

\$2 Million in Federal Funds Will Create a Homeland Security Research, Development and Manufacturing Consortium

Bay Shore, NY— Monday, U.S. Reps. Steve Israel (D-NY), Peter King (R-NY), and Ken Morrelly, President of the Long Island Forum for Technology, announced federal funds for a homeland security initiative to make scientific theories into usable realities. The \$2 million in federal funding will create a Homeland Security Research, Development and Manufacturing Consortium on Long Island. The goal of the consortium is to adapt and commercialize technologies developed in national labs so they can be put to use by our first responders.

“The men and women who serve on the frontlines in our nations homeland security efforts deserve the best technology science can offer,” Israel said. “This new consortium will take technology from the lab to the street and give our first responders the equipment they need to get the job done.”

“Long Island has been a long-time leader in the science and technology industry, and this funding will lead to further gains in the homeland security industrial base.” said King. “The \$2 million we secured for the consortium will create more cutting-edge and less-costly tools for our first responders, as well as invest in manufacturing partnerships that will lower the cost of homeland security systems and contribute to the region’s economic growth.”

Often, technologies designed in a laboratory environment are initially too costly for mass production. Manufacturing knowledge is required to get these technologies into the marketplace. The goal of the consortium is to bring together businesses, including the labs, manufacturers and end-users, to find a way to make expensive early-stage technologies into affordable, useful devices.

The consortium will be administered by the Long Island Forum for Technology and housed in the Homeland Security Center in Bethpage. The Center can accommodate up to 21 businesses who will work in small teams on specific projects. Participants will likely include Northrop Grumman, BAE Systems, Balfour Technologies, PMC, Retlif Testing Laboratories and Brookhaven National Labs, among others.

The consortium is designed to replicate the Department of Defense's successful ManTech (Manufacturing Technology) Project within the Department of Homeland Security. The ManTech project has been in existence for nearly 10 years and has saved millions in federal dollars by providing technology to our frontline service members in an accelerated timeframe.

The funds are included as part of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2009. The bill passed the full House Appropriations Committee on June 24, 2008. It will now move to the full House of Representatives for consideration. Additional funding for the initiative has been secured on the state level by Sen. Dean Skelos.