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For Immediate Release

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Johnstown, PA - International defense manufacturer Kongsberg Defence and Aerospace officially launched its U.S. subsidiary Kongsberg Defense Corporation today with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at its headquarters in the JARI Center of the Johnstown Business Park.

Norway-based KONGSBERG has a long-standing partnership with the United States, supplying the U.S. Army with more than 1,000 PROTECTOR Remote Weapon Station (RWS) units used in over 200 Stryker vehicles in Iraq since 2004.

"I am pleased to have KONGSBERG locate in our district," said Rep. John P. Murtha (D). "This company has provided equipment and technology that have added to the safety and security of military personnel around the world. KONGSBERG is a welcome addition to our area, both because of its reputation for excellence and for the economic growth it will bring."

Manufactured in Norway, the PROTECTOR RWS, an exterior-mounted weapon system that can be controlled from within the safety of a vehicle, will be assembled at KONGSBERG's Johnstown facility, expediting the delivery of the system to U.S. armed forces. Three U.S. workers have joined the facility to date. That number is expected to increase to as many as 10 workers by the end of 2006.

"This an important time for our firm," said Kongsberg Defence and Aerospace Vice President Knut Saeter. "We are pleased with the record of success our weapons technology has had with U.S. forces, and we are excited to expand production of this critically-needed technology in Johnstown, under Congressman Murtha's leadership. We appreciate the warm welcome."