

Connect with us: [Subscribe](#) | [Mobile Edition](#) | [E-mail news](#) | [Mobile Alerts](#) | [Share Photos](#) | [Report News](#) | [RSS Feeds](#) | [Subscriber Rewards](#) | [Place an Ad](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Research Authority gets \$700M contract

Development and production of new military weaponry is mission of state-chartered agency

By [Katy Stech \(Contact\)](#)
The Post and Courier
Saturday, February 28, 2009



"We have to get technology off the drawing board and into production as soon as we can." – Bill Mahoney chief executive officer of SCRA.

The South Carolina Research Authority has been awarded a major military contract that puts it in charge of turning successful lab experiments into mass-produced weapons that soldiers can use in overseas combat.

The \$700 million contract, which is the largest in the state-chartered agency's 25-year history, will make authority workers responsible for executing the development and production of new weaponry, including warheads, explosives and propellants.

Much of the work will be farmed out to other businesses.

"We have to get technology off the drawing board and into production as soon as we can," SCRA chief executive officer Bill Mahoney said.

For example, workers will begin pushing the production of a 120-millimeter mortar to be guided by a laser to improve its accuracy.

Such a weapon could have been useful during the Israeli conflict, during which some errant-flying mortar rounds ended up "hitting kindergartens rather than the bad guys," Mahoney said.

The authority will handle hundreds of similar projects during the contract's seven-year duration, an accomplishment that Mahoney said will boost its bottom line.

Last year, the authority's revenues totaled about \$110 million. Mahoney estimates that this latest contract will at least double that amount.

Unfortunately, the work is not likely to create a deluge of job opportunities at the organization's North Charleston campus. As much as 90 percent of the contract work will probably be handled by other agencies scattered across the country.

"It'll mean some handfuls of new jobs in North Charleston, but it won't be hundreds of new jobs,"

Article tools

- ADD THIS
- [E-mail story](#)
- [Printer-friendly version](#)
- [Comments](#)
- [iPod friendly](#)
- [Text alerts to your cell phone](#)
- [Get daily news e-mailed to you](#)
- [Subscribe to the Post and Courier](#)

Sponsored Links

Latest local stories

- [Family going around globe to help others survive](#)
- [Clemente would be so proud](#)
- [Murray Hill blessed with super-volunteer](#)
- [Striped bass appear to be in comeback](#)
- [CARTA to purchase buses, add shelters](#)
- [Chest injuries fatal to crash victim](#)
- [Red Cross helping family of 6 burned out of home](#)
- [Pottery event to benefit Hollings](#)
- [Earth Day design contest planned](#)

- [Browse articles by date](#)
- [Click here for our 95-07 archives](#)
-

- [SUBSCRIBE to the newspaper](#)
- [Place a classified ad](#)
- [Manage your subscription](#)
- [Advertising rates](#)
- [Contact us](#)

Mahoney said.

- [Group planning charter school](#)

The primary contract was let by the Army's Contracting Command Joint Munitions and Lethality Contracting Center Emerging Technologies Center. SCRA is managing the National Warheads and Energetics Consortium's part of the project.

[--more local news](#)

Reach **Katy Stech** at 937-5549 or kstech@postandcourier.com.

Notice about comments:

Charleston.net is pleased to offer readers the ability to comment on stories. We expect our readers to engage in lively, yet civil discourse. Charleston.net does not edit user submitted statements and we cannot promise that readers will not occasionally find offensive or inaccurate comments posted in the comments area. Responsibility for the statements posted lies with the person submitting the comment, not charleston.net. If you find a comment that is objectionable, please click "suggest removal" and we will review it for possible removal. Please be reminded, however, that in accordance with our Terms of Use and federal law, we are under no obligation to remove any third party comments posted on our website.

[Full terms and conditions can be read here.](#)

Comments

This article has *6 comment(s)*

Show Comments

Hide Comments

+ Post a Comment

(Requires free [registration](#).)

Username:

Password: ([Forgotten your password?](#))

Comment:

Preview comment