



MINNESOTA WIRE

Press Release
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Life Saving Connections

MINNESOTA WIRE AWARDED DoD R&D GRANT FOR EMBEDDED WIRE IN AIRBORNE APPLICATIONS

St. Paul, 11/16/09 – Minnesota Wire announced today that the company’s R&D division, *Minnovate*, was awarded a Department of Defense (DoD) Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Grant by the U.S. Air Force. The Phase I SBIR is a \$100,000, one year “proof of concept” project that will explore the feasibility of “embedded wire for airborne applications.” The program’s office at the Air Force Research Lab (AFRL), Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio is seeking new electrical interconnect options for existing and future manned and unmanned aircraft systems. The intent is to design systems that ensure the best electrical signal integrity, are lightweight, rugged and self-monitoring, and allow for advances in conformity, space savings and ease of maintenance.

Minnesota Wire’s *Minnovate* R&D team will leverage its existing work in stretchy wire, prognostic health management (PHM), fatigue resistant wire, nanotechnology and advanced materials research to develop proposed solutions to the AFRL solicitation. As the grant’s prime contractor, the company will also enlist partners like Boeing and LiveWire Test Labs to contribute to the project. At the conclusion of the Phase I efforts, Minnesota Wire will then compete for a two-year, \$750,000 Phase II SBIR solicitation to advance the concept to the prototype stage.

Minnesota Wire’s established R&D program has dedicated staff, lab facilities and collaborative arrangements with industry and academic partners, all of which are producing novel designs for various markets. *Minnovate* specializes in designs that require the highest forms of electrical signal integrity, and disruptive advances in weight savings, shielding, prognostic health management (PHM) and other critical properties. The first R&D program the company was involved with had its roots in the U.S. Army’s Land Warrior program, and is now becoming commercialized with its line of developmental products called “Elastomeric Interconnect Solutions,” or “Stretchy Wire.”

For more information about *Minnovate* and its R&D efforts, go to <http://www.mnwire.com/> and click “R&D.”

Minnesota Wire is a vertically integrated, custom manufacturing and development house for wire, cable and interconnect assemblies to the Medical, Defense, Instrumentation and Telecommunications industries. 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. MW is ISO 9001: 2008 certified, ISO 13485: 2003 compliant, ROHS compliant, and is a MIL-STD and IPC-620 certified harness manufacturer.