

PRESS RELEASE

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Vermont Senator Leahy Instrumental In Securing Funds...

Air Force Awards \$910,000 Contract to Ascension

Reprinted With Permission from Senator Patrick Leahy's Office

BURLINGTON, VERMONT, June 1, 2006: Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) recently announced that Ascension Technology Corporation of Milton has been awarded a \$910,000 contract from the U.S. Air Force to fund the first phase development of a new, advanced optical tracking technology.

Ascension Technology designs and develops tracking and guidance devices for commercial and medical applications. In 2002, it developed the preliminary model of *phasorBIRD*, a state-of-the art technology for tracking movements of a pilot's head with high accuracy and speed. It enables pilots to aim weapons, acquire mission-critical information, and receive self-protection prompts by looking at a target through a graphical icon superimposed on the pilot's visor.

"Vermont businesses continue to be on the cutting edge of new technology," said Leahy. "Ascension's *phasorBIRD* will enable our Air Force pilots to successfully fulfill their missions, while giving them another line of defense in protecting themselves from harm."

"We're proud to play a role in developing mission-critical technology for the armed services," said Ascension president, Ernest Blood. "This contract will get us one step closer to closing the loop between man and machine in air and land combat vehicles."

The contract funds the first of a four-phase program for development and testing of the *phasorBIRD* in high performance technical aircraft. The initial phase will focus on improvement to reduce system complexity and cost, while improving performance.

Leahy is a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and of its Defense Subcommittee, which handles the Senate's work in writing the annual Defense Department budget bill, which includes the Air Force's budget.

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