Washington, DC -- Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that the U.S. Navy has awarded a $14 million contract to BAE Systems in Johnson City, NY that will enhance the V-22 Osprey helicopter. In 2008, Hinchey used his position on the House Appropriations Committee to secure $15 million to make the program operational.

“Developing the innovations that will provide greater protection to our service members is a tremendous undertaking, and I am pleased the work will be done here in the Southern Tier,” said Hinchey. “This contract will help continue to bring federal money to Broome County to help fuel our region’s economic recovery. I look forward to working with the Department of Defense to ensure the project is seen through and jobs continue to be added to the workforce for an array of defense projects in the region.”

The contract will be used to purchase Interim Defensive Weapon System (IDWS) mission kits from BAE Systems at their Johnson City facility for installation on the Navy’s V-22 Osprey, a tilt-rotor aircraft. The new system provides 360 degrees of protection to troops during dangerous missions, addressing concerns about the V-22’s defensive capabilities. The work will be performed in Johnson City and is expected to be completed by December 2012.