



News from Congressman Mike Simpson

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Simpson Secures Funding for Idaho Falls, Blackfoot, Pocatello Based Projects

Funding provided for INL, ISU, Premier Technologies, and ON Semiconductor

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, has secured funding for various Eastern Idaho projects including \$2 million for the Hybrid Energy Systems Design at the INL. The funding is part of the Conference Report for the FY2010 Defense Appropriations Bill. The legislation passed the House with a final vote of 395-34.

“Idaho is home to some of the most innovative people in our nation and this money will directly fund research that will enhance our armed services in multiple ways,” said Simpson. “Our military must be on the cutting edge and that means developing new technologies. I’m extremely proud of Idaho’s contribution to our national security and look forward to seeing these projects evolve.”

The bill contains funding for the following projects:

\$2,000,000 for Material, Design, and Fabrication Solutions for Advanced SEAL Delivery System (ASDS) with Premier Technology. Premier Technology Inc. will work with the Idaho National Lab and the U.S. Navy to provide material, design and fabrication solutions for ASDS external structural components. This project will assist the Navy in bringing ASDS to its fullest operational capability by addressing challenges that it faces in key material issues.

\$2,000,000 for Accelerator-Driven Non-Destructive Testing at Idaho State University. The Idaho Accelerator Center (IAC) will develop a research, education and commercialization program that takes non-destructive testing techniques developed at the IAC and advances their development. The development of practical non-destructive testing (NDT) techniques will help the U.S. Air Force reduce aircraft downtime necessary for inspection and enhance turn-around times by quickly identifying needed repairs through spectroscopy and the use of x-ray. The development of practical NDT techniques will be of immense value to the armed forces in critical areas including quicker return of aircraft to the line by reducing the tear-downs necessary for inspection and non-destructively addressing the enormous 'aging fleet' problem of the U.S.A.F.

\$2,000,000 for Hybrid Energy Systems Design and Testing at the Idaho National Laboratory. The Hybrid Energy Systems Development and Testing Program will provide the Army transformational technologies that advance Army leadership in global energy security and carbon reduction. Hybrid energy concepts provided through this program could allow the Army to simultaneously address energy supply (electrical grid and fuel supply) security and surety, environmental (CO2) footprint reduction, and provide national economic benefits. This program will provide a foundation for Army leadership in clean, smart, secure energy for future defense and non-defense applications.

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\$1,600,000 for Radiation Hardened Cryogenic Read Out Integrated Circuits at ON Semiconductor. Readout integrated circuits (ROIC) are the foundation of thermal imaging systems. These systems have forever changed modern warfare and surveillance. The United States Air Force and the Missile Defense Agency have been investigating ways to improve manufacturing capabilities and improve cryogenic and radiation performance of these circuits. The thermal imagers of the future will operate in harsh environmental conditions for longer periods of time and will have increased resolution (through increased pixel count) than the detectors of today. Maintaining a domestic source of this technology, as well as working to enhance the manufacturing capabilities of this critical technology, are as equally important as increasing the yield.

The legislation is expected to be approved by the U.S. Senate sometime this weekend. This is the last of the 12 appropriations bills to be passed by Congress, and marks the completion of the appropriations process for FY2010.

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