

Ukpeaġvik Iñupiat Corporation

Senate Special Committee on Arctic Affairs

January 29, 2026



UIC

Dr. Pearl K. Brower

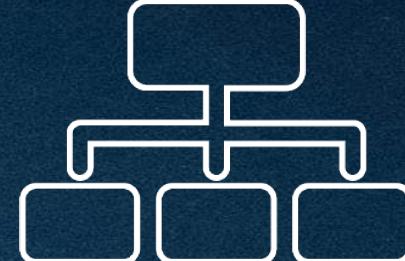
President / CEO

Pearl.Brower@uicalaska.com
uicalaska.com

UIC: An Arctic Stronghold

- UIC is the Alaska Native Village Corporation of Utqiagvik, Alaska
- UIC provides social and economic resources to over 4,000 Iñupiat shareholders and their descendants
- UIC has diversified its investments and consistently ranks among the top Alaskan-owned companies
- UIC employs more than 4,400 people and provides services to clients in a variety of industries, including operations in Utqiagvik, construction, architecture and engineering, regulatory consulting, information technology, marine operations, logistics, professional services, and maintenance and manufacturing.

UIC At-A-Glance



1973

Established in **1973**, UIC has provided social & economic resources to our shareholders for over **50** years.

290

Corporate headquarters in **Utqiāgvik, AK** with over **290** locations worldwide.

4,400

Approximately **4,400** employees worldwide, **620** employees in Alaska.

70+

UIC has over 70 subsidiary companies spanning over **25** different industries.

4,000

UIC has over **4,000** Class A and Class B Shareholders, primarily located in Utqiāgvik, Alaska.



Sivuniq + Qiniqtuuraat

Sivuniq: Our Mission

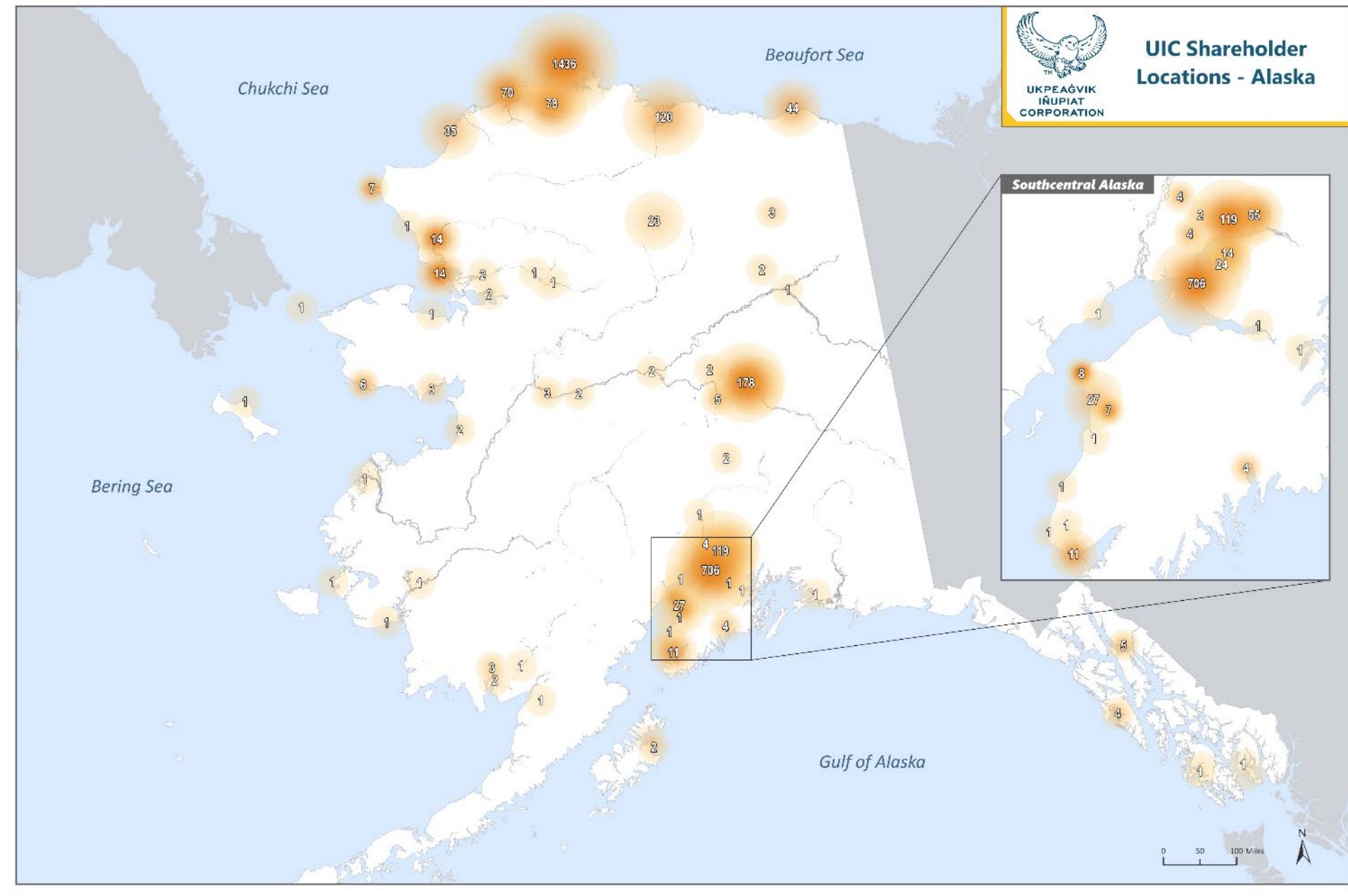
Ukpeaġvik Iñupiat Corporation brings our Iñupiat values to the services and products we provide to enhance the lives of our shareholders.

