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For Immediate Release

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Ford City, PA - Congressman John P. Murtha, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, today commended the Penn State Electro-Optics Center (EOC) for their continued growth in Armstrong County. Murtha attended the annual ARMTech Showcase of Industry & Technology, which highlights the work of local companies and organizations in and around Armstrong County.

In the last six months alone, the EOC has received 47 contracts, grants and purchase orders totaling over \$23 million for work within the Department of Defense and the defense industry.

In addition, the EOC has recently accepted delivery of a Cessna 206 Aircraft from Bun Air Corporation in Bedford, Pennsylvania. This aircraft, which mimics Unmanned Autonomous Vehicles (UAV's) flight conditions, will be used by the EOC to test a variety of sensors for use in small to mid-size UAV's and manned surveillance aircraft. The aircraft was acquired under a grant from the Office of Naval Research and will be housed at the EOC's new Aerial Systems Integration Laboratory located at the Jimmy Stewart Airport in Indiana, PA.

"The EOC continues to be a nationally recognized leader in electro-optics sciences and applied research that is providing the Defense Department and industry with state-of-the-art technology and quality production," commented Murtha. "Their success has been crucial in attracting additional high-tech companies to Armstrong County and the region."

Created in 1999 under a cooperative agreement with the Office of Naval Research and managed by Penn State University, the Electro-Optics Center promotes the development of Electro-Optic materials, components and systems needed to advance the state-of-the-art in electro-optic science and technology for our defense forces.