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Space Photonics starts four new SBIR contracts valued at \$1.05 million

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (July 12, 2006) - Space Photonics, Inc., an Arkansas company that develops, markets and sells optical networking systems and components specifically designed to address the high reliability requirements of military and commercial aircraft and spacecraft, has started work on four new Department of Defense (DOD) Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) contracts totaling \$1.05 million. These include a new \$750,000 Phase II contract through Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. Additionally, they received three new DOD Phase I SBIR contracts valued at \$100,000 for six-month efforts that are eligible for Phase II programs worth \$750,000 each. Two of the newly awarded Phase I efforts are being supported by the Naval Surface Warfare Center and the third is being supported by the Army's Redstone Arsenal.

The new contracts will expand the company's technology core by developing advanced anti-tamper technologies for weapons systems and advanced electronics including the company's laser communications systems. The technologies target a rapidly growing requirement in DOD programs to develop systems that cannot be tampered with or "reverse-engineered." The programs will continue to enhance the development of Space Photonics "Intelligent Communications" product lines.

The principal investigators who authored the proposals are Matt Leftwich and Jason Sattler. Leftwich leads Space Photonics' fiber optics, networking components, and qualifications testing groups, while Sattler leads the software and anti-tamper electronics development programs.

Since starting business in 1999 in Fayetteville, Space Photonics has received over \$6.5 million in SBIR contract awards. In September 2005, the company started work on a four - year \$16.2 million program for the Air Force developing specific space worthy optical communications systems. The company is a recipient of the Small Business Administration's Tibbetts Award, given to the most innovative American small businesses and offered to companies who provide outstanding SBIR leadership in each state, region, and across the nation. In February 2004, Space Photonics became the first Arkansas company to receive the Arkansas' Federal Research and Development tax incentive that will match up to 33% of federally funded R&D programs.

Space Photonics' products enable aerospace designers to embed high-capacity, optical networking capabilities into their systems. The company continues its collaborations with the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and at Little Rock, the Arkansas Science and Technology Authority (ASTA), and the Arkansas Department of Economic Development (ADED). For additional information about Space Photonics, visit the company web site at www.spacephotonics.com or contact Shonna Butler at (479) 575-5221 or subtler@spacephotonics.com

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