

BLACKSUN PRIVATE EQUITY, NATIVE WORLD SPORTS AND REGIONAL PARTNERS ANNOUNCE BID TO BRING THE SEATTLE SUPERSONICS HOME

Proposed ownership group unites institutional capital, Tribal Nations & PNW leaders around a long-term vision for championship basketball & community growth.

SEATTLE, WA, UNITED STATES, August 12, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- BlackSun Private Equity, Native World Sports, and a coalition of strategic investors, and regional leaders today announced the formation of an ownership group and the submission of a formal proposal to return the Seattle SuperSonics to Washington State through NBA expansion.

The consortium was assembled around a single purpose: restore one of professional basketball's most iconic franchises, and in doing so, establish a

new model for team ownership, one built on long-term stewardship, meaningful Tribal Nation participation, and a lasting commitment to the people of the Pacific Northwest.

The group looks forward to working closely with the National Basketball Association, state and local officials, Tribal Nations, and regional stakeholders as the NBA evaluates expansion. Any award of a franchise remains subject to the NBA's formal expansion process and approval by its Board of Governors.

"The SuperSonics belong in Seattle," said Atonn F. Muhammad, Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of BlackSun Private Equity. "Our ambition isn't simply to bring a team back. It's

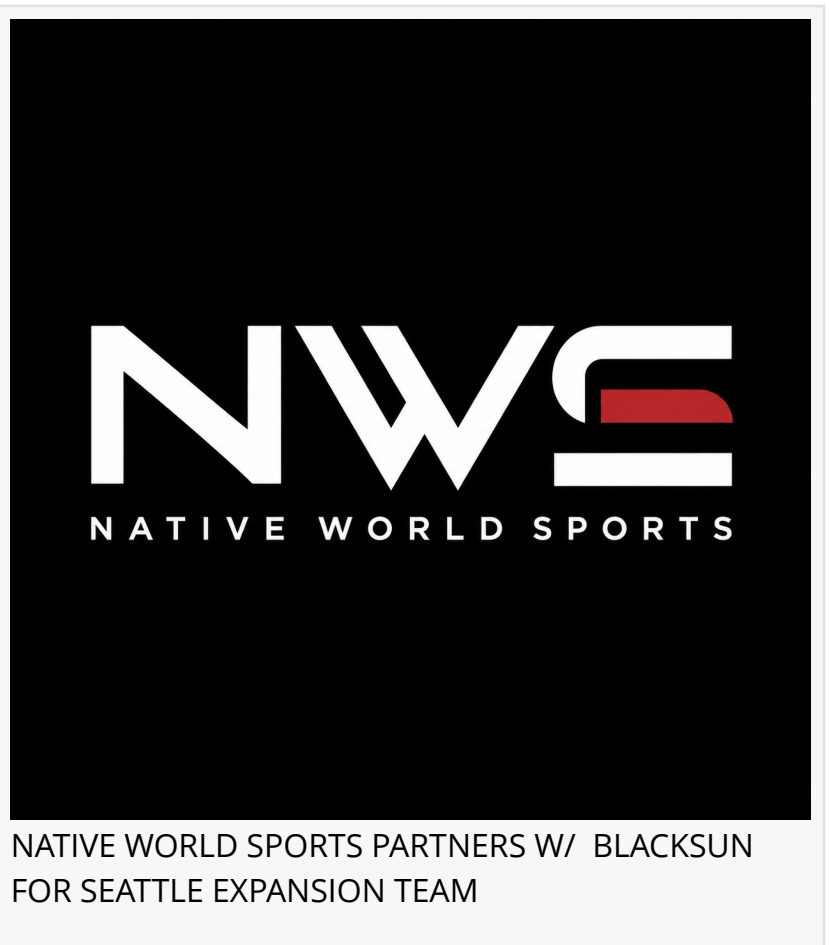


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to build a championship organization worthy of this city, create lasting economic opportunity across the region, and establish a model of ownership that reflects the people, history, and potential of the Pacific Northwest. We would be honored to earn the trust of Sonics fans everywhere.”

