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Greenport Company Gets A Marine Corps Contract

The Marine Corps has awarded a Greenport company a three-year contract for military submersibles that could be worth as much as \$25 million.

The company, Stidd Systems Inc., has been selected to build two-passenger underwater sleds powered by lithium batteries, said Walter Gezari, the chief executive of the company, which also makes boat seats.

"It's a unique diver propulsion system," he said. "It is our development and design. We built a bunch of them in 2001 for the Navy Seals. When the Marines had a requirement for a similar system, they evaluated ours, and after we made some improvements and modifications for their application, we procured the most recent contract."



The contract is worth about \$5 million the first year, but Mr. Gezari said that if the Marines buy all of the sleds it has options for, it will be worth about \$25 million over the three years. He would not say how many sleds might be built.

A distinctive feature of the sleds, which Mr. Gezari compared to miniature submarines, is their power supply. "This is the first time large numbers of lithium cells have been harnessed in unison," he said. He added that this was the largest contract ever for the 15-year-old company, which has 70 employees.

Compiled by Stewart Ain