

October 24, 2007

The Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division Wins FLC Mid-Atlantic Region Technology Transfer Award for Threat Containment Unit

The Mid-Atlantic Region of the Federal Laboratory Consortium this year presented the Regional Excellence in Technology Transfer Honorable Mention Award to Mr. William H. Hoffman, Mr. David T. Wilson, Mr. Reeg Allen and Mr. Randy Markey of the Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division for work entitled "Threat Containment Unit."

In March 2005, Mr. Reeg Allen, a consultant with FirstLink, the nation's first National Center of Excellence for First Responder Technologies, was reviewing patents in search of technology to support first responders when he came across an explosive containment device patented by the Navy in 2001. The Threat Containment Unit (TCU), as the device was called, had been developed by Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division (NSWCCD) engineers Mr. David Wilson and Mr. William Hoffman in the late 1990s at the request of the FAA to contain and transport airport baggage suspected of carrying bombs or other explosives. It is an easily maneuverable, 72x34x48 in. steel vessel lined with polyurethane foam that fits through a 36-in.-wide door. While lightweight, it's built to handle a relatively large bomb. Although the project had been temporarily sidetracked by the events of 9/11 and the subsequent establishment of the Transportation Security Administration and its integration into the Department of Homeland Security, the technology had lost none of its vitality. In fact, the need for the TCU is greater today than ever before. Transferring this technology would not only make the country's airports safer, it would also save millions of dollars. With the TCU, when suspect baggage is identified by TSA personnel, it can quickly be loaded into the TCU and moved to a remote location where the local bomb squad can deal with it. The alternative is to shut down the airport, at an estimated cost of \$15,000 per minute, and wait for the bomb squad. Mr. Allen contacted NSWCCD and Nabco, Inc., a leading manufacturer in explosion containment vessels. Both parties were interested in pursuing the transfer, and with the help of FirstLink, NSWCCD and Nabco were able to come to an agreement that met each party's needs. Nabco was granted a partially exclusive license in June 2006. Thanks to an innovative team effort, the TCU is now available to the more than 400 U.S. commercial hub airports as well as other civilian and military users, a multi-million dollar market. No other containment device on the market today combines the TCU's small footprint and high-explosive capacity, giving Nabco a decisive competitive edge. Nabco's customer base includes more than 90 percent of the bomb squads in the country. This foundation and its global distribution channels ensure that the TCU will play a vital role in improving security in airport facilities all around the world.

One of the most coveted awards in the field of technology transfer, FLC awards for Excellence in Technology Transfer recognize laboratory employees who have accomplished outstanding work in the process of transferring Federally-developed technology to the marketplace. The award was made on September 21 at the region's annual meeting.

The Federal Laboratory Consortium is comprised of the technology transfer offices of all of the Federal laboratories throughout the country while its Mid-Atlantic Region focuses on the 70 Federal laboratories in DC, DE, MD, PA, VA and WV.

For more information contact: Federal Laboratory Consortium, Mid-Atlantic Region Support Office, Phone: 407-947-6443, Fax: 812-256-4492, e-mail: jeichelberger@pendulumsite.com, www.flcmidatlantic.org