Qiniqtuuraat: Our Vision

Ukpeaġvik Iñupiat Corporation will be one of the top three Alaska companies by 2030.

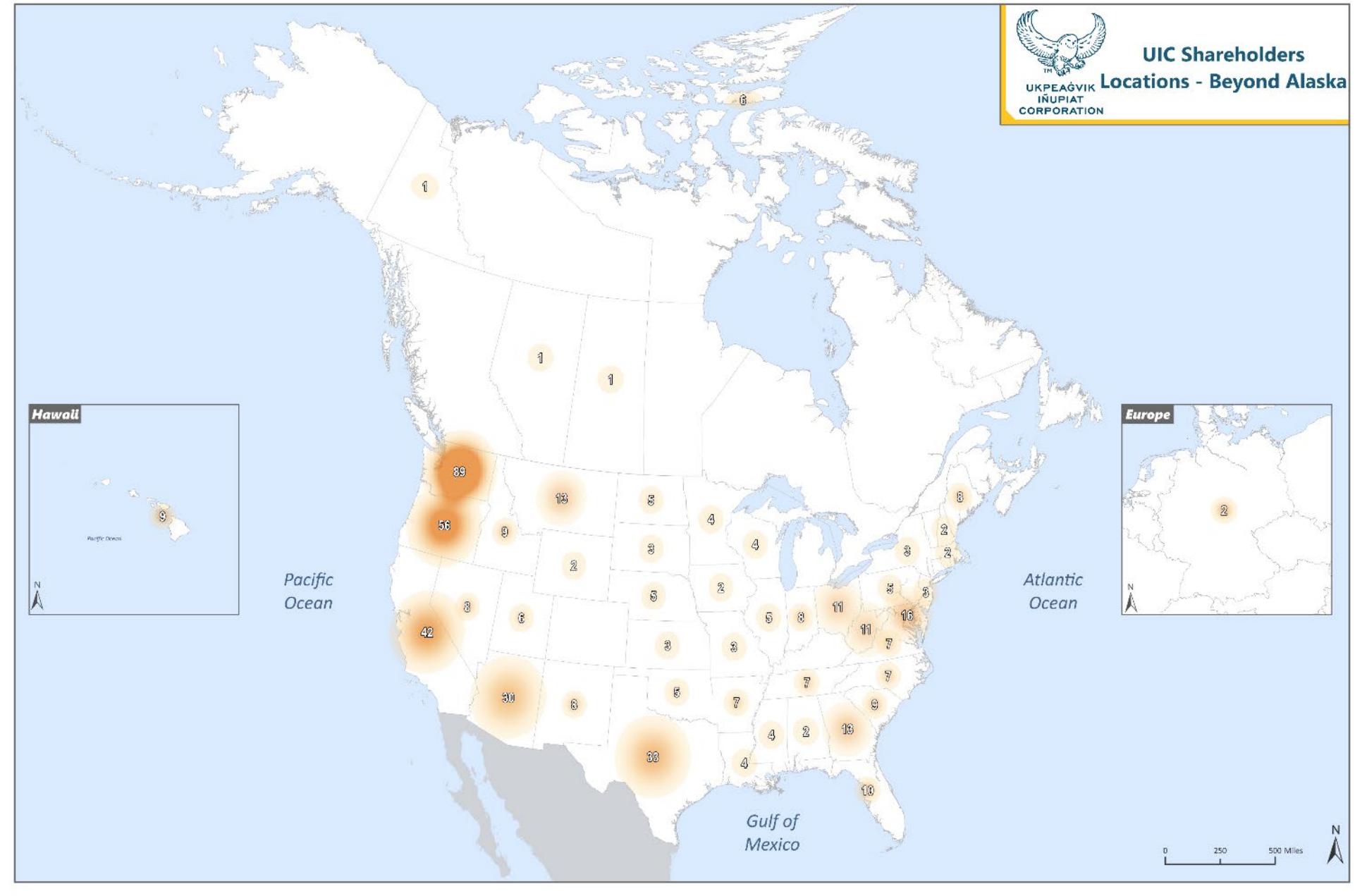


UIC Shareholder Locations - Alaska



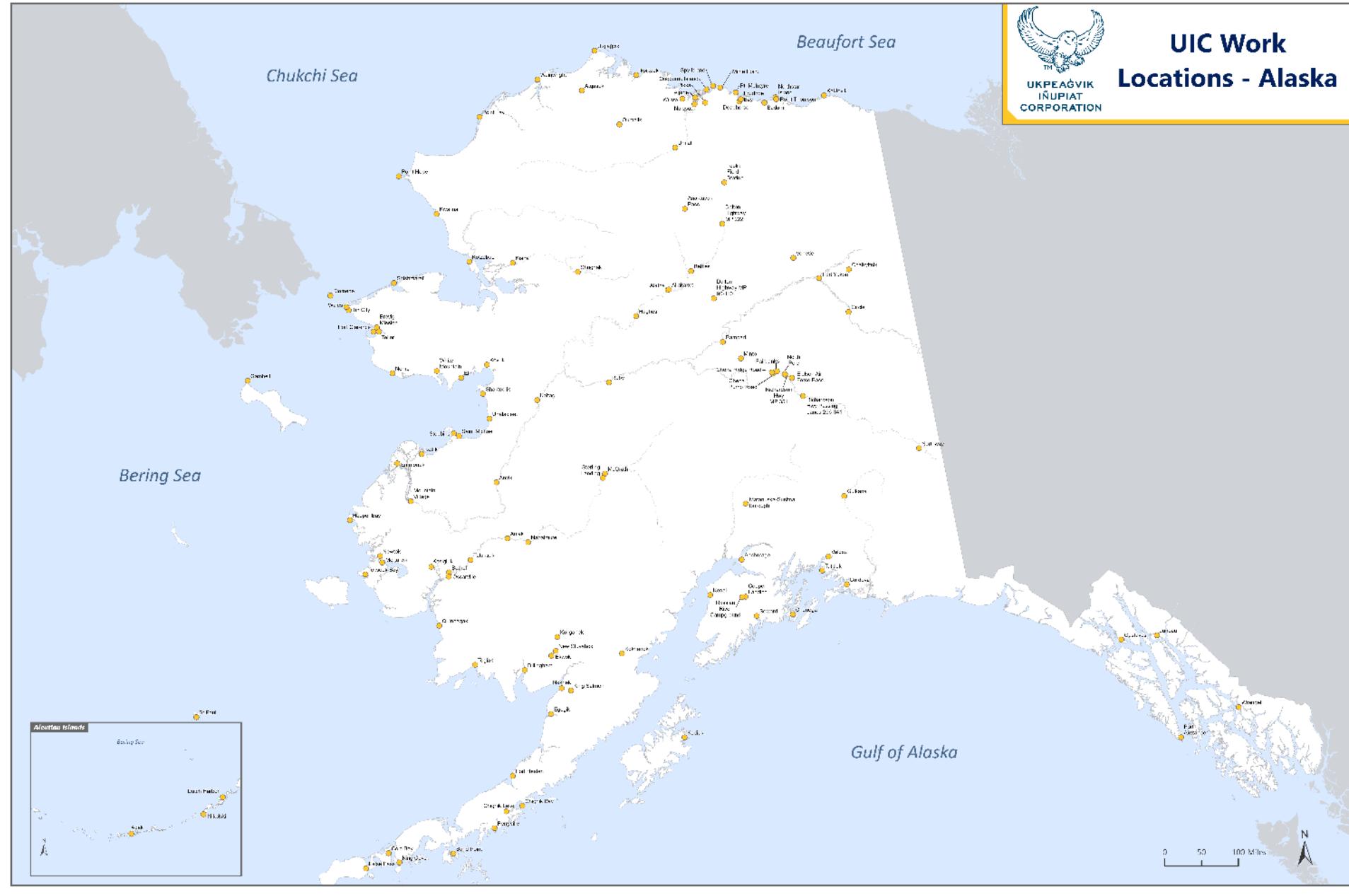


UIC Shareholders cations - Beyond Alaska



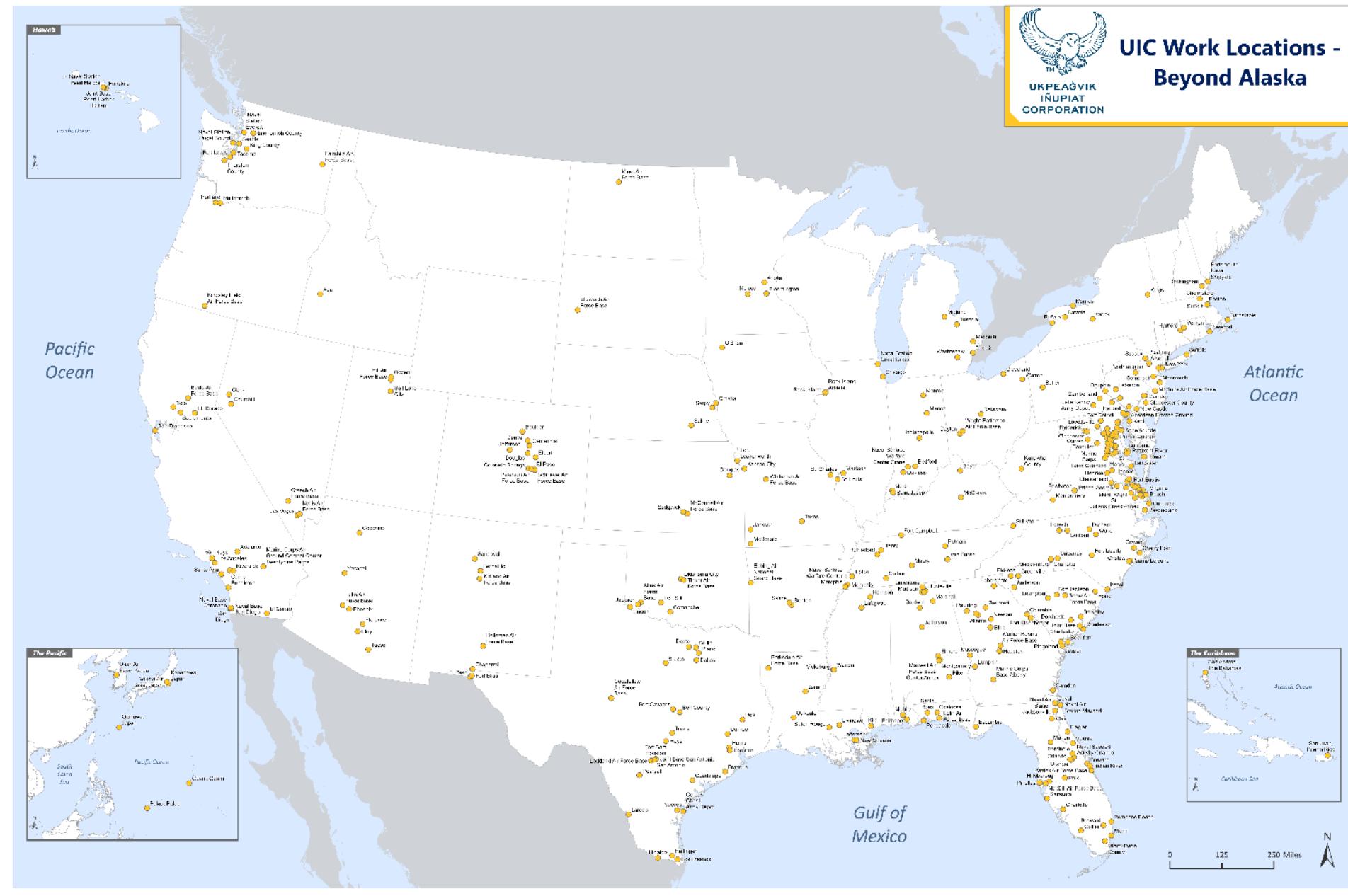


UIC Work Locations - Alaska





UIC Work Locations - Beyond Alaska



The Arctic is a National Security Frontline

- The Arctic is a strategic priority for U.S. national defense.
- Melting sea ice is opening new sea routes and increasing access to resources.
- Russia has expanded its military presence across the Arctic.
- Alaska's north is the United States' frontline for Arctic homeland defense.
- The Department of Defense has significantly increased Arctic training and operations across all service branches.
- Arctic missions require specialized logistics, infrastructure, and local expertise that cannot be provided from outside Alaska.

