



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MAINE TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES \$664,665 IN FIVE NEW AWARDS**

**(BRUNSWICK, MAINE)** – The Maine Technology Institute (MTI) approved three new awards, totaling \$658,765, from its Cluster Initiative Program (CIP) for collaborative projects that boost Maine’s high-potential technology-intensive clusters. This round of CIP awards leveraged \$895,229 in matching contributions from private donations. Additionally, MTI approved two new Tech Start grant applications totaling \$5,900 in awards to advance new product and process development in biotechnology, information technology, and precision manufacturing. The Tech Start awards leveraged \$5,900 in matching contributions from the award recipients.

“These projects leverage significant support and leadership from the private sector and will advance and stimulate economic activity in the State of Maine,” said Brian Whitney, MTI’s President. “They will enhance collaboration and innovation between public and private sector entities, strengthen supply chains and knowledge transfer and will lead to the development of new businesses, products, processes, skilled workforce, and jobs.”

***Cluster Initiative Program*** awards were issued for projects supporting Maine’s aquaculture, fisheries and bioscience clusters to the following entities:

- Coastal Enterprises Incorporated (CEI) received \$134,189 for the Maine Scallop Aquaculture Cluster Project. The proposal was matched by an additional \$134,310 to support the effort to capitalize on the opportunity for scallop aquaculture to thrive in Maine by growing the knowledge and technology needed to adapt techniques from the well-established Japanese scallop aquaculture industry.
- The Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) received \$398,306 for the continuation of the Sustainable Seafood Cluster Initiative. The grant was matched by an additional \$398,307 from industry, grants, and individual giving to continue its work with seafood harvesting, processing, distribution, and sales companies to capture economic benefit from an economically and ecologically sustainable Gulf of Maine fishery.
- The City of Ellsworth’s Union River Center for Innovation received \$126,270 to support the bioscience cluster. MTI funds will be utilized to develop an incubator to assist bioscience cluster entrepreneurs in the greater Ellsworth region. The MTI funding was matched by an additional \$376,802 from the City of Ellsworth and other private industry supporters.

Cluster Initiative Program (CIP) Awards support the success of Maine businesses by funding joint work of companies, service providers, research laboratories and educational institutions and expanding the infrastructure that helps them to thrive. For more information about CIP awards and eligibility, visit [www.mainetechnology.org](http://www.mainetechnology.org)

**Tech Start Grant Awards** from this round include:

<b>Traps Eyewear</b> Portland	Award Amount \$2,100 Match Amount \$2,100
<b>MedRhythms, Inc.</b> Cape Elizabeth	Award Amount \$3,800 Match Amount \$3,800

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 **June 7, 2016**

For more information on MTI funding programs, please visit [www.mainetechnology.org](http://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.*