



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 12, 2007

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**Optical Air Data Systems to be Honored as Tibbetts Award Winner**

**Washington, D.C.** —Optical Air Data Systems, LLC (OADS) of Manassas, VA has been selected as one of the winners of the 2007 Tibbetts Awards. OADS will receive the award on Oct. 10 at the Westin Washington, located at 1400 M Street NW in Washington, D.C.

Named for Roland Tibbetts—the person acknowledged as the father of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program—these prestigious, national awards are made annually to those small firms, projects, organizations and individuals judged to exemplify the very best in SBIR achievement. OADS is one of 55 companies in the U.S. to receive this award. OADS was selected from over 4,000 companies that receive contract and grants under the SBIR Program each year.

Since 1991 OADS has effectively used the SBIR program to significantly improve the performance of fiber optic laser systems. In the process, OADS is making an important contribution to the future aviation safety of United States Marine Corps Helicopters. OADS technology is also being introduced to the wind energy industry to improve the efficiency and profitability of the large wind turbines. The continued economic success of large wind turbines will eventually reduce the United States' dependence on foreign energy sources as well as reduce harmful carbon emissions worldwide.

The SBIR program has provided OADS with the resources to evolve high tech research and development into the complex applications for fiber optic lasers, making OADS an industry leader in small, highly efficient and effective laser air data systems. Using SBIR investment, OADS has significantly matured fiber optic laser technology, reducing the component sizes and improving the laser performance for application to military and commercial uses. A Phase III SBIR contract beginning in 2003 enabled the company to develop the LandSafe precision helicopter landing system that is rugged enough to be installed and tested on military helicopters. Following completion of the pending 2007 SBIR contract award, the system will be ready for transition to production and deployment on military helicopters to improve their survivability. OADS has grown from two employees in 1996 to 35 employees in 2007 with the outlook of expanding to an even larger capacity as the technology transitions into full-scale fiber optic laser manufacturing for the benefit of military and commercial aviation safety as well as various other commercial industries.

The complete list of winners can be found at [tibbettsawards.org](http://tibbettsawards.org). For more information contact Bill Fetzer at 703-393-0754 (ext-120) with OADS or Jere Glover with the Small Business Technology Council at 202-662-9700.

Since its inception in 1995, SBTC ([sbt.org](http://sbt.org)) has played a crucial role in promoting congressional legislation and federal regulations that aid small, technology-based companies—including re-authorization of the SBIR program.