

LOCAL CORPORATIONS PROFITING FROM THE WAR IN IRAQ

Nationally, military contracts gained as a result of the "war on terror" and more specifically, the invasion and occupation of Iraq, have gained a considerable amount of attention in both the corporate media and in the antiwar movement as "war profiteering." While companies such as General Dynamics and Halliburton have gained notoriety for contributions to the war effort, the contributions of companies based in Grand Rapids, including Borisch Manufacturing, Smiths Aerospace, L-3, and others, have been largely ignored despite their contributions to weapons systems necessary for the ongoing occupation of Iraq. These weapons systems include the F-15, F-16, and F-18 aircraft, as well as the M1A1 battle tank and the Stryker.

These companies include:

Smiths Industries Aerospace – The local Smiths facility makes a variety of components used in military aircraft including navigational instruments, flight data recorders, and weapons control systems. Smiths—while receiving millions in contracts from the US military—has also received at least \$6.6 million in tax breaks.

Borisch Manufacturing – Borisch is a local company that manufactures parts for Abrams tanks, Paladin cannons, 105mm howitzers, the Stryker, and the Globemaster transport aircraft. The company has openly advertised their work and has been the occasional subject of laudatory articles in the media that draw links between weapons manufacturing and patriotism. Borisch also attempts to link religion with producing components for military weapons, with the Borisch logo containing the tag-line "Psalm 115.1" and employees receiving vacation time for mission trips. The company has received three tax breaks since 2001.

Wolverine Worldwide – Wolverine is a major supplier of footwear for the military and has received several multi-million dollar contracts since 2002. The company has also received at least two tax breaks.

L-3 Communications Avionics – The local L-3 facility is a part of L-3, an aerospace company that sells primarily to the Department of Defense and other government agencies. L-3 makes components for a variety of military aircraft including the F-16 Falcon, the F-18 Hornet, the P-3 Orion, and the UH-60 Blackhawk.

Eaton Aerospace – Eaton Aerospace is an avionics company that produces components for both civilian and military aircraft. Eaton manufactures components used in a wide variety of military aircraft including the F-15 Eagle, the F-18 Hornet, the P-3 Orion, UH-60 Black Hawk, the CH-56 Sea Knight, and the SH-60 Seahawk.

For more information on local military contracts and the companies doing work for the military, visit <http://www.mediamouse.org/resources/contracts.php>

