

December 19, 2008

(Wampum, PA) -- U.S. Congressman Jason Altmire (PA-04) today presented Penn State Special Metals with a check for \$1.2 million in federal funding he secured for the development of advanced gunner protection kits, which will help protect gunners riding in the U.S. Army's new Joint Light Tactical Vehicles. Congressman Altmire secured the funding in this year's continuing resolution, which was signed into law on September 30, 2008.

**“The funding I secured will put western Pennsylvanians to work developing advanced gunner protection kits that will keep our troops safe when they are in the field,” Altmire said. “I am very proud that this project will both create new, good-paying jobs in Beaver County and help develop equipment that can protect American soldiers’ lives.”**

Penn State Special Metals is subcontracting this \$1.2 million project to Koppel Fabrication Corporation, a new company being formed in Beaver County due in part to Altmire's success in securing funding for this project. The Koppel Fabrication Corporation will lease manufacturing floor space from Penn State Special Metals at its Koppel, PA facility and expects to expand its business and create new jobs in Beaver County as the project continues.

The advanced gunner protection kits being developed for the U.S. Army's new Joint Light Tactical Vehicle will be made from lightweight ballistic-grade titanium. These new advanced gunner protection kits could reduce the vehicle's overall weight by as much as 25 percent, providing improved force protection without detracting from the vehicles' mobility, agility and maneuverability.

**“We could not have created this new company in Beaver County without Congressman Altmire's success in securing the necessary funding,” Lee Rankin, Co-Founder of the Koppel Fabrication Corporation. “Because of Congressman Altmire's success in advocating for local companies, we will be able to provide new job opportunities in western Pennsylvania as we develop new equipment to help protect our men and women in uniform.”**

Congressman Altmire has a strong track record of securing funds to bolster economic development in western Pennsylvania. The \$1.2 million Altmire secured for Penn State Special Metals is part of more than \$21 million he secured in this year's continuing resolution to support job creation and economic growth throughout the region.