



Innovative Aircraft Tail Number Identification System

NEWS RELEASE

Local security firm gets homeland defense money

By: CAREY JOHNSON, Times Staff Writer

Monday, Apr 27, 2009

Bob Etheridge "What we're dealing with is security for the country."

A Youngsville company is using \$6 million in homeland defense money to improve airport security across the country, including here in Franklin County.

Congressman Bob Etheridge, the only N.C. member of the Homeland Security Committee, was at Triangle North Executive Airport on Tuesday to publicly announce funding awarded to TTI Wireless.

The Youngsville company received the appropriation in October 2008.

The company designs, develops, deploys and manages surveillance equipment to the general aviation industry.

It detects, identifies, captures, records and produces alerts on tail numbers of all incoming and outgoing aircraft.

Because of its proximity, TTI Wireless uses the county's airport as a pilot system for new and improved surveillance and the federal monies have allowed the company to expand its capabilities.

"What we're dealing with is security for the country," Etheridge said. "(TTI Wireless) filled a niche that was needed and they've done well."

TTI Wireless is headquartered in Youngsville, but they have clients across the world, including Bermuda and the Bahamas.

The data center is located in Youngsville, meaning information from across their client list is funneled to the operation in Franklin County.

The Homeland Security funding has aided the company in expanding its operation to two buildings and adding employees, jumping from 10 to 20 employees in 2008 to 43, now.

"It's been a watershed event for our company and for the county," said company owner Tom Albright.

Etheridge said the Homeland Security funding was akin to providing seed money for the work that benefits everyone.

"It's a system that not only provides security here, but it provides security around the world," he said.

