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Menendez, Andrews Announce Grant from US Department of Justice for
Camden-based Drakontas LLC to Establish the
Criminal Justice Communications Technologies Center of Excellence

Camden, NJ – United States Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and United States Representative Robert E. Andrews today joined representatives from Drakontas LLC to announce the selection of the company as a Criminal Justice Communications Technologies Center of Excellence. On September 20, 2007, The Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs (OJP) announced the creation of four Technology Centers of Excellence that will serve as a specialized criminal justice technology resource for law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners. Each Center will provide expertise in a specific technology area and help introduce law enforcement technologies into practice within the criminal justice community.

Today, Drakontas formally opens the doors for the Communications Technologies Center of Excellence, which will be located in Camden, NJ.

"Communication is critical during a crisis, be it a natural disaster or something man made. We all saw the problems that occurred when first responders could not communicate on that fateful day when the World Trade Center was attacked," said Sen. Menendez. "Investing in technology to ensure that the brave men and women who risks their lives to protect us daily is a priority for me. I applaud Drakontas for their commitment to ensuring the security of our nation."

Our vision when we created ACIN back in 2001 was that it would help to create good paying jobs in the City of Camden by fostering growth in private sector companies that are looking to develop new technologies and products to be used in military and government applications," said Rep. Rob Andrews. "Drakontas is a shining example of the type of success story we envisioned and I applaud Dr. Regli and his team for their hard work and talent in securing this important grant that will bring more jobs to Camden City and improve the ability for America's First-Responders to communicate effectively."

“We are honored to be selected,” said Dr. Brian Regli, Chief Executive of Drakontas LLC. “Over the past three years, we have worked hard to establish a new standard for innovation in the field of criminal justice communication. This selection validates our approach to innovation, which focuses on marrying practitioner needs with new communications technologies and techniques.”

The Communications Technology Center of Excellence will operate within the existing National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC) System. The NLECTC is funded by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) within the Office of Justice Programs, and serves as a nationwide network of technology research facilities.

Drakontas of Camden, N. J. is receiving over \$3.6 million to establish the Communications Technologies Center of Excellence to test, evaluate and demonstrate cutting edge communications tools and technologies. The Center will establish and manage a wide range of criminal justice pilot projects, involving software defined and cognitive radios, position location technologies, wireless data interoperability, and other communications tools and capabilities. The team will also support a Communications Technology Working Group, and provide specialized communications technology assistance to law enforcement, when needed.

“Our outreach and assistance programs for the law enforcement community are the centerpiece of our efforts,” explained Charles Stephenson, who will serve as the Director of Educational and Technical Assistance Programs for the Center. “In the coming months, we will offer new resources for specialized technology assistance for state and local law enforcement that will promote voice and data interoperability using new technologies, such as software defined and cognitive radios.”

The Center of Excellence will be located at the Applied Communications and Information Networking (ACIN) Center, which was established in 2001 through the work of Rep. Rob Andrews and Drexel University as part of a broader initiative to promote economic development in Camden. Drakontas was founded in 2004 to transition technologies developed at the ACIN Center by researchers at Drexel University for the Department of Defense to commercial, civilian and homeland security uses

“Our relationship with ACIN is an essential part of our effort to deliver taxpayer value,” commented Dr. Regli. “We will be able to leverage the resources of more than two dozen companies who actively participate in the ACIN, as well as the research capabilities of Drexel University as the administrators of the ACIN program. This will enable the DOJ to leverage related research and development efforts underway at the DOD.”

The Office of Justice Programs provides federal leadership in developing the nation's capacity to prevent and control crime, administer justice, and assist victims. OJP has five component bureaus: the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the National Institute of Justice; the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; and the Office for Victims of Crime. Additionally, OJP has two program offices: the

Community Capacity Development Office, which incorporates the Weed and Seed strategy, and the Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering and Tracking Office (SMART). More information can be found at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov>.

Drakontas delivers communications tools, including software and integrated solutions, for law enforcement, emergency response, and security operations. The company was founded in partnership with Drexel University in 2004 to transition technologies developed at the Applied Communications and Information Networking (ACIN) Center for the Department of Defense to commercial, civilian and homeland security uses. In 2005, the company launched DragonForce™, its core software product, which provides situation awareness information to commanders and field deployed team members. More information about the company's communications tools and program management capabilities can be found at www.drakontas.com

The Applied Communications and Information Networking Program (ACIN) supports rapid deployment of technologies developed within the Drexel University partnership of government, industry and academia, to the benefit of the Warfighter and other First Responders. The ACIN Camden Center's program for Entrepreneurship in Technology is to promote communications and networking businesses that utilize information technology developed in ACIN R&D projects to be incubated and accelerated onto a rapid commercialization track. More information about ACIN can be found at www.acincenter.org.