

## Competition provides seed money for business ventures

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**Anchorage, Alaska** - Imagine if someone said they would give you the cash to start your own business. That's what 50 finalists in the Alaska Marketplace competition have a shot to win.

Twenty of the finalists will receive a portion of the \$200,000 pie. The amounts of the prize money will vary, depending on the requirements of the business. With financial backing from BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc. and ConocoPhillips, the Alaska Federation of Natives organized the competition. The goal is to create jobs and stimulate village economies.



Phil Walczak/KTUU-TV



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“As residents, we have the opportunity to be part of so many firsts. And here we are again, all of us in this room. We're part of another first,” said Al Bolea, BP Exploration (left).

The winners will be chosen tomorrow afternoon. There are also people's choice awards, and members of the public can vote for their favorite business idea. The three winners will each receive \$1,000.

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