

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE AND KASSEBAUM ANNOUNCE MAJOR DEFENSE CONTRACT FOR BEECH AIRCRAFT

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senators Bob Dole and Nancy Kassebaum today announced that the Navy has selected Beech Aircraft to build 4,000 drone missiles to be used for testing and target practice purposes. Exact dollar amounts of the contract have not been finalized by the Navy, but the missile deal could be worth as much as \$1 billion during the next 20 years. First reports call for the production of 200 missiles per year.

"This Beech contract is good news for the Wichita community," said Senators Dole and Kassebaum. "It is our hope that as much of the work as possible will be performed at the company's Wichita facility. Whatever the outcome -- and we're optimistic -- the contract will be a real shot-in-the-arm for the Air Capital."

According to Beech, it has not yet been determined what the exact breakdown of the workload will be between the company's Boulder, Colorado, and Wichita facilities. The Wichita plant employs 4,000 workers while the Colorado operation lists about 480 employees.

"Beech is to be congratulated for the hard work and dedication to excellence that went into securing this important contract," said the Senators. "It beat some tough competition to get this contract award and that says a lot about the people who are behind the project."

"Obviously, we would like to see the bulk of the drone missile work done in Kansas," said the Senators.