Why Alaska's North Is Critical

- Training in Alaska's north provides real-world Arctic conditions that cannot be replicated elsewhere.
- Extreme cold, sea ice, limited daylight, and complicated logistics define modern Arctic operations.
- Successful Arctic missions require:
 - Local logistics and facilities
 - Environmental and wildlife awareness
 - Cultural and community coordination

Why UIC is Uniquely Positioned

- UIC is an Alaska Native Corporation rooted in the Iñupiat community.
- UIC Science draws on generations of Indigenous Subject Matter Experts.
- Indigenous knowledge improves: cold-weather survival, ice and terrain mobility, shelter construction, wildlife and environmental safety
- UIC has trusted relationships with North Slope communities.
- Military operations supported by UIC are safer, more effective, and culturally informed.
- This level of trust and experience cannot be replicated by outside contractors.

Proven Track Record Supporting Arctic Operations

- UIC Science is already a primary Arctic-based logistics and operations partner for the DoD.
- In 2025, UIC Science supported approximately **270 U.S. military personnel** across **6 Arctic missions**.
- Military support has increased significantly compared to prior years.
- Demand for Arctic training and support is projected to grow in 2026 and beyond.

Key Example: U.S. Air Force Arctic Survival School

- Conducted in Utqiagvik under real Arctic conditions.
- UIC Science provides:
 - Facilities and logistics support
 - Academic instruction support
 - Indigenous Subject Matter Experts
- Training includes:
 - Arctic shelter construction
 - Survival and mobility techniques
 - Cultural immersion with the local Iñupiat community
- Directly improves aircrew survivability and mission readiness.





Key Example: U.S. Army 11th Airborne Division Training in 2024

- Platoon-sized out-of-sector Arctic deployment.
- Tested rapid deployment to a remote Arctic location.
- UIC Science provided:
 - Trucks and snow machines
 - Mobile refueling capability
 - 24/7 Polar Bear Guard coverage
- Indigenous knowledge integrated into tactics and procedures.
- Demonstrates the value of local Arctic expertise.



Watch the video here: <https://youtu.be/3Euat0buEr0?si=cdNZuY-nSad24oZO>

Key Example: Arctic Edge 2024-2025 and planning in 2026

- NORAD and U.S. Northern Command homeland defense exercise.
- Demonstrates joint and multinational readiness in extreme cold.
- UIC Science provided:
 - 24/7 Polar Bear Guard coverage
 - Maintenance and operation of a large Arctic vehicle fleet
 - On-site refueling
 - Coordination with local Tribal organizations
- Enabled safe, continuous operations throughout the exercise.
- Shows UIC's ability to support large-scale, joint Arctic missions.



Key Example: Operation Ice Camp (ICEX) – last event 2024, next 2026

- U.S. Navy-led operation conducted on floating sea ice.
- Tests and evaluates Arctic operational capabilities.
- UIC Science provided:
 - Technical and logistics support
 - Equipment maintenance
 - Ice camp infrastructure and runway construction
 - Airlift planning and coordination
 - 24/7 Polar Bear Guard services
- Enabled sustained operations more than 160 nautical miles offshore.
- Represents some of the most demanding Arctic conditions faced by U.S. forces.



Community Engagement: USMC Toys for Tots 2024-2025 and continuing

- UIC supports military-community engagement initiatives in Arctic communities.
- USMC Toys for Tots strengthens relationships between service members and local families.
- Community trust is essential for sustained military presence in Alaska's north.
- UIC bridges national security missions with local community priorities.





