

## Belmont firm quietly contributes to secret defense programs

By BEA LEWIS

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**BELMONT** — Tucked away in a cul de sac next to the town's post office is a company that is quietly producing the bulk of the power sources used in the most sophisticated and, at times, the most secretive defense programs in the world.

Milpower Source Inc. has been operating in the Lakes Region for more than 40 years and currently employs 62 people at its Belmont facility and 285 worldwide with offices in Europe, Israel and India.

U.S. Sen. Maggie Hassan toured the company and met with senior management Wednesday to discuss ways to support innovative New Hampshire businesses.

Milpower Source General Manager Tomer Eshed said the company designs and manufactures power sources for everything from the Patriot Missile to the Boeing 747 Jetliner.

Sitting at a conference room table that displayed some of the company's products that range in size from a credit card to a breadbox, Eshed told Hassan that when program demands or operating conditions require military grade power conversion solutions with proven highly reliable performance specifications, customers turn to Milpower Source.

Pointing to a power source on the table that was dented and its paint chipped, Eshed recounted that it was recovered from a Humvee that was destroyed in a blast from an IED. Despite the damage it continued to power the radio allowing wounded soldiers to call for help.

"When you work in an air-conditioned building it's sometimes easy to forget that the work you do may save someone's life," Eshed said, explaining the company asked to keep the damaged unit instead of repairing it and replaced it with a new one, so employees would have a tangible reminder that the safety and lives of U.S. troops are impacted by what they do every day.

"We're a little company in the woods of Belmont and it ,

Northrup Grumman and BAE among others for naval, airborne and ground defense applications.

"It's an exciting time. We're really growing and are bringing a lot of good employment opportunities to the state," said Sam Young, the company's marketing manager.

With revenues in excess of \$32 million in 2018, the company is expecting to nearly double that by 2021 and add 100 employees along the way.

One of the benefits of being located in the Lakes Region, Eshed told Hassan is the quality of life. The company has had success in what Eshed called "returnship recruitment," when engineers and scientists who have chosen to retire locally discover they can only pursue their favorite recreation so much until they become bored. Milpower has been able to lure several retirees back into the workforce.

"They are now enjoying good employment and can still fish," Eshed said.

While the company is able to find and hire quality production workers, Eshed lamented that electrical engineers, scientists and high-end salespeople are in short supply in Central New Hampshire. He told Hassan the labor pool for such specialties ends south of Concord and that Nashua or Manchester is about as far away as people are willing to drive to work.

Hassan said addressing the student debt issue would help. New Hampshire has one of the highest rates of student debt in the country, but has among the lowest rates of default. As a result, many graduates are leaving the state for higher paying jobs to pay off their college debt.

That issue hits home for Eshed, who said his two children are now both currently in college and studying engineering.

"I would like them to be able to stay here and be able to find a good-paying job," Eshed told the senator.

have our products on all the main platforms in the U.S. military,” Eshed said.

The company makes power sources for a host of defense applications and supplies them to Raytheon,



U.S. Sen. Maggie Hassan speaks with an employee, left, at Milpower Source Inc. in Belmont during a tour Wednesday of the company with General Manager Tomer Eshed, right. BEA LEWIS/UNION LEADER CORRESPONDENT