Project: *MilTech Extension* — Transitioning Innovative Technology to the US Military

Brief Description:

Montana State University requests continuation funding of $2 million in the FY 2011 Defense Appropriations Bill for its MilTech Program, which enables critically needed new technology to be more quickly and cost-effectively transitioned from innovative small companies to US military operations. Program Managers in DoD's Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) *strongly support* MilTech and, because of its successful track record, are taking steps to directly fund this program.

Executive Summary:

The Department of Defense has a critical need to transition new technology to the US warfighter in order to help save lives and improve effectiveness. MilTech is addressing this need through a partnership between TechLink and the Montana Manufacturing Extension Center (MMEC). MMEC and its counterparts in other states are working closely with TechLink to assist innovative companies that are commercializing new defense-related technology.

Project Description: The **program goal** is to ensure that the US warfighter acquires critically needed new technology more quickly, reliably, and cost-effectively. MilTech helps innovative small companies to overcome key technical, manufacturing, and procurement hurdles that stand in the way of delivery of new technology to the US military. Based on Department of Defense requirements, this program is:

- Accelerating the transition of critically needed new technology to the US military;
- Enabling DoD to more fully benefit from the R&D funding that it provides to small businesses;
- Lowering the overall cost and cycle time of acquiring new defense-related technology from US small companies.

The program focuses primarily on companies in Montana and the Northwestern United States that (1) are commercializing technology developed in DoD labs; (2) are manufacturing new technology developed or co-developed with DoD funding; or (3) have developed innovative technology that DoD wants to acquire. With the requested support, the MilTech Program will be able to continue and expand its activities.

Congressional Action Needed:

An appropriation of $2 million in the FY 2011 Defense Appropriations Bill

Importance to Montana: This project is creating significant new DoD contracting opportunities for Montana companies and expanding the number of high-paying defense-related engineering and manufacturing jobs in the state. Montana companies assisted by MilTech include: Cable Technologies (Great Falls); S&K Electronics (Pablo); Summit Aeronautics (Helena); Nomad Technologies and NorthWest Precision (Kalispell); GCS Research (Missoula); PFM Manufacturing (Townsend); Mystery Ranch, Scientific Materials, BlackHawk, CrossTac, and TexBase (Bozeman); Phillips Environmental/CleanWaste and Bacterin (Belgrade); Dr. Down (Polson); Spika Welding and Manufacturing (Lewistown); and Lilja Barrels (Plains).

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