

Three Central Oregon Businesses May Receive \$9 Million through Defense Bill

by Bend Weekly News Sources

Oregon nanotechnology efforts receive Appropriations Committee funding approval

Senators Ron Wyden and Gordon Smith have announced that the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee has approved millions of dollars in funding for defense-related projects in Oregon, including significant funding for a number of Oregon nanotechnology projects through the Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnologies Institute (ONAMI).

Three Central Oregon businesses are slated to receive a total of \$9 million if the FY2007 Defense spending bill is approved by the full Senate.

Microsemi's Power Products Group (formerly Advanced Power Technology) of Bend would receive \$4 million to develop technology related to the use of silicon carbide semiconductor components for use in military avionics applications.

IdaTech of Bend would receive \$3 million to develop fuel cell technology suitable for battlefield military applications.

Mountain High Equipment & Supply Company of Redmond would receive \$2 million for the procurement of a more effective and efficient oxygen supply system for high altitude rotary wing pilots.

"Oregon businesses are producing technologies that will help protect our soldiers and fortify our security at home," Smith said. "Many of the projects have applications beyond the battlefield. The investments we are making today will pay off in other areas tomorrow such as using wave energy to create electricity. This investment also sustains jobs ensuring Oregon's economy continues to grow."

"Funding for Oregon's new nanotechnology research center, as well as numerous other nanotech projects, demonstrates that our state is truly a national leader in this growing field," Wyden said. "The targeted investments we're making in basic research and innovative projects will provide a significant boost to Oregon's economy and further develop technologies that have important applications in saving lives, for our national defense, and for civilian use."

Ten other Oregon businesses will receive over \$74 million in funding, plus Oregon will also receive almost

\$1.3 billion for chemical agents and munitions destructions and operations at the Umatilla Chemical Depot, \$15 million to the National Guard Youth Challenge Program, and \$1 million to Oregon State University for the development of nanoscale ultra-low power electronics.

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