



MINNESOTA DEFENSE
A Division of Minnesota Wire

Military Interconnect Solutions

Press Release
Contact: Chip Laingen

Minnesota Defense Joins EDGE® Innovation Network

St. Paul, Minnesota: 3/12/2010 – Minnesota Defense, a division of Minnesota Wire, announced today it has joined the EDGE® Innovation Network, a collaborative, open-environment initiative enabling industry and academia, with government input, to work together to enhance the delivery cycle of new technologies and innovative capabilities to warfighters and first responders.

“We have been involved in leading edge defense programs for over five years now,” said Chip Laingen, Minnesota Wire’s communications director. *“The EDGE is a natural extension of where we are headed as a company. Our strategic plan includes leadership for the defense industry in bringing novel solutions for electrical interconnect assemblies.”*

Sponsored by General Dynamics C4 Systems, the EDGE has already delivered several innovations including a Soldier Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) Receiver or SIR to the U.S. Army. About the size of a Blackberry®, the SIR device delivers real-time streaming video directly from multiple manned or unmanned assets directly into the hands of soldiers on the ground. Currently, there are over 10 projects in development intended to improve and enhance warfighter capabilities.

Pete Palmer, EDGE Innovation Network director, said, *“The EDGE bridges gaps between end-user needs and current capabilities by promoting rapidly prototyped solutions that could close those gaps quickly. By applying the EDGE process, the government can quickly and cost-effectively review multiple options for users to evaluate in months rather than years.”*

There are currently five EDGE Innovation Centers worldwide and over 100 EDGE members. Recent new members include The University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Viecore Federal Systems Division, Eatontown, N.J.; Aspen Systems, Marlborough, Mass.; Florida State University, Tallahassee, Fla.; and the University of California at Santa Barbara. More information can be found online at [EDGE-innovation website](http://EDGE-innovation.com).

Minnesota Defense has contributed to notable DoD programs, including Land Warrior, Future Force Warrior, Air Warrior and numerous ground combat vehicle programs. The company also maintains cutting edge DoD R&D programs, including: non-metallic (carbon nanotube) conductors and shields, fatigue resistant wire, elastomeric (“stretchy”) wire, prognostic health management (PHM) wire and embedded wire.

Minnesota Defense, a division of Minnesota Wire, is a vertically integrated, custom manufacturing and development house for ruggedized wire, cable and interconnect assemblies to the Defense and Homeland Security markets. The 30,000 square foot headquarters and development center in St. Paul, Minnesota boasts full R&D lab facilities. Another high-volume, 58,000 square foot focused-cell, lean production facility is located in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Minnesota Wire is ISO 9001: 2008 certified, ISO 13485: 2003 compliant, ROHS compliant, and is a MIL-STD and IPC-620 certified harness manufacturer.