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FirstLink Introduces Inspection Technology to Corrections Market

Pittsburgh, PA – May 10, 2006 –With the help of the Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence’s FirstLink program, the remote-controlled omni-directional inspection system (ODIS) developed and manufactured by Kuchera Defense Systems in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, was showcased and tested for the fields of corrections and law enforcement at the annual Mock Prison Riot on Monday.

A team from the Orange County, Florida Department of Corrections used ODIS in a cell extraction scenario, sending in the four-inch-tall unit to provide video surveillance of a “prisoner” before the team entered the cell. The scenario was a great success, and the unit may in the future be considered by any prison or court house with robotics surveillance requirements. With more than 20 units deployed in Iraq to perform under-vehicle inspections for contraband and explosives, ODIS was originally developed through the U.S. Army Tank and Automotive Research Development and Engineering Command (TARDEC). Kuchera’s refinements for first-responder use brought ODIS to civilian settings, including the Super Bowl XL in Detroit.

FirstLink, the Department of Defense’s National Center of Excellence for First Responder Technology Transfer, located within the University of Pittsburgh’s Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence, helped orchestrate the connection between the Department of Justice’s Office of Law Enforcement Technology Commercialization (OLETC) and the Department of Defense. Conducted by OLETC in the former West Virginia Penitentiary, the Mock Prison Riot is held each year to exhibit emerging technologies and determine their usefulness in the fields of corrections and law enforcement. The event attracts state, federal and international corrections officers to learn about and test the showcased technologies.

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