



MINNESOTA WIRE

Press Release
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Life Saving Connections

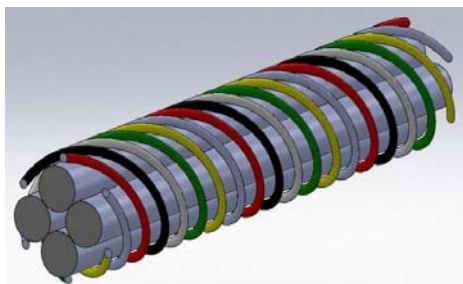
Minnesota Wire's R&D Division Commercializes Product

St. Paul, Minnesota: 02/16/2010 – Minnesota Wire's defense products division, *Minnovate*, recently began commercialization of its R&D technology that has been funded primarily through Department of Defense (DoD) research grants. The first product line – *Elastomeric Interconnect Solutions* – includes a range of “stretchy” conductors that can be applied to defense, medical or industrial market products. The technology provides unique benefits, including stretch, durability, weight savings and longevity for products that face unique stressors. Examples include wearable communications for military use, patient monitoring systems, or personal audio earphones.

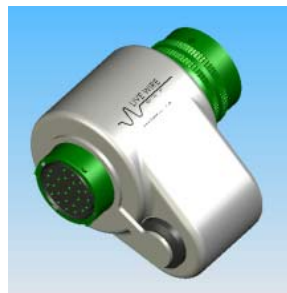
Minnesota Wire is working on several other R&D programs that are transforming the future of electrical conductors and shields. Among them are:

- Non metallic wire using carbon nanotubes (CNT)
- Prognostic Health Management (PHM) for in-situ monitoring and prognosis of faults using two technologies (spread-spectrum time domain reflectometry (SSTDR) and CNT sacrificial shields)
- Fatigue resistant wire using unique polymers, elastomeric wire and/or CNT
- Embedded wire for airborne applications

The company has won over \$6 million in federal R&D grants from the DoD since 2003, including Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grants from the military services and Broad Agency Announcements (BAAs); and in 2007, *Minnovate* won the coveted national Tibbetts Award for R&D excellence. The resultant commercialized technology for several non-defense market sectors includes two utility patents (pending) and several patents with partner companies. The R&D effort is unusual for an industry in which the basic technology has remained substantially unchanged for decades.



Six-Conductor “Stretchy Wire”



Prognostic Health Management Connectors

Minnesota Wire is a vertically integrated, custom manufacturing and development house for wire, cable and interconnect assemblies to the Medical, Defense and Industrial markets. The company is a market and R&D leader in: electrical signal integrity; mitigating triboelectric effects; radio-translucent wire; and innovative connections for wearable electronics, patient monitoring systems and leading-edge medical devices.

The 30,000 square foot headquarters in St. Paul, Minnesota boasts a full R&D and test and measurement center, an Electromagnetic Capabilities (EMC) chamber for electronic pre-compliance testing and a “wet lab” for its nanotechnology applications. Another high-volume, 58,000 square foot focused-cell, lean production facility is located in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. MWCC is ISO 9001: 2008 certified, ISO 13485: 2003 compliant, ROHS compliant, and is a MIL-STD and IPC-620 certified harness manufacturer.