



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Brian Whitney, President
Maine Technology Institute
207-582-4790
bwhitney@mainetechnology.org

MAINE TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE FUNDS \$33,100 IN SEVEN AWARDS TO MAINE COMPANIES

Awards support innovative technology projects in four sectors and three counties

BRUNSWICK, MAINE – The Maine Technology Institute (MTI) approved five TechStart Grant applications and two Phase 0 Award applications in November 2016, totaling \$33,100 in awards to entrepreneurs from across Maine to advance new product and process development in, biotechnology, composite materials, precision manufacturing and information technology. This round of MTI awards leveraged \$37,384 of matching contributions from the award recipients.

Awards from this round include:

- Five (5) TechStart Grants totaling \$23,100
- Two (2) Phase 0 Grants totaling \$10,000

“These small, yet foundational, investments will help these Maine companies acquire critically needed information about the economic potential of these innovative concepts and products,” said Brian Whitney, MTI’s President. “Ideally, the research and analysis obtained will allow them to further scale their products and companies for future growth and success.”

Summary of awards:

Tech Start Grants – Five companies received MTI Funding totaling \$23,100

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 January 10, 2017.*

BlackTieGroup, LLC dba Jellux
Saco

Award Amount \$5,000
Match Amount \$7,015

With the MTI TechStart Grant, Jellux® an advanced marine and outdoor lighting company from Maine, will obtain crucial funding for in-depth, multi-regional market evaluation and product assessment. Jellux offers a unique series of LED illuminated products including a patent-pending LED dock bumper and complete lighting system targeting the marine industry. Due to their unmatched controllability, in-house customization and simply plug and play installation, the products have penetrated outside the marine market into various commercial and residential applications. Now, Jellux needs help in evaluating their products within the extremely diverse markets of the marine industry.

SpinDoc, Inc.
Augusta

Award Amount \$4,500
Match Amount \$4,500

SpinDoc™ is a Maine based business-to-business software as a service enterprise that will serve physician practices and health care organizations across the U.S. by streamlining office workflow and business processes. Physician offices have embraced Electronic Health Record (EHR) technology solutions over the last decade, yet practice leadership acknowledges that there are still gaps and inefficiencies. SpinDoc™ will use automation and natural language processing techniques to help practices reduce their overhead costs and improve quality of care. MTI funding will allow SpinDoc™ to do market research, specifically analyzing the size and specific issues of the top 20 EHR products, the primary SpinDoc™ market.

SteriZign Precision Technologies, LLC
Brunswick

Award Amount \$5,000
Match Amount \$7,000

SteriZign Precision Technologies designs and manufactures customized sterilization containers for complex reusable medical devices. The experienced SteriZign team develops clinically relevant containers that address the dual needs of manufacturers and end-users. The company is currently developing prototypes to create its first proprietary product line, and is developing its quality assurance, employee safety, and process assurance management programs. MTI funding will help SteriZign secure funding for business plan development, including patent research, accounting and financial consulting, marketing communication consulting, and the purchase of a specific market research report that will help steer the direction of product development.

Sensory Eyesight for Education, Inc.
Old Orchard Beach

Award Amount \$3,600
Match Amount \$3,800

Sensory Eyesight for Education has designed a therapeutic medical device that will enable individuals with cortical visual impairment who are under the age of 22 to build new brain cells around old damaged brain tissue. There are over four million individuals that are affected by this low vision disability, and this medical device layers multi-therapeutic techniques together to provide, over time, a clear picture for those with cortical visual impairment to regain vision by looking at an appealing surface.

MechArtisan LLC
Portland

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

MechArtisan LLC is creating a new surgical device to assist in the positioning of patients for a specific heart surgery procedure. This composite device utilizes proprietary technology to redefine the level of fixture modularity and robustness previously unavailable to the market. The participation of MTI in this development effort will provide MechArtisan LLC with the funding to confirm market demand prior to further device development efforts.

Phase 0 Awards – Two companies received MTI Funding totaling \$10,000

The Phase 0 Award is a 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 or other federal research and development funding programs. 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 Award applications are accepted on a rolling basis and at least 30 days in advance of solicitation due date.

Kennebec River Biosciences, Inc.
Richmond

Award Amount \$5,000
Match Amount \$5,069

Kennebec River Biosciences is an internationally recognized aquatic animal health company with core competencies in diagnostics, pathogen surveillance, and autogenous vaccine development and production. The company is proposing to develop a novel approach to improve the health and survival of several key aquaculture marine species. The Phase 0 Award will be used to support a grant writer that will assist in the submission of a National Science Foundation SBIR Phase 1 Grant to fund the technology development.

SpinDoc, Inc.
Augusta

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

SpinDoc™ is a Maine based business-to-business software as a service enterprise that will serve physician practices and health care organizations across the US by streamlining office workflow and business processes. SpinDoc™ will use automation and natural language processing techniques to help practices reduce their overhead costs and improve quality of care. MTI Phase 0 funding will be used to apply for a National Institutes of Health Omnibus Solicitation PA 16-302 (SBIR Grant) due January 5, 2017.

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.