciplinary research and design at the atomic-molecular scale with a focus on practical materials, processes and devices.

CNSE is the only facility in the nation that has all the technologies and equipment necessary for electronic miniaturization under one roof. With CNSE, you can optimize the advantages and disadvantages of various technologies and push the envelope through technology hybridization. More than a research center, CNSE is a true business partner that can do everything from designing chips to conducting protocols to manufacturing devices.

In Fargo-Cass County, your company can access CNSE's advanced equipment, facilities and technologies, including:

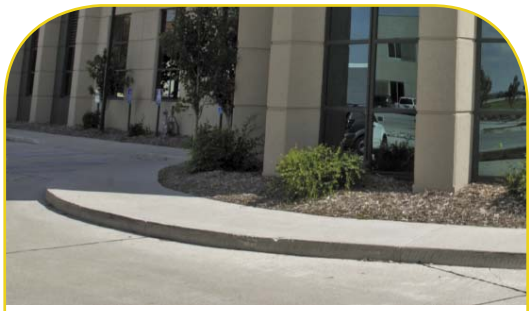
- *Design* – CNSE electronics design laboratories are fitted with industry-standard tools by Mentor Graphics, Cadence, Agilent, Ansoft, Xilinx, Dolphin, Ansys and Flowmerics.
- *Testing* – CNSE electronics test laboratories are equipped with the latest industry-standard logic analyzers, vector network analyzers, spectrum analyzers, oscilloscopes and waveform generators.
- *Clean Rooms* – CNSE houses one Class 100 and two Class 10,000 clean rooms.
- *Surface Mount Technology* (SMT) – CNSE has two high mix/low volume surface mount technology (SMT) prototype lines capable of fabricating a broad range of electronic systems, analog or digital, rigid or flexible.
- *Chip Scale Packaging* (CSP) – CNSE's CSP line can produce conventional or advanced packages such as BGA, micro-BGA, and micro-BGA packages in prototype or production quantities. It also allows us to design, simulate, test and validate miniaturized electronics packaging for integrated circuit semiconductor chips (die).
- *Fluidic Self Assembly* (FSA) – CNSE's FSA line is uniquely suited for the inexpensive assembly of one or more integrated circuit chips (NanoBlock™ ICs) on a flexible substrate. In one hour, this front-end, high-volume electronics fabrication technology can produce up to 10,000 microchips suitable for sensor and other applications.
- *High Throughput Workflow for Polymers and Coatings* – NDSU is the only university in the world with a fully equipped, high-throughput polymer synthesis and coating formulation laboratory. Researchers can perform parallel processing of as many as 380 experiments at once, completing in five hours what would normally take a year.

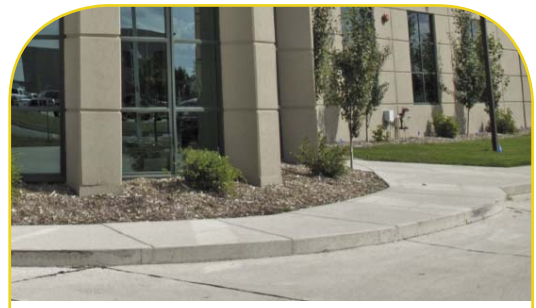
Fargo-Cass County

Just Plain Smart

When it comes to RFID, we're just plain smart, and we're getting smarter every day. And when you choose to locate in Fargo-Cass County, so are you. We're not just in the middle of everywhere; we're in the middle of where it's happening with RFID and related technologies.

To learn more about the strategic advantages we can provide, contact us today.





FARGO
CASS COUNTY
Economic Development Corporation

51 Broadway, Suite 500 • Fargo, ND 58102
Phone 701.364.1900 • Fax 701.293.7819
www.fedc.com

"Fargo is a tremendous value for Alien. We're getting about two-and-a-half times productivity per labor dollar in Fargo compared to what we get in Silicon Valley. We attribute that directly to the education level and work ethic of North Dakotans."

Glenn Gengel, VP Manufacturing
Alien Technology

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