

WTAJ-TV

Showcase for Commerce a Success

Reported by: Sean Dreher
Friday, May 30, 2008 @05:14pm EST

JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY --- The annual Showcase for Commerce in Johnstown has come a long way since its humble beginnings 18 years ago.

"It took us years before we got to the point where we could go over to the War Memorial. Now it's gotten to the point where we have to turn people away, and that's really a tough decision," Rep. John Murtha (D., Johnstown) said.

The Cambria County War Memorial was once again filled to capacity. Several local companies are walking away from this year's show with multimillion dollar defense contracting deals.

Concurrent Technologies Corporation signed an agreement with the U.S. Army worth \$45 million. CTC will be developing satellite technology to provide support, education, and training to soldiers in the field.

"The capabilities with satellite communications are tremendous these days, but the soldier has to be trained on how to utilize that," President Daniel DeVos said.

M.T.S. Technologies will also be joining forces with the Army. They entered into two agreements worth more than \$27 million. M.T.S. will work with Army demolition teams to develop mine countermeasures.

"We will help them explore new technologies in those areas. One to protect the soldiers and also ways to diffuse those detonators to make it safer for the soldiers," C.E.O. Daniel Perkins said.

Their deals will also bring at least 30 new jobs to the region. The defense contracting industry has grown and developed just as much as showcase itself over the last 18 years. They've both played huge roles in redeveloping the region's economy.

"It all ties in together. It's been a key element. The big thing is the work ethic of the people in the area. They do good work. They save money for the government, and that's what it's all about," Murtha said.

To date the showcase has been credited with bringing more than \$2 billion worth of industry to the greater Johnstown region.