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MAINE TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES ROUND FOUR AWARDS OF MAINE TECHNOLOGY ASSET FUND

\$4.85 Million Awarded to Maine Companies, Nonprofit Research Institutions, and the University to Develop R&D Capabilities

(BRUNSWICK) The Maine Technology Institute (MTI) Board of Directors met on April 16th and approved 8 Maine Technology Asset Fund (MTAF) awards totaling more than \$4.85 million and leveraging nearly \$12 million in matching funds. The award recipients represent private sector companies, not-for-profit research institutions, and our research universities and the funded projects will fuel economic development by expanding research and commercialization activities, attract new federal funding, develop Maine’s skilled workforce, and create technology jobs.

“MTI is pleased to announce this latest round of MTAF investments,” said Brian Whitney, MTI’s President. “These winning projects hold momentous promise for our innovation economy and will undoubtedly help grow and expand Maine’s research, development and commercialization capabilities.”

The Maine Technology Asset Fund was first approved by the Maine Legislature and the state’s voters in 2007 and capitalized with \$50 million in bond funding focused on increasing research and development (R&D) facilities and resources in our state’s seven targeted technology sectors. These monies were mostly expended in funding rounds in 2008, 2009 and 2010. The Legislature and voters approved an additional MTAF funding bill in the amount of \$3 million in 2009. Those funds, including approximately \$900,000 not awarded from earlier rounds and augmented by another \$921,871 in MTI funding is the source of funds awarded in this 4th MTAF round.

The MTAF funds were awarded to the following Maine entities and projects:

Entity	MTAF Amount	Project
Jackson Laboratory	\$1,740,000	Next-generation vivarium for research models
Acadia Harvest Inc.	\$367,500	Aquaculture continuum from R&D to production
ORPC Maine	\$900,000	The OCGenA TGU commercial construction project
Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center	\$452,397	Building out capacity for aquaculture innovation

UMaine Process Development Center	\$525,488
UMaine Animal Health Lab	\$500,000
UMaine AEWG	\$351,092
UMaine Sensory Evaluation Center	\$13,668

Advanced paper surface enhancement project
Detecting emerging threats to Maine agriculture
Testing for vessels and marine structures
Mobile advanced sensory evaluation system

This round of MTAF funding followed a similar competitive process used for the earlier rounds. The full process for applying, eligibility requirements, and the criteria for evaluating the applications, as well as the process timeline was publicized in a Request for Applications (RFA) released in November 2014. Ultimately, 21 MTAF applications seeking over \$14 million in funding were received by MTI by the published deadline.

All applications were subjected to a two-phase review process undertaken with the assistance of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) as outlined in the (RFA). Each application was evaluated and scored on its economic impact, and technical and team merit by a minimum of three peer reviewers during the first written review stage, which informed the subsequent interview panels held April 7th and 8th. The interview panel developed a final ranking of project requests for the MTI Board of Directors based on all five criteria published in the MTAF RFA. Only the eight top-ranked proposals were able to be funded with the monies available.

Martha Bentley, MTAF Program Manager said, “This MTI-administered bond program is highly competitive and applications are very carefully and thoroughly vetted. All 8 projects awarded funding in this round have strong economic and scientific value to the State of Maine and will generate significant benefits to our state.”

MTI is a publicly financed, private, nonprofit organization created by the Legislature in 1999 to stimulate research and development activity leading to the commercialization of new products, processes and services in the state’s seven targeted technology sectors. For more information about MTI or its suite of funding and assistance programs, please visit www.mainetechnology.org.

The Maine Technology Asset Fund (MTAF) is a state approved bond fund to build the research and development infrastructure and capability in Maine. The intent of MTAF was to support the development of high technology, good paying jobs in Maine, and to build Maine’s R&D capacity for long term growth. For more information about MTAF, please visit www.mainetechnology.org/fund/maine-technology-asset-fund.

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