

News Release

Humansystems[®] Incorporated (HSI[®])



Guelph, Ontario, Canada
Date of release: 31st August 2004

Guelph firm leads team to win DND Technology Demonstration contract for new Soldier Integrated Headwear System (SIHS)

Humansystems[®] Incorporated (HSI[®]), based in Guelph, Ontario, and its technology partners have been awarded a three year, multi-million dollar Research and Development contract called the Soldier Integrated Headwear System (SIHS) by the Canadian Department of National Defence.

So that Canadian infantry soldiers can get the best, this project will assess the potential of leading edge technologies in computer supported vision and hearing, advanced sensor systems, and personal protection to be part of a fully integrated, 'computerized' helmet system. A core component of this research will be extensive and realistic field trials with serving soldiers. Helmet integration options to be tested range from add-ons for existing helmets to a new fully encapsulated helmet system. Computer modelling and simulation of prototypes will be key tools to understand and meet user needs.

"This team will work to ensure that new technologies serve the real needs of soldiers on the ground, not the other way around," says David Tack, Project Leader for HSI[®]. *"Winning this challenging contract confirms HSI[®]'s leadership in integrating cutting edge technologies into creative and innovative solutions that work for real people in high risk jobs."*

The SIHS contract has been let under the auspices of the Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC) Technology Demonstration Program designed to meet the challenges of Canadian defence capability development and to demonstrate the ability of new and emerging technologies to meet defence needs.

HSI[®] specialises in leading edge Human Factors R&D to determine the best fit between emerging technologies and the needs of human users to meet real life mission requirements, and to help manage procurement risks. As prime contractor for the SIHS TD program, HSI[®] will work closely with DRDC-Toronto and the Canadian Army's Directorate of Land Requirements to integrate the contribution of the different project team members: Mine Safety Appliances Canada, Oerlikon Contraves; Hetherington Welch Design Ltd; and Biokinetics and Associates Limited. (See profiles attached.).

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About Humansystems^o Incorporated



Humansystems^o Incorporated is a full service, human factors consulting firm, located in Guelph, Ontario, Canada. Founded in 1982, the firm has a strong client base in defence research and development, and in other operationally, technically and organizationally complex environments including transportation, nuclear power, and other industries. Humansystems^o is a privately owned Canadian company.

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About Oerlikon Contraves Inc.



Oerlikon-Contraves is a diversified high technology systems integrator, specializing in advanced air defence systems, sophisticated command and control systems, maritime communications systems as well as embedded software. The company is a leader in developing integrated solutions for the Canadian Army Transformation program. Oerlikon has many international customers and is currently teamed with Sagem of France to jointly develop the French Army's future soldier systems (FELIN). Oerlikon is a member of the Oerlikon Contraves Group, an affiliate of the Rheinmetall DeTec AG organization.

Rheinmetall AG is a privately-owned, diversified German multinational specializing in the automotive, and defence sectors with over 21,000 employees worldwide and annual sales of over 5B Euro.

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About Mine Safety Appliances



Mine Safety Appliances Company, or MSA, is an international company with sales throughout the world. Established in 1918, MSA is in the business of developing, manufacturing and selling innovative products to enhance the safety and health of workers throughout the world. The firm brings a long and wide ranging work history in the analysis of requirements for helmet/protective headwear systems, the design of headwear systems, the development/production of headwear systems, and the design, development, and integration of soldier protective technologies (head, vision, hearing, respiratory including CB). They also bring extensive corporate experience creating prototypes of headwear systems, including digital designs, and low volume functional/operational prototype manufacture for evaluation purposes.

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About Hetherington Welch Design Ltd



Hetherington Welch Design is a "one-source" product development consultant. Created in 1985, they have "hands-on" experience with the most sophisticated manufacturing processes such as injection moulding and in-house prototyping. Their team of industrial designers, mechanical designers and production experts, combined with the most advanced design and manufacturing computer technology, provides clients with full service capabilities for product design and development needs. The firm is located in Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada.

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About Biokinetics and Associates Ltd.



Biokinetics and Associates Limited is a privately owned Canadian corporation founded in 1975 and located in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, serving a large variety of international clients. The firm provides engineered solutions to human impact protection for sports, transportation and defence/law enforcement applications. The company brings to the team decades of experience in head injury protection, helmet system design and helmet standards development, ballistic impact and blunt trauma testing, and leading edge research into explosive effects and blast protection.

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