

OptTek Receives Federal Award to Develop New HR Planning Technologies

Office of Naval Research Grants Prestigious Technology Transfer Award

Boulder, CO, July 31, 2003 –OptTek Systems, Inc., was awarded a contract by the United States Department of Navy's Office of Naval Research (ONR) to develop new methods and enabling software for Human Resources planning. The methods and software are expected assist the Navy to optimize Human Resource management models and may be marketed to other organizations in the public and private sectors. The award, which is designated as a Small Business Technology Transfer Research (STTR) grant, was granted to OptTek and its university partner, the University of Mississippi's Hearin Center for Enterprise Science. The total value of the first phase award is \$100,000 over a six to nine month duration.

"This award is significant in providing multiple benefits to OptTek and its research partner, Ole Miss, to the Navy, and potentially to many organizations seeking to improve their HR planning for operations, facilities management, and staffing in general. For example, as the Navy positions to transform itself into a leaner and more agile service, their recruiting and staffing decisions will be enabled by increasingly more sophisticated technologies. This project is expected to contribute to advancing the state-of-the-art in these technologies." said Dr. James Kelly, OptTek's CEO.

The proposed software, which is called OptForce™, may also hold the key to improvements in planning for both growth in expanding economies and for reduction in slow downs without promoting the wide swings that lead to bloated staffs and their resulting precipitous contractions. The project will create and examine multiple methods, select and further develop the one that exhibits greatest promise, and create pilot software to demonstrate its feasibility.

If OptTek is successful with the first phase of the project, the company will be eligible for an additional \$500,000 to commercialize the application. "We trust that our experience in optimization technologies along with that of our University of Mississippi's Hearin Center partners will lead to delivering highly valued software to the Navy and subsequently to other interested organizations. The need for better HR planning is apparent, especially as the economy prepares to emerge from the recession." said Dr. Jay April, OptTek's Chief Development Officer.

About OptTek Systems, Inc.

OptTek Systems, Inc. is a Boulder, CO based optimization software and services firm. From its inception in 1992, OptTek has become the leading provider of optimization software to simulation companies and employs state-of-the-art techniques based on many years of research in the area of optimization, in which OptTek's founders are internationally recognized leaders. OptTek specializes in developing and customizing its software to enable solutions for business problems characterized by significant uncertainty and complexity. OptTek's software is used by hundreds of firms including Fortune 500 companies for diverse applications including customer relationship management, financial and strategic planning, logistics and transportation, and telecommunications. OptTek's website is www.OptTek.com.

About the Hearin Center for Enterprise Science

The Hearin Center for Enterprise Science was created with the primary objective of making optimization technology accessible to organizations. In this pursuit, the Center has assembled a resource base consisting of resident faculty researchers, distinguished affiliates from leading Universities and research institutions from around the world, state-of-the-art computer equipment, and the most advanced software for optimization. The Hearin Center's website is <http://hces.bus.olemiss.edu>.

About The Office of Naval Research

The Office of Naval Research coordinates, executes, and promotes the science and technology programs of the United States Navy and Marine Corps through schools, universities, government laboratories, and nonprofit and for-profit organizations. It provides technical advice to the Chief of Naval Operations and the Secretary of the Navy and works with industry to improve technology manufacturing processes.

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