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01/07/2016

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MAINE TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE FUNDS \$82,763 IN 8 AWARDS TO MAINE COMPANIES

Awards support innovative technology projects in five sectors and six counties

BRUNSWICK, MAINE – The Maine Technology Institute (MTI) approved eight new grant applications in December 2015, totaling \$82,763 in awards to entrepreneurs from across Maine to advance new product and process development in aquaculture and marine technology, composite materials, environmental technologies, information technology, and advanced technologies for forestry & agriculture. This round of MTI awards leveraged \$101,070 of matching contributions from the award recipients.

Awards from this round include:

- Four (4) Tech Start Grant(s) totaling \$14,050
- Three (3) Business Accelerator Grant(s) totaling \$63,723
- One (1) Phase 0 KickStarter totaling \$4,990

“These grant awards, from MTI’s suite of funding programs, will augment the investments that 8 Maine companies will make in innovative new research and development,” said Brian Whitney, MTI’s President. “The investments will assist the companies in developing new products and systems and, ultimately, will help facilitate their continued viability and growth.”

Summary of awards:

Tech Start Grants – Four companies received MTI Funding totaling \$14,050

Farmer Brown Organics, LLC
Presque Isle

Award Amount \$5,000
Match Amount \$6,076

Heatek Energy, LLC
Auburn

Award Amount \$2,050
Match Amount \$5,300

Limbeck Engineering, LLC
Freeport

Award Amount \$2,000
Match Amount \$2,035

Q-Team, Inc.
Naples

Award Amount \$5,000
Match Amount \$13,000

TechStart Grants are available to entrepreneurs and companies across Maine who are seeking to develop their inventive ideas into new, innovative products or services. Grants are awarded monthly and may be used to support specific activities such as business plan development, intellectual property filings, market analysis, or technology transfer activities out of research institutions. *The next application deadline for MTI's TechStart grant program is February 2, 2016.*

Business Accelerator Grants – Three companies received MTI Funding totaling \$63,723

Cerahelix, Inc.
Orono

Award Amount \$15,000
Match Amount \$16,376

Kennebec River Biosciences, Inc.
Richmond

Award Amount \$20,000
Match Amount \$24,560

Municipay, LLC
Scarborough

Award Amount \$28,723
Match Amount \$28,723

Business Accelerator Grants are available to start-up/early stage companies that have been awarded MTI Development Loans (DLs) and to companies that have recently been chosen for a federal Small Business Innovation Research /Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) Phase I or Phase II grant and/or a Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) award. Funds are to be used to advance the new technology to market and to firmly establish or increase the scope and sustainability of the business enterprise. The grant is intended to increase the competitiveness of the company by providing funds directed at product/service commercialization, business and management team development, and company organization.

The next application deadline for MTI's TechStart and Business Accelerator Grant programs is February 2, 2016. Applications are due by 5 PM.

Phase 0 KickStarter – One company received MTI Funding totaling \$4,990

Alba-Technic, LLC
Winthrop

Award Amount \$4,990
Match Amount \$5,000

The Phase 0 KickStarter is a new funding opportunity offered to individuals and companies seeking to submit SBIR/STTR Phase I Proposals to one of the 11 federal agencies participating in the program. Awards of up to \$5,000 are offered to foster and support competitive federal proposal submissions from Maine applicants. Funds can be used for external direct costs associated with preparing an SBIR/STTR proposal, such as hiring grant writers, subject matter experts, other consultants or purchasing market

research reports needed to inform your proposal. *Phase 0 KickStarter applications are accepted on a rolling basis and at least 30 days in advance of solicitation due date.*

For more information on MTI funding programs, please visit www.mainetechnology.org.

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. MTI programs are either loans, equity investments, or grants designed to enhance the competitive position of those sectors and increase the likelihood that one or more of these sectors will support clusters of industrial activity and create quality jobs across Maine.