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For more information, please contact:

Public Affairs Office
US Army Rapid Equipping Force (REF)
Ali Sanders
703-704-9433

**RAPID EQUIPPING FORCE SUPPORTS SOLDIER AND SMALL BUSINESS IN
WIRELESS RECHARGING EFFORTS**

*Life-saving initiative aims to enhance soldiers' technological readiness
through minimal battery reliance*

FORT BELVOIR, Va. – October 7, 2011--The Army's Rapid Equipping Force (REF) announced today its funding of six wireless recharging systems from WiTricity, Inc., in an effort to decrease the amount of reliance on batteries among soldiers in the field.

The WRS, created by WiTricity at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will debut in theater to provide life-saving capabilities in wirelessly charging the batteries of QinetiQ's TALON – a robot used by soldiers and Marines to locate and dispose of hazardous or explosive materials.

“The WiTricity wireless recharging station is the first military application of its kind. Never before have our troops had this technological capability in theater,” said Gary Frost, division chief of Technology Management for the Rapid Equipping Force.

The technology will enable drive on/drive off charging of TALON robot batteries without requiring human intervention. The technique enables high efficiency transfer of power over distances corresponding to the ground clearance of the TALON robot (10-20 CM). The required power source will be integrated into the rapid deployment system. The power capture module will be mounted under the TALON chassis. When the robot is parked in the RDS the WRS will detect its presence, determine the battery charge level and automatically charge the battery to maximum capacity.

The Rapid Equipping Force sought wireless recharging capabilities in response to requests from soldiers suffering from direct enemy fire while replacing batteries on TALON robots. The need to exit armored vehicles to replace batteries while en route in Afghanistan left troops vulnerable to attack and gunfire.

“The WRS enables warfighters to remain in the relative safety of their vehicles while having the confidence that the technology they depend on will function properly,” said Frost.

WRS is a product of the WiTricity's "wireless energy transfer" concept developed at MIT, and patented exclusively by WiTricity. WiTricity is the exclusive licensee of the MIT patents related to this technology and will subcontract to QinetiQ for installation and integration.

The REF has plans to expand wireless recharging capabilities into other required areas for troops.

For additional information, please call Ali Sanders, REF PAO at 703-704-9433.

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About the Army's Rapid Equipping Force

The Rapid Equipping Force, headquartered at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, rapidly supports deployed soldiers' needs to defeat an adaptive enemy. The REF works in daily partnerships with industry, academia, military leaders, and other government agencies to support warfighter requirements. The organization responds to immediate needs in the field and provides readily employable capabilities to enhance lethality and survivability. Using a combination of commercial and government off-the-shelf products and developmental technologies, the REF enables the Army to remain ahead of an adaptive enemy and save soldiers' lives. Please visit us at www.ref.army.mil.