A TEAM WITH DEEP ROOTS AND AN UNFINISHED STORY

The SuperSonics were Seattle's first major professional sports franchise, and they became a defining part of the region's identity, from the 1979 NBA championship to the generations of players and fans who built the team's legacy. That bond with the Pacific Northwest has endured long after the team's departure, and the loyalty Sonics fans have shown ever since is what makes this more than an expansion opportunity. It's the continuation of an unfinished story.



“

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*Atonn F. Muhammad, CEO
Chairman Blacksun*

“Seattle has already proven it's one of the great basketball cities in the world,” said Nick Rathod, Chief Global Strategy and Communications Officer of BlackSun Private Equity. “What distinguishes this group isn't only the capital behind it, it's the breadth of the community represented within it, Tribal Nations are helping shape this effort, as economic partners and decision-makers. That's both appropriate for Washington State and representative of where the next era of professional sports ownership should go.”

A FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND PARTNERSHIP WITH TRIBAL NATIONS

A defining element of the proposal is the opportunity for Tribal Nations to participate substantively in the franchise's development and long-term economic ecosystem.

Seattle bears the name of Chief Seattle, a leader of the Suquamish and Duwamish peoples. The consortium believes a franchise representing this region should recognize that history through

more than symbolism. The ownership model is being developed in consultation with participating Tribal Nations, with the goal of creating durable opportunities for investment, enterprise development, employment, cultural recognition, and shared prosperity.

Native World Sports released an official statement, “This is an opportunity to demonstrate what genuine partnership with Tribal Nations can look like at the highest level of professional sports. This effort starts with a premise that recognizes Tribal Nations as sovereign governments, sophisticated economic partners, and essential voices in the future of Washington State. Bringing the Sonics home would carry enormous meaning for this region, and we’re proud to help shape a vision that creates opportunity for generations.”



Musa Holdings

MUSA HOLDINGS JOINS PARTNERS TO RETURN SONICS

A CHAMPIONSHIP ORGANIZATION — ON AND OFF THE COURT

The consortium's proposal rests on several long-term commitments:

Building a championship-caliber basketball organization with the resources, leadership, and culture to compete at the NBA's highest level.

Establishing substantive participation with Tribal Nation partners.

Investing in youth basketball, education, health, entrepreneurship, and workforce development throughout Washington State.

Creating opportunities for local and Tribal-owned businesses within the franchise's commercial ecosystem.

Deepening partnerships with schools, universities, nonprofits, civic institutions, and community organizations.

Operating as a responsible, permanent, and deeply engaged civic institution.

The goal is to establish the SuperSonics not just as an elite basketball franchise, but as a platform for expanding opportunity across the Pacific Northwest.

A YEAR-ROUND SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT DESTINATION

The ownership group is also developing a vision for a premier sports and entertainment district, anchored by a state-of-the-art arena and designed as a year-round regional destination.

Subject to site selection, public review, and community consultation, the district could include team practice and performance facilities, hospitality, retail, dining, residential and office space, public gathering areas, parks, cultural institutions, and entertainment venues.

Rather than functioning only on game days, the district is designed to support tourism, generate jobs, attract new business, and sustain economic activity year-round. The consortium intends to work collaboratively with surrounding communities, Tribal Nations, labor, local businesses, and government partners throughout the planning process.

“Great sports franchises are built through patient investment, trusted partnerships, and a commitment that extends far beyond the arena,” Muhammad added. “We’re prepared to bring those principles to the SuperSonics and build an institution that competes for championships while creating value for its fans, its partners, and the region for decades to come.”

The consortium expects to announce additional ownership participants, Tribal Nation partners, and regional advisors as discussions advance.

ABOUT BLACKSUN PRIVATE EQUITY

BlackSun Private Equity is a global strategic investment platform focused on transformative opportunities across sports, media, entertainment, infrastructure, real estate, and economic development. BlackSun combines disciplined capital, operating expertise, and long-term partnerships to build enterprises that generate sustainable growth and enduring value for investors, communities, and stakeholders.

ABOUT NATIVE WORLD SPORTS

Native World Sports advances Tribal Nation participation across professional sports, entertainment, and related commercial development. Through strategic investment, partnerships, and community-centered initiatives, Native World Sports creates lasting economic, cultural, and social value with Tribal Nations and the communities they serve.

#BringBackTheSonics

#BringTheSonicsHome

#SeattleSonicsRising

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