

KEMA could create jobs

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TRIBUEN-REVIEW

Saturday, August 20, 2005

Kennametal, a company that does research and development for heavy metals, ceramics and coatings applications, recently approached U.S. Rep. John Murtha, D-Johnstown, with a proposal.

"They said they could reduce the time to make armored hardware, so I told the Army," said Murtha, the ranking member of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. Latrobe-based Kennametal's products include armor-piercing projectiles and ceramic armor protection.

"I've long stressed the importance of forming strategic partnerships," Murtha said at the ARMTech Showcase of Industry and Technology's business-to-business show Friday at the Belmont Complex in East Franklin, Armstrong County, while announcing that a new engineering and manufacturing cooperative has been formed.

The Keystone Enterprise Manufacturing Alliance was created to bring additional government and commercial contracts to the region and to create jobs, he said.

KEMA will provide a single point of contact through which each customer will have access to its combined engineering and manufacturing capabilities. KEMA will locate in Armstrong County's Northpointe Industrial Park beginning next month, occupying space in the Armstrong Laser Technology's building.

The KEMA Alliance was initiated by the National Center for Defense Manufacturing and Machining in Latrobe and Penn United Technology in Cabot, Westmoreland County. NCDMM has been awarded a \$24.3 million contract related to KEMA's development.

Penn United Technology, a high-precision manufacturer in Butler County, will be the alliance's lead for tooling, manufacturing and assembly and will serve as the manager for KEMA's operation.

Other members of the KEMA alliance include Kennametal, Alion Science and Technology of Pittsburgh, Dielectric Solutions of Kittanning, JWF Industries of Johnstown, Veteran Employee Enterprises of Tionesta, Millennia Group of Cheswick and Indiana University of Pennsylvania.