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HEADLINE: Bodkin Design awarded contract to develop multi-band imaging module for the U.S. Navy

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Bodkin Design & Engineering, LLC has been awarded a \$750,000 development contract from the U. S. Navy. The two year project is sponsored by the Naval Air Warfare Center in China Lake California under the Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) program. The developed system will be capable of producing co-registered video imagery from the Visible, Mid Wave Infrared, and Long Wave Infrared spectral bands. This will enhance the capability of reconnaissance and targeting systems by providing high-resolution daytime imagery and darkness penetrating infrared imagery for nighttime operation. The patent-pending device will provide a standard module that will be applicable across multiple military systems. Demonstration tests are slated for fall of 2004.

The core technology of the compact system is a multi-band imaging module. This module will enable the military's unmanned surveillance planes to more effectively identify targets by both their visible appearance and their thermal signature (detected in the infrared). Current approaches to EO/IR imaging using dedicated hardware are limited to single system applications. The unique modular design developed under this program will provide a general-purpose instrument capable of operation across a wide range of platforms. This module is adaptable to various platforms such as unmanned aerial vehicles, robotic ground vehicles, search and rescue imagers, and targeting and gun control. Additionally, it can provide visible and infrared data for missile guidance for both man-in-the-loop and automatic target recognition systems. Civilian applications include perimeter surveillance, biomedical detection and homeland security systems.

The project is funded under the SBIR program, which sponsors innovative research by small business entities. This highly successful program is far more efficient at implementing new concepts than the traditional channels through large government contracts. This project will reduce the Navy's overall system development time and expense, thereby enhancing the military's capabilities and provide cost savings to the taxpayer.

About Bodkin Design & Engineering

Bodkin Design and Engineering, LLC is headquartered in Wellesley Massachusetts and provides product development, innovation, and engineering services to the industrial, commercial, military, and research communities. Founded in 1988, the firm has developed numerous patented devices and overseen the successful introduction of a diverse spectrum of products including miniature infrared cameras, dental imagers, and spectroscopic instruments for drug discovery. To learn more visit our website at www.bodkindesign.com.