

MID-IOWA NEWS

Defense bill funds Ames businesses, ISU

By: Bob Zientara

Six funded projects in the 2009 Defense Appropriations Bill will provide more than \$15 million to Ames-based businesses and/or Iowa State University, according to the office of U.S. Rep. Tom Latham, R-Ames.

The projects include:

* Renewable Energy Group, Ames, \$1.6 million to research a technology that uses biodiesel to dissolve plastic, producing an enriched fuel. If successful, the procedure could save the military up to \$1 million per month in waste disposal costs.

* ISU, \$4 million for research into possible vaccines to inoculate animals against respiratory diseases. The research is aimed at guarding farm animals against a terrorist-caused outbreak of disease.

* Bioprotection Systems, Ames, \$2.4 million for research into vaccines to combat Ebola and other viruses that could be used in germ warfare. Bioprotection is an affiliate of Ames-based New Link Genetics. It will use a technology developed by New Link in its work on cancer vaccines.

* Advanced Analytical Technologies, Ames, \$4 million to develop a way to test drinking water supplies to determine whether the water is contaminated with bacteria or hazardous substances. The procedure would be used in military and homeland security settings.

* ISU, \$1.6 million for the Virtual Reality Applications Center to spend on new software for military training procedures. The programs will help train the soldiers to meet new combat challenges in the field.

* Etrema Products, Ames, \$1.6 million to develop a network of wireless sensors that will transmit important information to U.S. naval vessels. Etrema is developing a technology that would power these sensors through the vibrations of a ship's hull instead of conventional batteries.