

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHOT tapped for homeland defense effort

GREENVILLE, Ind. (August 19, 2002) -- For the past 14 years, SHOT has focused on providing equipment and services to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Now the company can add the United States Department of Defense to its client list with its selection for a contract to develop a design for a device that may be employed in homeland defense efforts. Valued at \$69,000, the *Phase One* Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) contract will be administered by the U.S. Crane Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC Crane), in Crane, Ind.

“Naturally, the hardware we develop for NASA must be small, lightweight, rugged and very efficient,” said SHOT President and CEO Mark S. Deuser. “Taking on an equipment development project for the Defense Department is actually a small step for our engineers and scientists to take. And at this time, when effective homeland defense is so vital, it’s a step which we as a company are eager, and in fact honored, to take.”

The proposed Modular Environmental Situational Awareness Technology (MESAT) device is a small portable monitoring station which will autonomously acquire environmental, meteorological, geographic, and seismic data, and provide this data to authorities in real-time. It may be useful in a number of fields in both government and commercial applications.

From a military perspective, the device could be used to provide information on the environmental and meteorological conditions which may affect the propagation or lethality of a released biological or chemical agent. It could be used at sites such as ships; military bases; government buildings; nuclear, chemical, or biological research, storage, and production facilities; battlefields; power plants; centers of population; and anywhere else deemed to be particularly susceptible to a bioterrorism attack.

Additional uses for MESAT could include the detection of meteorological conditions that may be detrimental to air traffic at spot locations, such as the end of runways on both civilian and military land-based airports. This could be especially useful to assist the military during site selection for, and after the establishment of, mobile airports in forward areas during a time of conflict.

(more)

SHOT selected for Department of Defense contract

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The MESAT could also be used as a part of the response to accidents at, rather than attacks against, nuclear, chemical, and biological facilities. The portability of the device also makes it useful for supporting responses to truck and railroad accidents that may occur during the transportation of hazardous materials. MESAT technology also could be used during fire fighting operations in forests and grasslands where information about current environmental and meteorological conditions is critical to fire fighter safety.

Along with the detailed technical feasibility study SHOT will perform under this *Phase One* agreement, the company also plans to submit a proposal for a *Phase Two* SBIR contract under which it would construct a MESAT prototype. Phase Two SBIR agreements typically are worth up to \$750,000 over a two-year period.

“We’re excited about this project not only because of the interesting technical challenges involved, but also because it represents a new customer for us, and perhaps ultimately a new product line,” said SHOT engineer Mark Ainsworth, who will serve as the principal investigator for the MESAT contract.

SHOT has been successful at competing for SBIR contracts and progressing them through the phased development process. In the past 10 years, the company has been selected for more than two dozen such agreements – ranging in value from tens of thousands to tens of millions of dollars. Over the 16-year life of the SBIR program, SHOT has earned more such contracts than any other Indiana or Kentucky company. The company retains all commercial patent rights to new technologies and equipment developed under SBIR contracts.

Founded in Indiana in 1988, SHOT develops equipment for -- and provides research, engineering and technical services to -- a broad spectrum of customers. It specializes in developing spaceflight hardware, scientific research devices, biochemical purification equipment, diagnostic/testing devices, embedded systems and instrumentation. Equipment produced by the company has launched on seven space shuttle missions and three sub-orbital rocket flights.

Located in southwest Indiana, NSWC Crane is the second largest Hoosier employer south of Indianapolis, and is the largest Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) field procurement office. NSWC Crane supports homeland defense efforts and the war on terrorism through its engineering, logistics and technical expertise in electronics, electronic warfare, and ordnance.

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