

## November 30, 2006 Argon ST awarded multi-year contract

For Immediate Release

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Johnstown, PA - Congressman Jack Murtha announced today that the Fayette County Division of Argon ST has been awarded a multi-year contract valuing over \$17.6 million for procurement of new torpedo defense capability and continued work to enhance U.S. Navy Surface Ship Torpedo Defense System (SSTD) ability to defeat the increasing torpedo threat.

For the past several years, Argon ST has been applying upgraded engineering and new generation technology to the AN/SLQ-25A Torpedo Countermeasure system. Major improvements include a new software format called Open Architecture (OA). Using the OA technology, change implementations are as simple as plugging into a new port similar to a desktop or laptop computer.

"I'm proud because the continued enhancements to this system directly support the safety of the sailors and marines who serve on our ships at sea," Murtha said, "and I'm delighted to see this work is being done in Southwestern Pennsylvania because it strengthens the district's economy by creating and retaining jobs."

The AN/SLQ-25A Torpedo Countermeasure System can now keep pace with the changing torpedo threat and the first year of the new contract procures key components recently developed to combat the evolving torpedo threat.

The new contract will also provide for the development of the next generation of improvements, including a light weight modular winch that is adaptable to ship board and/or fleet readiness conditions. Other components of the AN/SLQ-25A are being modernized to protect US Navy Ships from a torpedo attack.

Also benefiting from the work are subcontractors such as Shumar Industries and Gerome Manufacturing in Fayette County, Johnstown Welding & Fabrication in Cambria County and AccroTool in Armstrong County.

"This networking of companies within the 12th Congressional District is exactly what we hoped for when we created the environment to attract defense work to the region," Murtha said. "Southwestern Pennsylvania has earned a reputation as a hub for high-quality, cost-competitive defense work because these businesses work together to provide state-of-the-art products that the nation's armed forces can depend on."

Karen Stiles, Director, Smithfield Engineering and Manufacturing for Argon ST said "We are working with the U. S. Navy in the Washington Navy Yard as well as the Navy Underwater Warfare Centers in Newport, RI and Norfolk, VA in upgrading the system to the next generation technology. Sea trials are scheduled in June, 2007. Upon successful completion of these trials, we will then go into production with the 12th District team manufacturing the new base line AN/SLQ-25C equipment."

Argon ST has 850 employees nationwide with 93 employed in its Fayette County facilities.