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## Two firms win contracts

### Two Melbourne companies secure military deals that will create jobs

BY WAYNE T. PRICE  
and PATRICK PETERSON

Two Brevard companies looking to bolster their status among the military as go-to defense contractors took large steps toward doing that by winning federal contracts potentially worth more than \$80 million.

And Symetrics Industries LLC and **Securboratorion Inc.** said the contracts will mean the creation of jobs.

Melbourne-based Symetrics on Monday announced a new contract with the U.S. Army Aviation Missile Command that has the potential to exceed \$50 million.

The contract, to design what are called improved data modems on four Army aircraft, will lead to the hiring of 10 people to service the contract and possibly an expansion of Symetrics facilities at 1615 W. NASA Blvd, Symetrics President and Chief Executive Officer Mitch Garner said.

Along with the hires and possible expansion, the contract also helps firm up the company's standing bona fides as a defense contractor.

"We believe that this program will transform our company," Garner said, "both from a tangible sense with the addition of more people and space but also in a intangible manner in the way we are viewed as a small business who can provide excellence in both engineering and production of military airborne hardware."

Also Monday, Securboratorion confirmed it won a \$32 million contract to make different military software compatible. The 21-employee company at 1050 W. NASA Blvd., Melbourne, hopes the contract will mean it can add workers, vice president Bruce McQueary said.

"It's the largest contract we've won," McQueary said. "We plan to continue to grow as a result of it."

Focusing on the interoperability of military software, the

company's efforts will allow different command and control tools to share information seamlessly.

Employing 170 people, the privately-held Symetrics develops incoming-rocket countermeasure systems for aircraft. Its other product line is improved data modems, or IDMs, small devices that wirelessly transmit digital data over traditional UHF and VHF radios.

The contract with the Army Aviation Missile Command is for a next generation of IDMs. They will be installed in the Apache, Black Hawk, Chinook and Kiowa helicopters.

Though not huge compared to government contracts routinely won by giants such as Harris Corp. or Lockheed Martin Corp., it's important for the 47-year-old Symetrics for numerous reasons, including the Army showing faith in the company to manage a sizeable program.

Garner added, "a contract of this size, complexity and purpose is a major victory for Symetrics as it is in line with one of our core business areas and provides a springboard for new growth and opportunity."

Garner said Symetrics will hire its new workers during the next two months.

For Securboration, founded in 2001, the multimillion-dollar contract means the company can withstand the recession and likely get a bit more attention from military customers.

"It's a big win for the company," McQueary, the vice president, said. "It helps to secure our future growth with the U.S. Air Force."

## Additional Facts

### Company Info

#### About Symetrics Industries LLC

- Address: 1615 W. NASA Blvd., Melbourne
- Employees: 170
- President and chief executive officer: Mitch Garner
- Background: Symetrics was founded in 1962 in Satellite Beach by engineers developing telemetry systems to track missiles fired from the Air Force Missile Test Center in Cape Canaveral.
- Estimated annual sales this year: \$56 million
- On the Web:  
[symetrics.com](http://symetrics.com)

#### About Securboracion Inc.

- Address: 1050 W. NASA Blvd., Melbourne
- Employees: 21
- Chief technical officer: Tony Stirtzinger
- Background: Securboracion was founded in 2001 on the belief that security and collaboration will have a significant impact on the evolution of software architecture across a variety of domains.
- Estimated annual sales this year: not available
- On the Web:  
[securboracion.com](http://securboracion.com)

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