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For Immediate Release

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Johnstown, PA - U.S. Rep. John Murtha said today that six robots built by a Somerset County manufacturer will be deployed to Detroit to support security efforts for the National Football League at Super Bowl XL events.

Windber's Kuchera Defense Systems produces the mobile Omni-Directional Inspection System (ODIS) robots, which use high-resolution cameras to scan the undercarriages of vehicles for explosive devices or other illegal contraband. In addition, a six-foot remotely extendable camera mast will be attached to one of the units in Detroit, allowing the operator to visually inspect a vehicle's interior passenger compartment, engine compartment, truck bed and other areas.

The robots will be operated by members of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard based in Johnstown.

ODIS was developed by Utah State University and the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research Development and Engineering Center, and made marketable by Kuchera, which is also working on additional development. The deployment to the Super Bowl was engineered by Jim Rooney, director of FirstLink, a technology-transfer program at the University of Pittsburgh working with the Department of Defense to push new, state-of-the-art counterterrorism and first-responder technologies into the marketplace more quickly.

"I can't think of a better venue than the Super Bowl to show off one of Western Pennsylvania's most exciting high-tech enterprises," said Murtha, who obtained more than \$3 million in funding for development of the robots. "Projects like ODIS are a great example of how we can spur economic growth in the region and save the federal government millions of dollars by working through military channels to develop and build high-quality, cost-competitive products that can be transitioned to commercial use. Congratulations to Kuchera and FirstLink for taking advantage of a can't-miss opportunity during one on the nation's greatest sporting events."

Twenty ODIS robots made by Kuchera have been deployed to aid warfighters in Iraq and Afghanistan.