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Windber, PA - U.S. Rep. John Murtha announced today that Kuchera Defense Systems has been awarded five new multi-million dollar contracts from Raytheon, Northrop Grumman, the Air Force Research Lab and Coherent Systems International. The contracts, valued at approximately \$7 million in the first year alone, will create 15 new jobs and sustain 28 current jobs for the Windber company.

"These contracts involve new programs for Kuchera, which further diversifies their work load across various programs," Murtha said. "And what's particularly noteworthy is that some of the work will provide new levels of engineering and manufacturing expertise for KDS, which improves their long-term competitiveness in the defense industry."

Carl Sax, Executive Vice President & General Manager for KDS, added, "These contracts reinforce the company's objective of growth with capabilities, capacity and commitment. We appreciate the confidence our customers have illustrated by awarding contracts that allow diversification of our production lines as well as engineering and manufacturing skill levels."

Raytheon Company's Integrated Defense Systems, Portsmouth, RI announced the overall award of contracts worth over \$2.3 million.

One contract totaling \$1.6 million will go toward the manufacture of power amplifier assemblies, power supplies, as well as material procurement and material staging for the MK 73 Transmitter. The MK 73 Transmitter is used in the NATO SEA SPARROW System for navy surface ship self defense. The NATO SEA SPARROW program is a twelve nation project where development and production are completed collaboratively.

Murtha noted that this contract is expected to double and bring in about \$3.3 million a year for the next five years, creating and sustaining work here locally over six years.

An award of \$0.7 million will be used for upgrade assemblies and installation material for the SPS-73 Surface Search Radar, which is used for navigation and collision avoidance by the US Navy and the US Coast Guard. Kuchera Defense has manufactured over 400 SPS-73 radar systems.

Both programs offer the promise of additional future orders for similar and expanded scope of work on these projects. The SEA SPARROW contract is a new program for Kuchera Defense, which will create two engineering positions and sustain 10 manufacturing jobs.

Northrop Grumman, Rolling Meadows, IL awarded Kuchera Defense a \$1.6 million contract to integrate and manufacture

V-5 enclosures and components for testing electronic and electro-optical devices including missile systems, vehicles, aircraft, etc.

This contract is another new program that gives Kuchera Defense employees the opportunity to develop additional skill sets required to compliment the integrated family of test equipment now being manufactured.

The contract will also provide additional opportunities over the next 3-5 years, to provide similar integration and manufacturing of the next generation of test shelter equipment. This initial program will create two engineering positions and sustain four manufacturing jobs.

Under the Air Force contract, KDS will provide engineering and manufacturing services to advance the infrared (IR) imaging technology for small portable camera systems. In particular, KDS will perform design for manufacture and analysis on existing IR technology and small IR camera systems, in support of developing an IR camera that is lighter in weight, smaller in size and more affordable than current systems.

The Air Force contract will create three new engineering jobs and sustain two technical positions at KDS.

Coherent Systems has awarded a \$1.9 million contract to continue the advancement of Coherent Systems wireless targeting network, ensuring the inclusion of leading edge technologies.

This award strengthens the already existing relationship between Coherent and Kuchera Defense and will further the development, manufacturing and deployment of Coherent Systems strategic products which include the Ground Mobile Gateways (GMG), Command Operation Centers (COC) and our weapons data link systems.

Kuchera Defense will provide engineering support and manufacturing facilities. The program will create 8 new engineering jobs and sustain 12 manufacturing jobs.

"Part of what's so gratifying about these new contracts is that many of the new jobs are in the new engineering department of Kuchera, so these are good, professional positions that help to build our economy while positioning Kuchera for continued growth and development," Murtha said.