



## **Otero County Economic Development Council, Inc.**

Alamogordo, NM

[www.ocedc.com](http://www.ocedc.com)

The Otero County Economic Development Council's, Inc., (OCEDC) strong commitment for cross-collaboration with partners in manufacturing, educational, workforce development, finance, businesses, governmental agencies, and other economic development organizations created new synergies for emerging high tech industries in south-central New Mexico. Creating and sustaining the right formula of strategic, regional partners helped lead to OCEDC's successfully location of a new high-tech unmanned systems manufacturer to Alamogordo, New Mexico. The company, Emerging Technology Ventures, Inc., (ETV) will manufacture unmanned and robotic air, ground, and maritime platforms, for use in a variety of different applications. They will develop multi-purpose unmanned vehicles that assist in: Critical Infrastructure Protection, Force Protection/Security, Hazardous Material Handling, Explosive Ordnance and Counter IED Operations, Firefighting, Logistics, Law Enforcement, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) and Force Projection.

Recently, the US Small Business Administration (SBA) announced a call to accept proposals for 3-4 new Regional Innovation Clusters, (RICs). The RICs are highly-unique and independent – yet integral – parts of a dynamic national effort to drive technology-based regional economic development, create jobs, and advance U.S. competitiveness and innovation. This RIC is a cross-collaborative and regional strategy, which will encompass a five-county area in southeastern New Mexico, affecting public and higher education, governmental agencies, and will help to attract new high-technology companies, and the potential to create hundreds of new, high wage jobs for New Mexico. On October 1, 2014, U.S. Senators representing New Mexico, Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich announced that the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) awarded \$547,000 for one of the newest SBA Regional Innovation Clusters in Southeastern New Mexico, to Emerging Technology Ventures, Inc. (ETV). The successful award is a tribute to the cohesiveness and strength of regional partners, championed by OCEDC's President and CEO, Mr. Michael Espiritu, who have demonstrated a clear vision for the future of this state.