



Federal Support for Ascension Projects Generates Positive Results in Vermont Economy

BURLINGTON, VERMONT; May 13, 2010: In the past four years, **Ascension Technology**, a leading developer of tracking sensors for medical, real-time visualization, and military applications, has received \$4.4 million in federal funding thanks to the longstanding advocacy and support of U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT).

Federal dollars, supported through U.S. Air Force contracts, have developed phasorBIRD, a breakthrough optical head tracking system. Simply put, it tracks a pilot's head to aim weapons and see real-time threats through imagery on a helmet-mounted. Developmental work is "dual use" meaning the same technology has commercial use. Emerging applications are being pursued in civil aviation, medical imaging, and flight simulation.

The impact of significant federal support to a small Vermont firm goes far beyond advancing Ascension's cutting edge technology. Earmark contracts also make Ascension a strong contributor to the Vermont economy. Each year the company spends approximately **\$500,000** on goods and services provided by two-dozen Vermont suppliers.

Key suppliers range from professional consultants to specialty shops that help fabricate plastic and metal components for R&D as well as manufacturing purposes. Precision Contract Manufacturing in Springfield is one example of the kind of services purchased on a recurring basis. It is responsible for populating Ascension-designed electronic boards with components for final assembly and ultimate shipment to customers around the globe.

According to Gary Walz, Ascension's Operations Manager, "Vermont suppliers are a key part of our success. They are highly professional, responsive, and most importantly, really care about our business. We couldn't do it without them."

Ascension Technology Corporation makes magnetic and optical tracking devices for global markets at its facility in Catamount Industrial Park, Milton, VT. Visit www.ascension-tech.com for more information.