

Alaka'i and Bovie Medical

Florida's Best



On September 24, 2008, two Pinellas County companies were honored with prestigious Governor's Diversification Awards, which recognize business achievements that advance the state's economy through job creation and distinctive community involvement and capital investment. [Alaka'i Consulting and Engineering](#) received the award for Entrepreneurship in the Mega Market category, and [Bovie Medical Corporation](#) was the recipient of the Export Excellence award in the Mega Market category. [Pinellas County Economic Development \(PCED\)](#) has worked with both companies over the years, helping each find the resources and products needed to achieve business success.

[Alaka'i Consulting and Engineering](#) chose Pinellas for its relocation and expansion plans two years ago and today continues to find the area responsive to its needs. Ed Dottery, Alaka'i President and co-founder explains, "Pinellas County was a great choice for us. In the past two years, our revenues increased nearly six-fold, and we've grown to a local staff of seven." The high-tech business specializes in next generation sensor and technology solutions to challenges facing the Defense and Security market and recently designed, developed, fabricated and soldier-tested - mostly locally - with the Army a new laser sensor within 18 months from contract award. "Pinellas County has a great industry mix. Locating within Congressman C.W. Bill Young's District has fostered a business/jobs friendly environment for networking with Department of Defense contractors and develops synergies with existing Pinellas businesses," explains Dottery. Working with PCED staff and locating within the [STAR Technology Enterprise Center \(STAR TEC\)](#), Alaka'i learned of and utilized tools such as Florida's [Qualified Target Industry](#) tax refund program and a [Brownfield Bonus](#) to propel its growth. "We recently graduated from the STAR TEC program, but



didn't move far – we're proud to call Pinellas County our home base," states Dottery.

[Bovie Medical Corporation](#), which develops, manufactures and markets electrosurgical products and is the number-one producer of battery-operated cauteries in the world, has worked closely with PCED staff over the years to find new tools to aid in its growth. The company has utilized [Incumbent Worker Training](#) grant funds in the past to facilitate skills training for its staff and was recently approved for a \$4.5 million [Industrial Revenue Bond](#) to purchase a new, 60,000 square-foot building. With laparoscopic products recently cleared for sales in Europe and plans underway to relocate its Canadian assembly division to Pinellas County, Bovie's need for a larger manufacturing space is paramount. The company plans to renovate the facility to include clean room space, allowing for multiple operations to be housed in one facility. This new business will generate the creation of 30 to 40 new, high-salaried jobs in Pinellas County. "Pinellas County Economic Development has introduced a variety of interesting products to aid in our expansion and relocation efforts over the years," explains J. Robert Saron, director. "With the right tools, we know Bovie Medical will continue to grow, adding to Pinellas County's medical device community."

Congratulations to both Alaka'i and Bovie Medical on the receipt of their respective Governor's Diversification Awards.

Learn about innovative ways Pinellas County Economic Development can help your business achieve its goals at www.PCED.org, or call (727) 464-7332.