



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS AFL-CIO & CLC

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IFPTE Responds to Tanker Decision **Air Force Says “No” to American-Made Tanker**

SILVER SPRING, MD—International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE) President Gregory J. Junemann issued the following response to today’s announcement from the Air Force to award the European based Airbus/EADS the 767 Refueling Tanker contract:

“This is a stunning announcement, particularly when you consider that Airbus doesn’t currently build Tanker aircraft. Even more alarming is that the United States Department of Defense has decided to invest billions of dollars in taxpayer resources in a foreign company, when we have the world’s premier aerospace manufacturer right here at home. Boeing, and its workforce, is second to none. Sadly, that makes no difference as the Air Force’s decision seems to have been fueled by a Wal-Mart like mentality of seeking out the ‘cheapest’ deal at the expense of quality.

“As we slip into a recession and working people continue to struggle, there has been plenty of discussion here in Washington about what steps the government needs to take in order to bring our economy back to life. By turning our backs on American workers, we have certainly missed a prime opportunity to reinvest American taxpayer dollars in our own workforce. Our tax dollars are still at work, but in this circumstance, they are working to the benefit of foreign workers, not US workers.”

The Air Force contract is worth \$40 billion, and could climb as high \$100 billion.

IFPTE is a labor union representing over 80,000 workers, including more than 20,000 workers at the Boeing Company.

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