

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) announced that the U.S. House of Representatives has approved a funding bill that includes a total \$3,500,000 for two projects in North Worcester County.

Olver secured the funding in the FY10 Department of Defense Appropriations Act, which the House passed on July 30, 2009. Olver is on the Appropriations Committee and worked to secure the funding. The Senate must still approve its appropriations bill and then both chambers will have to approve a reconciled bill before it goes to the president's desk to be signed into law.

\$2.5 Million for Headwall's Night Vision & Electronic Sensors

Headwall will design a manufacture a new calls of miniature high performance chemical imaging sensors for deployment on small Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) and Small Unmanned Ground Vehicles (SUGV). This technology will assist the military monitor regions of interest, border patrol, chemical and biological threat assessment, search and rescue operations, and environmental monitoring and assessment.

"Headwall is a dynamic, innovative technology company. I am quite proud that they call Fitchburg home," Congressman John Olver said. "These sensors will provide our armed forces with greater capability to assess potential threats without putting our soldiers in harms way."

As a Massachusetts high technology manufacturer, Fitchburg-based Headwall Photonics is a world leader in the design and manufacture of optical wavelength solutions for remote sensing applications and non-invasive imaging technology for health care, life sciences/biotechnology, and DoD/Homeland Security applications.

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\$1 Million for Fosta-Tek's Development of Soldier Combat Optics This funding will be used to help Fosta-Tek, a company in Leominster, transition specialty combat optics products for our military away from glass (much of which comes from overseas) and toward lightweight and lower-cost polymers that are designed and manufactured in the U.S.

Congressman John Olver said, "This project makes good sense from both an economic and scientific point of view. Our soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan operate in desert climates and uncertain terrain. The environment is especially harsh on specialty optics. Not only are

polymers better suited than glass to withstand environmental difficulties, but polymer-based products are also lighter, less expensive, and can be produced right here at home.”

Fosta-Tek’s market focus is providing superior polymer-based optical products and solutions to industrial, military and OEM markets, including automotive, safety, medical and consumer eyewear. Fosta-Tek employs over 100 people and operates from 70,000 square feet of production and office space.

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