

August 14, 2008 - Murtha Opens New U.S. Manufacturing Facility for Kongsberg Defense Corporation

RICHLAND TOWNSHIP, PA -- Congressman John P. Murtha, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, joined local business and government leaders today to officially open the new Kongsberg Defense production facility in Johnstown, PA.

Kongsberg Defense Corporation, headquartered in Norway, will produce their PROTECTOR Remote Weapon Station (RWS) for the U.S. military at this new 138,000 square foot manufacturing facility. The PROTECTOR RWS is a remote controlled weapon station for light and medium caliber weapons. It can be installed on any type of vehicle. Kongsberg has been producing the PROTECTOR RWS since 2001, and has delivered more than 3,000 systems to customers around the world.

In May 2006, Kongsberg opened a small PROTECTOR RWS repair and overhaul facility in Johnstown. Because of its success, and increased customer demand, Kongsberg has selected Johnstown as the site of their U.S. manufacturing facility.

“Kongsberg Defense came to Johnstown only two years ago, and already have seen first-hand the skilled and competitive workforce available here,” said Murtha. “I’m proud that they have chosen Johnstown as the site of their U.S. manufacturing facility.”

Kongsberg Defense announced in August 2007 that they were awarded a potential \$1.3 billion contract with the U.S. Army for delivery of its Protector RWS. The first order under the contract was for 1,300 stations valued at \$293 million.

Kongsberg Defense Corporation is Norway's premier supplier of high-technology defense systems. They currently have 1,600 employees operating worldwide.

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