

October 2, 2006 Murtha announces Army contract with EOC

For Immediate Release

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Freeport, PA - Congressman John P. Murtha announced today that the Electro-Optics Center of Pennsylvania State University has been awarded a contract worth up to \$49.2 million from the Department of the Army for research and development.

The EOC will carry out an indefinite number of task orders over 5 years involving research, development and engineering of electro-optic components and systems that include night vision, surveillance and other military applications.

"This contract is a testament to the EOC's technical capabilities, which have grown substantially along with the jobs it has created in and attracted to Armstrong County," Murtha said.

"We identified an opportunity for a surging industry that we believed could create and sustain hundreds of jobs in the region," he said. "The EOC and the companies that have moved here to capitalize on its expertise are providing 400 family-sustaining jobs for area residents, with projections of employing more than 600 people."

Among the companies that have located nearby to tap into the EOC's expertise are Boeing, California-based RAPT Industries and Sabeus Sensor Systems, DRS, ANALUX and Caracal.

Karl Harris, Director of the EOC, added, "This contract solidifies the long-term relationship we've had with the Army Night Vision Lab since 1999. In the past, the Night Vision Lab leveraged our Navy and Marine Corps work; this contract will now allow the Army direct access to the EOC for their initiatives."

The contract supports the Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center's Night Vision and Electronic Sensor Directorate. A 290-member Electro-Optics Alliance of industry, academic, professional and government resources helps the EOC integrate technologies to solve electro-optic manufacturing issues.