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For Immediate Release

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June 2, 2006- Congressman John Murtha today continued to build on a history of Showcase for Commerce successes, announcing two new health-care-related initiatives, the opening of another new company in Greater Johnstown, the expansion of a growing local business park and the awarding of contracts totaling more than \$20 million, with the potential for millions more, at companies in the region.

Murtha began the annual Showcase press conference by announcing that one of the region's largest defense firms, Windber's Kuchera Defense Systems, has been awarded eight subcontracts and three direct contracts totaling \$20 million, with the potential for about \$35 million more over several years. The contracts are as follows:

* four contracts totaling \$6.5 million, with potential for \$15 million over five years, from Northrop Grumman. The contracts, which include work on the Integrated Family of Test Equipment and the Digital Threat Warning system, will create six jobs and sustain 23.

* four contracts from Raytheon totaling \$7.5 million, with potential for another \$20 million over several years. The contracts, which include work on the Paveway Laser Guided Bomb and the Joint Stand-off Weapon, will create six jobs and sustain 31.

* Three direct contracts for \$6 million for the ODIS Robot, High Velocity Particle Consolidation and Unmanned Chemical-Biological Multi-Sensor Analyzer/Detector projects.

Another local operation, veteran- and minority-owned MTS Technologies, has been awarded a \$1 million contract to provide information assurance and security-systems engineering support for the VH-71 Presidential Helicopter program, Murtha said.

A virtual ribbon cutting was held to introduce a company new to the region, Information Manufacturing Corp., a West Virginia-based business that is developing the Integrated Digital and Collaborative Environment for the Marine Corps' Light Armored (combat) Vehicle. IMC expects to have a dozen employees by the end of the year, with additional hiring expected in 2007.

Greater Johnstown's growing health-care-related sector was highlighted with two announcements:

* the formation of a partnership between Windber Research Institute and Temple University's Sbarro Health Research Organization to better discover, model and treat breast cancer. Sbarro will locate researchers at WRI under the initiative.

* the development by MountainTop Technologies of an online training program to teach Air Force anesthesiologists to insert into patients a small catheter to dispense painkilling medication. The procedure eliminates the need for general anesthesia and effectively blocks pain for several days after surgery, allowing quicker post-operative therapy and faster recovery.

Another indication of Greater Johnstown's revitalized economy, Murtha said, is a planned expansion of the Johnstown Business Park, which is nearly out of space to accommodate new facilities. The development will be funded by two grants totaling \$500,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission for road construction and utilities installation, and an additional anticipated federal grant of \$1 million.