



**Aero Gear Inc.**

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**AERO GEAR CONTRACT TO HELP KEEP ARMY CHOPPERS SHIP-SHAPE;  
SEN. DODD ANNOUNCES CONTRACT EXTENSION**

WINDSOR, CT, April 15, 2009 – U.S. Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.) today announced that Aero Gear, Inc., has been awarded a \$1 million contract extension from the federal government for continuing research and development of technology to refurbish or “re-manufacture” components for military aircraft.

Sen. Dodd announced the award during ceremonies at the company’s Windsor headquarters today. The early stages of the contract already is allowing the company to refurbish or replace gears and gear assemblies for military aircraft that are no longer in production. As these parts are no longer available from other sources, the aircraft would be grounded permanently if not for the Aero Gear program.

“Aero Gear and their hardworking employees play a critical role in keeping our nation safe and ensuring that Connecticut remains on the cutting edge of important military technology,” Sen. Dodd said. “Over the past few years, I have been able to secure \$5.3 million in federal assistance for Aero Gear to develop the technology that keeps our military planes and helicopters in the air and in a state of readiness. I look forward to working with Aero Gear as they continue to expand and grow.”

The “re-engineering” contract was awarded from the U.S. Army’s Benet Laboratories, Watervliet Arsenal, NY. It will help the military keep older fixed wing aircraft and helicopters properly maintained and available when needed.

In recent years, the army has experienced increased pressure to find sources for parts for aircraft no longer in production. Original manufacturers of the aircraft have either gone

out of business or discontinued supplying many components. Others, swallowed through industry consolidation, no longer produce the specialized components needed for older aircraft.

The contract allows Aero Gear to hone its state-of-the-art software for creation of manufacturing models and procedures for key components. Instead of a trial and error process typical of past re-engineering projects, Aero Gear's computer simulations enable a more accurate and rapid jump into production or refurbishing of the parts.

Both the original Aero Gear contract and today's extension, valued at \$5.3 million combined, are a direct result of efforts by Sen. Dodd, according to Aero Gear President Douglas B. Rose.

"Under this contract, our company has developed engineering methods to allow the military to repair gears and gear assemblies, rather than discard them," Rose said. "We have found that refurbishing gears and gear assemblies tends to save the military 50 percent of the cost of a complete replacement of the component."

"This was demonstrated in a pilot program for the U.S. Army's Corpus Christi facility, where we used our new technology to successfully refurbish components for Apache, Blackhawk and Chinook helicopters," Rose said, "resulting in a 50% savings for the Army, compared to the cost of buying new components."

"Clearly, Sen. Dodd understands the importance of reducing the cost of military programs while maintaining equipment in top condition," Rose added. "I believe this contract has significant long term implications both for our company as well as the aerospace industry in the state."

"At a time of economic constraints, this contract will help us preserve jobs and will help us pave the way for our long-term growth," he added.

Aero Gear specializes in the manufacture of aircraft gears and gear assemblies. The company, which had only one employee in 1982, now employs about 135 skilled workers (compared to about 100 when the re-engineering contract was initiated in 2006). It supplies products for virtually every major aircraft engine manufacturer, including Avio, Boeing, General Electric, Pratt & Whitney, Rolls Royce, and Sikorsky. Aero Gear is a member of Aerospace Components Manufacturers, a network of about 50 small to mid-sized aerospace companies located within about a 20-mile radius of Hartford.

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