

Nancy Johnson



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Johnson Announces \$1 Million Defense Project to Create Jobs at Ensign Bickford in Simsbury

SIMSBURY, CT – Congresswoman Nancy Johnson today announced Simsbury’s Ensign Bickford company will benefit from a \$1 million defense project to create jobs and strengthen America’s national defense.

Johnson secured the \$1 million defense project for Ensign Bickford in the fiscal year 2005 defense appropriations bill, which passed earlier this year. The fiscal year 2005 Defense authorization bill passed last week. This new funding comes after Johnson secured \$3 million the 2004 defense appropriations bills.

“This project and funding will boost Ensign Bickford, allowing them to grow and create jobs, while ensuring our Armed Forces have the most modern tools to defend America,” Johnson said.

“We thank Congresswoman Nancy Johnson for fighting for Ensign Bickford workers,” said Michael Pitcher, General Manager of Ensign Bickford Aerospace and Defense Company of Simsbury. “She has helped created Connecticut jobs and improve America’s defense capability.”

The funding Johnson secured will go to procure modernized demolition initiators, or MDI.

MDI are a family of non-electric initiation devices used for military demolitions, explosive ordinance disposal, and other special mission requirements. MDI are safer in the modern electronic battlespace, more reliable, more interoperable with existing demolition systems, and provide greater flexibility given expected future mission requirements.

MDI are 40 percent lighter than existing initiators and can be more easily carried by an individual Soldier or Marine. This funding will procure further MDI for the military, which are currently being used in Afghanistan for cave-clearing missions and in the Balkans for ordinance disposal.

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