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**Business ready to go solo – Mandaree Enterprise Corp. will 'graduate' from mentoring program  
MANDAREE ENTERPRISE CORP.**

New Town., August 28, 2001 – Mandaree Enterprises Corp., a tribally owned business in Mandaree, will "graduate" from its mentoring status during a ceremony Thursday at noon in the 4 Bears Casino & Lodge Events Center new New Town.

The ceremony, with Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., as a keynote speaker, will follow a congressional hearing on the Three Affiliated Tribes Economic Recovery Fund.

The Mandaree firm has been part of the Department of Defense Mentor/Protégé program, with Northrop Grumman Corp. in New Town, since 1992. Through this agreement the Mandaree firm has been receiving technical assistance, business/personnel management development and engineering.

Gwen Tillman, Dallas, project manager for Northrop-Grumman's Socio-Economic Business Programs, which includes the mentor-protégé program, said Northrop Grumman and Mandaree Enterprises will continue to work together but Mandaree Enterprises no longer will be under the mentor/protégé program.

Tillman said the mentor protégé program is designed to help businesses be competitive and achieve accomplishments. She said the Mandaree firm has been a success and now it has reached a new level.

"We're recognizing and honoring Mandaree Enterprises for the progress its made," Tillman said. Tillman said Mandaree Enterprises' work "show how the mentor protégé program is successful."

To point out a recent achievement of the Mandaree firm, Tillman said that Northrop Grumman recently issued an \$800,000 contract to the Mandaree firm to manufacture wire harnesses for Navy targets.

The Mandaree firm was established in 1989 and has performed and completed programs for the Air Force, Army and Navy. The company specializes in sophisticated assemblies of cable/harness assemblies, panel assemblies and other work, according to its company profile.

SOURCE            Tuesday, August 28, 2001, Minot (N.D.) Daily News  
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