



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MAINE TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE FUNDS \$1,446,440 IN 26 AWARDS TO MAINE COMPANIES**

### ***Awards support innovative technology projects in seven sectors and six counties***

**BRUNSWICK, MAINE** – The Maine Technology Institute (MTI) approved 19 Seed Grant applications, 4 Development Loan applications and 3 TechStart applications in October 2016, totaling \$1,446,440 in awards to entrepreneurs from across Maine to advance new product and process development in biotechnology, composite materials, environmental technology, forestry & agriculture, information technology, aquaculture & marine technologies, and precision manufacturing technology. This round of MTI awards leveraged \$2,564,860 in matching contributions from the award recipients.

Awards from this round include:

- Four (4) Development Loans totaling \$997,700
- Nineteen (19) Seed Grants totaling \$433,740
- Three (3) TechStart Grants totaling \$15,000

### **Summary of awards:**

#### **Development Loan Awards – Four companies received MTI Funding totaling \$997,700**

**MyHealthMath LLC**  
Portland

Award Amount \$250,000  
Match Amount \$661,850

Given that health insurance plans, premiums, and medical circumstances change annually, MyHealthMath has developed a *Decision Support and Analysis* tool to help employers and employees save money by making better informed decisions. The company has grown from one to five employees over the last six months and plans to grow from five employees to 24 by the end of the 2017.

**Advanced Concepts & Engineering LLC**  
Dexter

Award Amount \$249,000  
Match Amount \$639,300

Advanced Concepts & Engineering (ACE) has successfully developed a portable, self-contained and fully automated solution for conducting gradation tests on aggregate materials. The unit has undergone considerable in-house testing by the company, but MTI funding will allow ACE to produce, deliver and monitor 15 beta units in five distinct regions of the country to further assess and analyze its performance and effectiveness. The company aspires to create 45 year-round jobs in both the technology and manufacturing sectors in Central Maine.

**ACCELERERA, Inc.**  
Biddeford

Award Amount \$250,000  
Match Amount \$305,591

ACCELERERA, Inc. has entered into a letter of intent that will enable it to secure worldwide exclusive license rights from Harvard University's WYSS Institute for its patented Stochastic Resonance Stimulation (SRS) technology with the intent to develop a suite of lightweight wearable technology products to improve balance, neuroplasticity proprioception and reduce risks of joint re-injury.

**MedRhythms, Inc.**  
Cape Elizabeth

Award Amount \$248,700  
Match Amount \$313,400

MedRhythms is a digital health company that helps people access the highest quality of rehabilitation. MedRhythms is creating a closed loop therapy process to improve rehabilitation results while increasing access and lower costs. The first product on its platform uses music to improve mobility. This approach has been shown to improve recovery faster than traditional therapy. The MTI Development Loan will allow MedRhythms to build an end-to-end platform, a saleable gait training product, and demonstrations for the next generation of products on its development path.

Development Loans of up to \$500,000 are offered three times a year to support the conversion of innovative research into new products, processes and companies. [The next Development Loan Application deadline is February 27, 2017 – Notice of Intent to Apply required by January 23, 2017.](#)

## **Seed Grant Awards – Nineteen companies received MTI Funding totaling \$433,740**

**Thrivant Health, PBC**  
Portland

Award Amount \$25,000  
Match Amount \$25,000

Thrivant Health is a biotechnology company creating an animal birth control that non-invasively and permanently switches off reproductive capacity. The product will offer a humane, affordable alternative to surgery or culling for management of animal populations.

**University Of New England**  
Biddeford

Award Amount \$25,000  
Match Amount \$56,627

UNE has identified a marker in the blood that allows it to detect estrogen negative breast cancer at its earliest stages. MTI Seed Grant funds will be used to further delineate how this marker serves as a sensitive and reliable ethnic specific indicator for estrogen receptor negative breast cancer prognosis, disease progression and treatment outcome measurement; and will thus aid personalized medicine.

**Casco Bay Butter Company**  
Portland

Award Amount \$21,044  
Match Amount \$21,106

Casco Bay Butter's primary objective is to extend its product shelf life from 90 to 180 days without the use of preservatives by utilizing advanced packaging technology for individual squeeze packs of butter. Project success will include improved shelf life, market data from product field trials, and sales into new market channel(s).

**Heather Condon dba i-Tell Alert**  
Winthrop

Award Amount \$12,325  
Match Amount \$12,325

I-Tell Alert is a patent pending safety product that utilizes transmitter and receiver technology to minimize caregiver burden by electronically alerting and reminding forgetful walker users to use their walkers. The scope of this project is to develop a working prototype, perform pilot studies to validate the effectiveness of the device as a reminder aid that can be used in the absence of a caregiver, and produce a market ready product.

**Maine Shellfish Developers**  
Brunswick

Award Amount \$25,000  
Match Amount \$25,000

Maine Shellfish Developers (MSD), with considerable experience farming oysters on land in the tropics, proposes to farm oysters in Maine, but with a tropical component (For example: culturing "seedling" oysters indoors for 6 months of winter). A proof of concept phase will be undertaken during the winter of 2016/17.

**Compotech, Inc.**  
Brewer

Award Amount \$25,000  
Match Amount \$26,380

Hunters Defense Technologies (HDT) has expressed a need to armor its Containerized Weapons Systems (CWS). An MTI Seed grant will support Compotech's development of the Containerized Weapon System Armor (CWSA) Prototype, and associated testing and product refinement. The prototype will be designed to integrate seamlessly with HDT and CWS Systems.

