

# Army seeks area Star Wars contractors

**By Sue Ellyn Scaletta**  
Herald Staff Writer

The uncertain fate of Star Wars notwithstanding, the U.S. Army identifies Grand Forks as the initial site for deployment of the ground-based interceptor element of the program in a recent solicitation.

The request for proposals seeks small businesses interested in subcontracting opportunities in connection with the plan to install interceptors at an abandoned anti-

ballistic missile site near Nekoma, N.D.

The plan may be challenged by the president or Congress.

Though construction wouldn't begin for more than a year, the Army is moving ahead with preliminary organization and potential prime contractors need small businesses in the region to submit statements regarding their ability to provide local support.

The solicitation is due Feb. 18.

SBA, North Dakota's Department of Economic Development

and Finance and a volunteer business group have formed a team to assist small businesses interested in subcontracting opportunities. The business group, called the High Plains Small and Disadvantaged Business Opportunity Committee, is the focal point for the effort, said Robert Elsas, procurement analyst with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

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