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DEFENSE RESEARCH FUNDING: Four Rhode Island companies have received research funding from the Department of Defense over the past five months. Applied Radar of North Kingstown, Sea Corp. of Middletown, Spectrum Coating Labs Inc. of Providence, and Verdant Technologies of East Providence were all awarded research grants worth between \$70,000 and \$100,000 each, according to the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation. Each of the companies is doing specific research, based on its corporate focus, for a branch of the armed services. For example, Verdant received an \$100,000 grant in June to develop a heat-resistant resin for new Navy destroyers. The companies that successfully produce valid research results will be able to apply for a second phase research grant.