



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
ARMY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND ENGINEERING COMMAND  
BENET LABORATORIES  
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ISO 9001 Certified  
Certificate Number FS15149

9 December 2009

The Honorable John W. Olver  
United States House of Representatives  
1111 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515-2101

Dear Representative Olver:

The US Army Benet Laboratories is currently working with the Western Massachusetts Chapter of the National Tooling and Machining Association in the development and implementation of the Center for Advanced Precision Manufacturing Technology. America's national security needs must not be dependent on foreign sources for the manufacturing technology required to produce critical components nor can America's national and economic security withstand a manufacturing technology gap vis-à-vis our foreign competitors. Add to this the shrinking number of precision machine shops on shore and the defense requirements of a robust base of shops that can meet the evolving technological requirements of the military with cost effective solutions. We see the Center as vital in providing a critical response to these needs.

All of their activities are synergistically tied and focused on providing vital technical capabilities for us. Their technical services and shared resources for small businesses, manufacturing technology development, workforce development/education program, early stage prototyping/pre-product pilot, and facility and capital equipment for advance fabrication and test are all perfectly aligned to bring about this crucial capability. In addition to the benefits to DoD of this effort, the local area will benefit from the coordinated and innovative training for advanced manufacturing technologies resulting in competitiveness and business growth of small business. In short, the center will strengthen the US manufacturing supply chain, keep critical defense manufacturing capabilities on shore, develop the local economy, and protect/create jobs.

Benét Laboratories enthusiastically supports our continued partnership in this area and recognizes the Western Massachusetts Chapter of the National Tooling and Machining Association's leadership position in supporting and driving the development of this initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Dillon, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert E. Dillon, Jr., Ph.D., P.E.  
Chief Science Advisor