

Project: *MilTech Extension* — Transitioning Innovative Technology to the US Military

Brief Description:

Montana State University requests continued funding of \$2 million in the FY 2010 Defense Appropriations Bill for its MilTech Program, which enables critically needed new technology to be more quickly and cost-effectively transitioned from innovative small companies to US military operations. Program Managers in DoD's Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) *strongly support* MilTech and, because of its successful track record, are taking steps to directly fund this program.

Executive Summary:

The Department of Defense has a critical need to transition new technology to the US warfighter in order to help save lives and improve effectiveness. MilTech is addressing this need through a partnership between TechLink and the Montana Manufacturing Extension Center (MMEC). MMEC and its counterparts in other states are working closely with TechLink to assist innovative companies that are commercializing new defense-related technology.

The **program goal** is to ensure that the US warfighter acquires critically needed new technology more quickly, reliably, and cost-effectively. MilTech helps innovative small companies to overcome key technical, manufacturing, and procurement hurdles that stand in the way of delivery of new technology to the US military. Based on Department of Defense requirements, this program is:

- Accelerating the transition of critically needed new technology to the US military;
- Enabling DoD to more fully benefit from the R&D funding that it provides to small businesses;
- Lowering the overall cost and cycle time of acquiring new defense-related technology from US small companies.

The program focuses primarily on companies in Montana and the Northwestern United States that (1) are commercializing technology developed in DoD labs; (2) are manufacturing new technology developed or co-developed with DoD funding; or (3) have developed innovative technology that DoD wants to acquire. With the requested support, the MilTech Program will be able to continue and expand its activities.

Congressional Action Needed:

An ongoing appropriation of \$2 million in the FY 2010 Defense Appropriations Bill.

Importance to Montana: This project is creating significant new DoD contracting opportunities for Montana companies and expanding the number of high-paying defense-related engineering and manufacturing jobs in the state. Montana companies assisted by MilTech include: S&K Electronics (Pablo), Dr. Down (Polson), Summit Aeronautics (Helena), Nomad Technologies (Kalispell), Scientific Materials (Bozeman), GCS Research (Missoula), PFM Manufacturing (Townsend); Spika Welding and Manufacturing (Lewistown), Mystery Ranch (Bozeman), Phillips Environmental (Belgrade), Lilja Barrels (Plains), and Bacterin (Belgrade).

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TALKING POINTS

The “MilTech Extension” Program

Funding request of \$2 million for Montana State University’s MilTech Program, which allows innovative defense-related technology to be more efficiently transitioned to the US military. MilTech helps get critical innovative technology to the US warfighter *more quickly, reliably and cost effectively*. It does this by helping innovative small companies to overcome key technical, manufacturing, and procurement hurdles.

- MilTech assists the Department of Defense in *three key ways*:
 - 1) Accelerates the transition of new technology from private industry to the US warfighter.
 - 2) Enables DoD to more fully benefit from the R&D funding it provides to small businesses for new technology development.
 - 3) Helps to lower the overall cost and cycle time for acquiring new defense-related technology.
- DoD Program Managers in the Office of the Secretary of Defense *strongly support* this program and are taking steps to *directly fund* this program.
- **Representative examples** of MilTech Extension projects:
 - Example 1: BlackHawk.** MilTech helped the Bozeman, Montana, company to improve its productivity to reduce back orders for safety holsters for the DoD and other customers. The company’s innovative holster reduces weight, improves access and prevents enemy combatants’ access to a warfighter’s sidearm. This product is widely deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan.
 - Example 2: Spika Manufacturing.** MilTech helped Spika, located in Moccasin, Montana, to improve the design, functionality, and manufacturing of a safety welding cart licensed from the Air Force with TechLink assistance. The cart allows for improved fabrication productivity and prevents accidents caused by storage and handling of dangerous industrial gasses. The cart is now in use by numerous DoD fabrication, design, and maintenance facilities.
 - Example 3: Westone Labs.** The company, located in Colorado Springs, Colorado, entered into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement with the Air Force Research Lab to develop an improved hearing protection and communication system for F22 Raptor pilots. The new technology was an initial success but design and manufacturing problems led to its recall. MilTech helped the company redesign each component and assisted with improving the manufacturing and quality process. The new ACCES hearing system is now back in use by Air Force pilots and ground crews.
 - Example 4: Nomad Technologies.** MilTech assisted Nomad Technologies, located in Kalispell, Montana, with improvement to its design and production processes for the company’s mobile “Master Gunner” training platforms for Army tank commanders. With MilTech’s assistance, the company was able to respond in a timely way to DoD orders for its training system.
 - Example 5: Dlubak Glass.** MilTech helped Dlubak Glass, of Natrona Heights, Pennsylvania, to improve the yield of its bullet proof glass. Dlubak manufactures five-layer safety glass for Humvees and MRAP vehicles, which are critical to saving lives of deployed US warfighters in Iraq and Afghanistan. MilTech helped the company implement quality procedures and clean room technology, improving its yield and enabling it to sustainably deliver the safety glass to the DoD.
- **Montana companies** assisted by MilTech include: S&K Electronics (Pablo), Precision Lift (Monarch), Summit Aeronautics (Helena), GCS Research (Missoula), Nomad Technologies (Kalispell), Scientific Materials (Bozeman), Core Motion (Ronan), Mystery Ranch (Bozeman), Spika Welding and Manufacturing (Lewistown), Dr. Down (Polson), Phillips Environmental (Belgrade), Bacterin (Belgrade), PFM Manufacturing (Townsend), BlackHawk (Bozeman), and Lilja Barrels (Plains).