

Vermont's Senator Leahy Supports Vital R&D at Ascension Technology with Critical Earmark Funding

BURLINGTON, VERMONT; January 11, 2010: U. S. Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) today visited **Ascension Technology Corporation** (Milton, VT) to get a firsthand look at work Ascension and two neighboring high-tech companies are doing with Department of Defense funds he secured for research and development.



U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy speaks at Ascension Technology on January 11, 2010. Vermont's senior senator commended Ascension and two other hi-tech companies, Omni Medical Systems and Liquid Measurements Systems, in Vermont's I-89 North Corridor as "bright spots" in a tough economy.

Ascension has used its support to develop phasorBIRD, a world-class optical tracking device that instantly tracks a pilot's head movements (using emitters on a helmet or headset) for target acquisition and synthetic vision. Synthetic vision uses head tracking, GPS, radar, and digital

visualization technologies to provide pilots with a clear 3D view of approaching terrain -- even in the worst weather and brownout conditions. A new spin-off of the technology is also being developed to help control the aim of radiation beams in cancer therapy.

Under the direction of the Air Force Research Laboratory, Ascension is focusing R&D on all three applications. The program is positioning phasorBIRD to meet rigorous flight safety, logistical support, and performance demands of new tactical aircraft while jumpstarting the prototyping of the “dual use” variants.

In highlighting successes to date, Leahy extolled Ascension, Omni Medical Systems, and Liquid Measurement Systems as “bright spots” in a “difficult national recession.” According to Leahy, “the I-89 North Corridor between Milton and Georgia has great things happening along it – and these three firms are delivering more than great jobs to Vermonters, they are also delivering vitally important systems to the Department of Defense.”

At Ascension, the current round of work will notably expand phasorBIRD’s commercial utility. Vice President Jack Scully states: “At the time of our first earmark, we had identified one use for the technology. We are now pursuing three hot applications. Our goal is to leverage funding to expand Ascension by offering the military better technology and the commercial world safer ways of doing things.”

Ascension Technology Corporation makes magnetic and optical tracking devices for military, commercial, and medical applications. For more information, visit www.ascension-tech.com.

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