

find stuff **find a job** **SWOP**
classifieds.com

Journal-News.com

A product of The Journal News, Hamilton, Ohio

SEARCH:

Journal-News

Web

News

Sports

Money

Features

Community

Classifieds

Shop & Save

Tell me how to:

[Buy a subscription](#)
[Buy a print ad](#)
[Buy an online ad](#)
[Reach newsroom](#)
[Reach web staff](#)
[Write to the editor](#)
[Set my homepage](#)

Local engineering company receives \$35M from Navy

By Jaclyn Giovis

WEST CHESTER TOWNSHIP ‹ As the nation moves closer to possible war with Iraq, a Butler County company ‹ Nova Engineering Inc. ‹ has been awarded a \$35 million contract by the U.S. Navy to make specialized sensors that detect enemy movements.

The Naval Surface Warfare Center in Crane, Ind., granted the West Chester company the contract through 2007 to manufacture a maximum of 300 hand-held programmer monitors and 1,125 miniature ground sensors that soldiers can use to track enemy movements and other dynamics of a battlefield.

"It's the battlefield of the future," said Kevin Bobier, vice president of Nova Engineering.

Before sensor communication technology, soldier-scouts were sent onto the battlefield to

scavenge for information about the enemy's location and activity. They had to report back on their findings and complete their mission without getting caught, said Michael Rauf, director of marketing and sales for Nova.

Now, unattended ground

sensors can be buried in rugged terrain, submerged and even dropped by helicopter, to report the slightest movement, vibration and temperature variance in

an enemy zone. And with the hand-held monitors, soldiers will have access to this information while stationed a safe distance from the enemy troops, Rauf said.

"It's hard to believe that this kind of technology is in the backyard of Hamilton and Cincinnati," Rauf said. "We're competing against giant companies out there and we're winning in niche markets. Information is going to win future wars and what we're doing is making the link between the pieces."

Bobier said the military is trying to spend less money on big tanks and heavy artillery and instead use smaller, lighter vehicles for the nation's ground defense ‹ a move that will save the government millions of dollars in the long run.

Featur
ARE
So
MAF



Do Y
Fir
C



How
Se

"The problem is, they're easier to blow up," he said. "You need to have a real clear idea where the bad guys are before you go in there. These sensors are the smart boxes out on the battlefield that detect the enemy long before they can be seen by a soldier."

The government typically spends \$5,000 to \$10,000 on rugged-terrain monitors or tactical radio equipment, Bobier said.

"The unattended ground sensor business is a key component of Nova's thrust into the future," he said.

He noted that the company has researched and designed military technology equipment since its first contract with the Army in May 1992, but hopes to continue attracting more programs with a manufacturing content.

Nova has 75 employees, the majority of whom are engineers or technicians. The company is 100 percent employee-owned.

✉ [Email this page to a friend](#)

By using this service you accept the terms of our [Visitor Agreement](#).
Registered site users, to edit your personal profile, [click here](#).

© 2002 Cox Newspapers, Inc.
[The Journal News](#) and [Cox Interactive Media](#)
[Privacy Policy](#) | [About this site](#) | [Write to us](#)