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Applied Wireless Local Area Network (AWLAN) Receives TEDCO Grant to Build Innovative Wireless (Prototype) Tracking Device to Assist Dismounted Soldiers

Rockville, MD – Applied Wireless Local Area Network (AWLAN), a Rockville Innovation Center-based company focused on the research, design, installation and maintenance of wireless local area networks announced that it was awarded a $75,000 grant by The Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) under the Maryland Research Applied Science Consortium (MRASC). The funds were shared with Morgan State University and funded by The Applied Research Development Project (ARDP) through Fort Detrick in Maryland. AWLAN developed a prototype device that seamlessly tracks dismounted soldiers both indoors and outsides where Global Positioning Systems (GPS) systems fail due to signal sensitivity issues. Undergraduate students with Morgan State University School of Engineering performed the prototype testing. Likewise, AWLAN received a letter of support from the Communications-Electronics Research, Development, and Engineering Center (CERDEC), the Army Tactical Wireless Division in Fort Monmouth, New Jersey.

“One mission of the U.S. Army and Marines is to utilize and exploit current technology, including Non-Development Items (NDI) and Commercial Off-The-Shelf (COTS) equipment to develop wireless communications networks for Dismounted Soldiers,” said Jonathan Walker, President and CEO of AWLAN. “As a former Marine, AWLAN is continually looking for new technologies that will provide the warfigther with the best but most affordable technology to execute the mission. We are pleased to receive the support of CERDEC, funding from TEDCO, and partner with Morgan State University to develop this tracking device for my fellow Marines and troops in general on-the-frontline.”

ARDP awards funding to Maryland’s Historically Black Colleges, Universities, and minority serving institutions (e.g., Bowie State University, Coppin State University, Morgan State University, Sojourner-Douglass College, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore) that increase research capacity by meeting the technological needs of the U. S. Army while providing collaborate opportunities for Maryland owned businesses.

Similar to CERDEC, the DoD has an interest in developing this technology because there are numerous Cellular and Global Positioning Systems (GPS) on the market today but the receiving devices typically do not work indoors due to sensitivity levels. This research was focused on overcoming challenges in seamless tracking with cellular or GPS technology such as channel fading, low signal-to-noise ratios (SNRs), and multipath conditions in military environments.

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About AWLAN
Applied Wireless Local Area Network, Inc. (AWLAN) mission is to supply end-users with innovative WLAN devices and the ability to roam freely while remaining connected to high-speed wireless Internet access. AWLAN key product is a patent pending Location Base System (LBS) that seamlessly track assets both indoors and outdoors. Incorporated in 2001, AWLAN is certified as a Veteran Owned Small Business (VOSB) and SBA Small Disadvantage Business (SDB); visit www.AppliedWLAN.com, Myspace – http://www.myspace.com/JohnnyWiPhi, or Facebook – Johnny Wi-Phi.

About TEDCO
The Maryland General Assembly established the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO), an independent entity, in 1998 to facilitate the creation of businesses and foster their growth in all regions of the State. TEDCO's role is to be Maryland's leading source of funding for seed capital and entrepreneurial business assistance for the development, transfer and commercialization of technology. TEDCO connects emerging technology companies with federal laboratories, research universities, business incubators and specialized technical assistance. For the fifth consecutive year, TEDCO was recognized as the most active seed/early-stage investor in the nation in the August 2008 issue of Entrepreneur magazine and received the national Excellence in Technology-Based Economic Development award from the State Science and Technology Institute (SSTI) for the Maryland Technology Transfer Fund (MTTF) program in October 2008. For more information on TEDCO and its programs and resources, visit www.MarylandTEDCO.org.

About ARDP
TEDCO, the Maryland Research and Applied Sciences Consortium (MRASC) and the U. S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC) at Fort Detrick have established the Applied Research Development Project (ARDP) to investigate solutions for problems related to military and civilian medical science and technology, operational requirements, military threat assessments, and national defense strategies. The Maryland Congressional Delegation led by Senator Barbara Mikulski made the project possible with $936,000 in funding which has awarded over 10 science and technology projects since its inception, visit https://mrmc.amedd.army.mil.

About CERDEC
Communications-Electronics Research, Development, and Engineering Center (CERDEC) develops and integrates C4ISR technologies that enable the warfighter to sense the battle space; deny and disrupt enemy efforts; and remain “connected” to achieve and sustain information superiority, strike with decisive lethality and survive. CERDEC’s government-unique and world-unique facilities support a broad range of technical areas that leverage expertise in the radio/digital/electronic realms of information technology and systems engineering including command and control, communications, computers, electronic warfare, and sensors. CERDEC is headquartered at Fort Monmouth, N.J. with facilities at nearbyFort Dix, N.J. and Fort Belvoir, Va., visit http://www.cerdec.army.mil/about/index.asp