Key Example: USCG Arctic Support

- UIC supports the Coast Guard Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee.
- UIC deploys a Community Observer aboard USCGC Healy (WAGB-20) twice annually.
- This role strengthens:
 - Communication between Arctic communities and the Coast Guard
 - Maritime situational awareness
 - Trust during Arctic operations

Key Example: Ted Stevens Center for Security Engagement

- The Ted Stevens Center (TSC) is a DoD Regional Center focused on global and Arctic security.
- TSC promotes collaborative security solutions inclusive of Arctic Indigenous perspectives.
- UIC Science supported:
 - Two ambassador-level events in 2023
 - Over 20 participants from Arctic nations at each event
- UIC coordinated:
 - Local tours with civil and military organizations
 - ATV tour to Point Barrow with 2 Bear Guards
 - Wildlife viewing aboard a 32-foot Munson boat
 - Catered meals and Iñupiat cultural demonstrations
 - Panels on local Arctic topics with community organizations

Key Example: Innovation Readiness Training (IRT)

- IRT delivers joint training opportunities while providing lasting community benefits.
- Hosted by the Tagiuġmiullu Nunamiullu Housing Authority (TNHA).
- UIC partnerships for the IRT included:
 - Alaska Air National Guard
 - Cold Climate Housing Research Center
 - Legislative Counsel for U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan
 - And others
- UIC provided:
 - ATVs and Argos
 - Survival training for travel to Nuiqsut

Key Example: Research Support with Security Relevance

- UIC supports Arctic researchers conducting federally funded projects.
- Examples include:
 - Michigan Tech ice crystal research
 - PISCES project
- Many Department of Energy and science projects have military or security connections.
- Research activity reinforces the need for secure, coordinated Arctic operations.

Arctic Community Security Considerations

Summer 2025:

- A foreign (Korean) icebreaker appeared offshore near Utqiagvik.
- Crew members came ashore unannounced and visited local offices.
- The vessel was assumed by some residents to be U.S. Coast Guard due to its appearance.
- While the country involved is an ally, the situation raised key questions:
 - How quickly would unplanned arrivals be identified?
 - What safeguards are in place for Arctic coastal communities?
- Highlights the importance of:
 - Arctic domain awareness
 - Community-level security coordination
 - Local presence and reporting

Infrastructure and Logistics Capacity

UIC Science operates established Arctic facilities, including:

- Barrow Arctic Research Center
- Man-camps and senior leader lodging
- Maintenance shops and storage facilities
- Arctic ovens and field infrastructure

- Maintains a fleet of:
 - Snow machines
 - ATVs
 - Trucks
 - Boats and Arctic-capable equipment
- UIC owns more than **220,000 acres** of land that could support future training.
- Potential to develop mock villages or training infrastructure in the Arctic.

Strategic Investment and Readiness

- Demand for Arctic operations and training is growing.
- Some UIC infrastructure dates back to the 1940s and lacks modern capability.
- Investment is needed for:
 - New maintenance facilities
 - Updated Arctic infrastructure
- Modern infrastructure improves:
 - Safety
 - Logistics capacity
 - Rapid deployment and sustainment
- Investment in UIC is an investment in national security and Alaska's strategic role.

Utqiagvik Trilateral Collaboration Framework

Coordinated Community Priorities

- A formal collaboration aligning local leadership around shared community priorities in Utqiagvik.
- Provides a structured forum for coordination, consensus-building, and joint action.
- Strengthens community stability, safety, and long-term resilience.

Priority Focus Areas:

- Community priorities and funding alignment
- Health and wellness coordination
- Community safety and security
- Reburial and repatriation
- Housing and infrastructure
- Community recreation
- External government engagement
- Food sovereignty and subsistence
- Economic development



Utqiagvik Trilateral Recent Coordination and Engagement

- Trilateral group met **December 10, 2025**.
- Hosted a presentation from the **Department of Homeland Security** at the request of the Trilateral.
- DHS was engaged because **maritime activity offshore of Utqiagvik is increasing**, and the community lacks formal port controls.
- Vessels and individuals can come ashore directly from the ocean **without any built-in security presence or notification process**.
- These events often occur **without DHS awareness or involvement**.
- The Trilateral is proactively engaging DHS to:
 - Increase federal awareness of Arctic coastal activity
 - Encourage DHS presence and participation
 - Establish clearer points of contact for the community

Bottom Line for Alaska Leaders

- Arctic security is Alaska security.
- UIC is already delivering proven Arctic support to the U.S. military.
- UIC combines:
 - Local presence
 - Indigenous knowledge
 - Infrastructure
 - Trusted community relationships
- UIC is best positioned to be the long-term partner for Arctic defense, training, and readiness.
- Supporting UIC strengthens both national security and Alaska's northern communities.

QUYANAQPAK

Questions?



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CORPORATION

