

----- **Press Release** -----

Portland Press Herald, Friday, December 20, 2002

BRIDGTON COMPANY LANDS \$5.98 MILLION NAVY JOB

Howell Laboratories Inc. of Bridgton was awarded a \$5.98 million contract by the U.S. Navy.

The company will supply about 230 air membrane dehydrators to provide clean, dry air to electronics equipment on board ships by automatically removing particles, aerosols and water vapor. Work will be performed in Bridgton and is to be completed by December 2005.

"Each year, the Defense Department awards billions of dollars in contracts for equipment and services to thousands of companies nationwide," said U.S. Rep. Tom Allen, D-Maine. "While much attention is paid to large contracts to firms like General Dynamics, which owns both Bath Iron Works and Saco Defense, many smaller Maine firms like Howell Laboratories also successfully compete for national defense projects."

Since 1964, Howell has been engineering and manufacturing fluid processing equipment in Bridgton. The firm has delivered more than 2,000 dehydrators to the Navy for all classes of ships. In 1995, it became an employee-owned company, when its employee stock ownership plan acquired controlling interest by purchasing stock previously held by outside investors.

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