

## August 14, 2006 Gautier filling niche for titanium

For Immediate Release

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Johnstown, PA - A Johnstown steel mill will become one of a handful of U.S. manufacturers of titanium under a contract with the U.S. Army's Picatinny Arsenal, Congressman John Murtha announced today during a tour of Gautier Steel Ltd.

A total of \$450,000 has been awarded under Phase I of the contract, with additional funding pending. The company expects to add 15 to 20 jobs to its 100-employee work force over the next three years as it develops a titanium armor plate and bar mill at its Clinton Street plant.

Under the Army's Steel to Titanium initiative, Gautier will produce titanium armor plates and bars, which are lighter and stronger than steel or aluminum, for use on military ground vehicles such as Bradley and Abrams tanks, Humvees and Strykers.

"With demand so high for commercial aerospace-grade titanium, the Army has had a tough time finding manufacturers that can produce good-quality reactive titanium without the long lead times and skyrocketing prices in today's market," Murtha said. "Gautier stepped up to the challenge. They're willing to dedicate the required rolling time, install equipment that can roll additional sizes of armor and incorporate several finishing operations under one roof, which will significantly reduce the logistical delays and high costs."

Murtha secured the funding for the project through the Department of Defense. An additional \$3.6 million has been requested for fiscal year 2007.

"This is the first of what we hope will be a long line of contracts with the federal government," said Darryl DiOrio, Gautier president. "We're pleased to be included among the growing number of defense contractors in this region, and we're especially grateful to Congressman Murtha for his support."