**Island Energy, Inc.**  
Northeast Harbor

Award Amount \$24,481  
Match Amount \$42,794

This MTI Seed Grant will commercialize enzymatic biodiesel processing technologies. This process requires less energy and chemical consumption than traditional methods.

**Marine Microverse Institute**  
Kittery Point

Award Amount \$18,200  
Match Amount \$18,200

Water quality impairment by bacterial source pollution is a public and ecosystem health concern. Marine Microverse Institute (MMI) has developed a molecular technology and consultation service to detect host-specific fecal DNA sources in surface water and will validate a solution that provides a more comprehensive, timely, and cost-effective product.

**Jeeva Medical Corp.**  
Brunswick

Award Amount \$25,000  
Match Amount \$62,500

Jeeva Medical is a digital health startup employing Internet of Things (IOT) wearable technologies to solve serious medical monitoring challenges. Its building block strategy is to develop and commercialize FDA-cleared solutions that integrate consumer-friendly wearable biosensor technology, vast patient data, powerful analytics and medical expertise.

**Mega Industries, LLC**  
Gorham

Award Amount \$25,000  
Match Amount \$26,100

This project allows Mega Industries to develop two separate demonstration prototypes that will secure its leadership as a Radio Frequency (RF) component supplier.

**North Spore, LLC**  
Portland

Award Amount \$25,000  
Match Amount \$28,500

North Spore Mushroom Company is developing new technologies for specialty mushroom production utilizing a hardwood substrate and cold pasteurization technique that is more cost effective than traditional methods of mushroom cultivation.

**Caffeinate Labs, Inc. dba Zootility Tools**  
Portland

Award Amount \$25,000  
Match Amount \$38,740

Zootility Tools aims to continue scaling through the development of a fully autonomous, precision heat sealing blister packaging machine to increase efficiency and reduce manufacturing costs.

**LSM Enterprises, Inc. dba EterNav**  
Castine

Award Amount \$18,829  
Match Amount \$22,817

LSM Enterprises, doing business as EterNav, short for eternal navigation, offers more affordable, personalized and convenient bereavement solutions. Their online easy-to-use, step by step software brings together all the elements needed to assemble a loving and respectful funeral, with or without a funeral home.

**Maine Marine Composites, LLC**  
Portland

Award Amount \$19,250  
Match Amount \$20,000

Mooring systems must be protected from snap loads that occur when mooring lines slacken and abruptly re-tension in extreme seas. The project team is developing a snap load suppressor to protect mooring lines and lower the design margins required for chains and synthetic ropes. The research will be used to determine if MMC's non-linear spring resistance mechanism is structurally feasible.

**Automation Integrators, Inc.**  
Auburn

Award Amount \$22,500  
Match Amount \$32,990

This project assists in costs of intellectual property filings, labor, and outsourced services to move from preliminary stages through technical feasibility to completed product development.

**Spring Point Solutions, LLC**  
Portland

Award Amount \$25,000  
Match Amount \$66,700

Spring Point endeavors to commercialize a quality management tool (the QM Wizard) that transforms standard forms, checklists, and routine processes into a step-by-step guide and data capture tool. The grant will fund further development of newer web-based technology to make the QM Wizard better suited for broader application.

**Seamade Seaweed Company**  
Portland

Award Amount \$22,711  
Match Amount \$22,800

SeaMade Seaweed Company makes energy bars and other food products using Maine grown seaweed. SeaMade seeks to optimize its product and process for manufacturability, nutritional content, and taste/textural consistency, and to conduct a market test to quantify consumer preferences as it scales production.

**Deep Blue Design, LLC**  
Portland

Award Amount \$24,400  
Match Amount \$25,173

Pakpod is the world's first stake-able, stackable, riggable, packable, waterproof tripod with ninja feet. The company is designing a second-generation model, the Pakpod Pro, employing high-end materials and design improvements to help Pakpod appeal to a broader range of users who require a lighter, stiffer, more adaptable support structure for their photo and video gear.

**Parent Technology Group, LLC**  
Windham

Award Amount \$25,000  
Match Amount \$25,000

Parent Technology Group, LLC has invented a solar textile that intrinsically transforms solar energy into electricity. This project will allow the company to transition its existing prototype device to a manufacturable design, with improved electrical and mechanical reliability.

Seed Grants are offered three times a year to support the conversion of innovative research into new products, processes, and companies. Funded activities may include proof of concept work, prototype development, field trials, prototype testing, pilot studies, or technology transfer activities. MTI offers Seed Grants as direct investments in companies that are pioneering Maine's future through their technology innovations. *The next Seed Grant application deadline is December 13, 2016.*

### **Tech Start Grants – Three companies received MTI Funding totaling \$15,000**

**American Unagi**  
Thomaston

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

American Unagi, LLC is an aquaculture business focused on growing Maine harvested glass eels to market size for sale to domestic markets.

**Spring Point Solutions**  
Portland

Award Amount \$5,000  
Match Amount \$5,250

In 2015, Spring Point launched a quality management tool called the QM Wizard that transforms standard forms and routine processes into step-by-step guide and data capture tool. With assistance from MTI, Spring Point is improving the QM Wizard for broader commercialization.

**LSM Enterprises dba EterNav**  
Castine

Award Amount \$5,000  
Match Amount \$35,717

EterNav brings online easy-to-use, step by step software and support to families faced with the unexpected loss of a loved one. This project will allow the company to engage in customer discovery to help identify its ideal customers and the business model that best meets their needs.

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 December 6, 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 new products, processes and companies 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.*