



MINNESOTA WIRE

Press Release  
Contact: Chip Laingen

Life Saving Connections

## Minnesota Wire Receives Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Grant

**St. Paul, Minnesota: 07/31/08** – Minnesota Wire has been awarded a federal research grant from the Department of Defense (DoD) for continued work on its “Cobra” R&D program, or “RESS” (Rapid Expansion of Supercritical Solution) process. The “Phase II” Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant is from the U.S. Army’s Armament R&D Center at the Picatinny Army Arsenal in New Jersey. The competitive award is worth \$730,000 of direct R&D funding to further develop the \$120,000 Phase I work now underway for the program, begun in 2007. RESS is a process to spray carbon nanotubes for a variety of applications. Ultimately, the goal is to produce an efficient process for production of non-metallic conductors and shields, a goal that has significant implications for longevity and weight reduction in a variety of markets.

The company maintains an active, federally-funded R&D effort, with disruptive high technology programs such as “Komodo” stretchy wire for body-borne vests and other uses, “OrbWeaver” fatigue resistant wire for airborne applications and “Smart Connector” for imbedded wire diagnostics and prognostic health management (PHM) of electrical systems.

Minnesota Wire continues to invest in the future by pursuing high technology innovations for the industry. The St. Paul headquarters facility continues to develop as an R&D center (while the Eau Claire location is growing its manufacturing capabilities) and now has three robust laboratory facilities, including: an in-house Test & Measurement Center (mechanical lab); an Electromagnetic Capabilities Chamber (electrical lab); and a nanotechnology facility (wet lab) at the nearby University Enterprise Laboratories (UEL) complex, an affiliate of the University of Minnesota. This latest DoD research grant award means that Minnesota Wire has received over \$4 million in grants since 2003, one reason that the company won the national Tibbetts Award for SBIR excellence during 2007.

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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. Minnesota Wire has a defense sales division, Minnesota Defense, a surgical products subsidiary, Minnesota Bramstedt Surgical, and a joint venture with Primordial, an in-house software development firm.

The 30,000 square foot headquarters in St. Paul, Minnesota boasts a full R&D and test and measurement center (including an Electromagnetic Capabilities (EMC) chamber for electronic compliance testing). Another high-volume, 58,000 square foot focused-cell, lean production facility is located in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. MWCC is ISO 9001: 2000 certified, ISO 13485: 2003 compliant, ROHS compliant, and is a MIL-STD and IPC-620 certified harness manufacturer.