



## Northeast Indiana “Certified Site Ready” FAQs

### **What benefits does Site Certification provide?**

Site certification establishes the credibility of a site in that it ensures site selectors and prospect companies that the site has successfully met a standard level of requirements determined by a reputable third party. This ensures that the site is prepared for an expedited process, catering to stringent production timelines and decreasing its risk level. Certified sites stand an increased chance of moving forward in the site selection process and generate more frequent locations.

### **Why does Northeast Indiana have its own Site Certification process?**

Northeast Indiana has established the “Certified Site Ready” certification to increase the region’s inventory of development ready sites. There is no limit to how many sites can be certified; rather, the region strives to continually increase the quality of its sites and available locations to best serve site selectors and prospect companies. Northeast Indiana’s “Certified Site Ready” certification compliments the existing “Shovel Ready” certification established by the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, creating another avenue through which certification can be achieved. Northeast Indiana’s “Certified Site Ready” locations are also eligible for Indiana’s “Shovel Ready” program.

### **How long does certification take in the “Certified Site Ready” program?**

Strategic Development Group, Inc has estimated the certification timeline to take 9-12 months from application to final certification.

### **Who is involved in the “Certified Site Ready” certification process?**

In order to earn “Certified Site Ready” status, involvement from the land owner, local economic development organization, local government and the community is required. These participants contribute to the completion of the “Certified Site Ready” standards which include meeting benchmarks in sewer, electric, gas, transportation access, high speed communication availability, zoning, environmental, water and other categories. See the “Certified Site Ready” standards brochure to see a complete listing of certification requirements.

### **Who is the third party certifier for the “Certified Site Ready” program?**

Strategic Development Group (SDG), Inc., located in Columbia South Carolina has been contracted to provide their services in the “Certified Site Ready” certification process. SDG, Inc. is a privately owned professional consulting firm offering expert site location, negotiation and economic development services. Mark Williams, President of SDG, has worked with hundreds of US-based and global corporation executives during his extensive 15-year career to find facility locations and negotiate location incentives for over \$5 Billion in US investments.