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News

Armor Dynamics in line for \$2M

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KINGSTON — Kingston Business Park tenant Armor Dynamics is expected to receive \$2 million in Pentagon funds slated to be voted on by the U.S. House of Representatives this week, it was announced Monday.

U.S. Rep. Maurice Hinchey, D-Hurley, said \$900,000 is scheduled to be spent on construction of a ballistics laboratory for testing explosive-resistant material and another \$1.1 million will be for product development in advance of marketing.

“I am very confident that this is going to move forward very smoothly and very securely primarily because it’s so clear, so obvious, how important this legislation is and how significant this particular small (amount of money in) this bill (which) is going to be so significantly important to the future of the military,” he said.

About 50 people gathered for the press conference in the 12,000-square-foot Armor Dynamics building that was completed about a year ago. Company officials reported currently employing seven people and plan to add 5 to 10 jobs in engineering and material scientist positions during the coming year to work on a thermoplastic infusion process.

“This machine ... produces high-quality, lightweight ballistic armor panels for use in vehicle and body armor, and buildings,” company officials said in a press release.

“These panels will be sold to the Department of Defense and to independent contractors. The (equipment) will add 20 to 25 employees in positions ranging from forklift operators to material engineers.”

Armor Dynamics Chief Executive Officer David Warren said the equipment will be able to fabricate many types of equipment.

“We look at materials as well as process and this is how we’re able to be very confident in saying we are leading the industry in composite armor,” he said.

“We will have the ability to manufacture armor at a speed equivalent to 20 companies in the current process,” Warren said. “This is one example of how we can compete on a global market as an armor company.”

Warren said the material can be used in construction to improve the strength of buildings.

“Part of the program is to better protect housing,” he said. “We’re working with the University of Maine right now. For example, this material and the knowledge that we’ve gained from armor can directly be applied to building structure to better protect it from hurricanes and tornadoes.”

Hinchey said there is no irony in his description of the invasion of Iraq as an illegal use of the military while promoting the use of military spending for economic development at the Kingston Business Park.

“I’m very happy that it’s happening here in our city of Kingston and the affect it’s likely to have on the economic circumstances here in the Hudson Valley producing something that is essential, that is necessary, that is going to be better than what is used and produced now,” he said.

“Wherever our military goes they need to be protected as much as possible,” Hinchey said. “That’s what we’re doing here. This is a new design, new equipment, which is thinner, lighter, more strong, and less penetrable.”

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