



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 31, 2017

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

**MAINE TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE AND MAINE INNOVATION ECONOMY
ADVISORY BOARD ANNOUNCE THE RELEASE OF THE 2017 MAINE INNOVATION
ECONOMY ACTION PLAN**

(BRUNSWICK, MAINE) - The Maine Innovation Economy Advisory Board (MIEAB), with leadership and support from Maine Technology Institute, has published the 2017 Maine Innovation Economy Action Plan (aka State Science & Technology Plan). MIEAB, established by State Statute in 2007 to oversee the State's Plan, has compiled a three-part strategy that builds on the work of the last plan, published in 2010. The plan outlines tactics to diversify Maine's economy through investments in innovation capacity, human talent, and entrepreneurial and enterprise growth, with recommendations for public policies and resources to support the tactics.

"This plan builds on data and work laid out in the 2010 Plan and identifies areas where public sector policies and resources can lead to private sector action," said MIEAB Board Chair Jane Sheehan. "It is a plan that can inform the State's investments in innovation for the next five years."

"MTI was pleased to help facilitate meetings of the Maine Innovation Economy Advisory Board this fall and to shepherd the process of developing and finalizing the plan," said MTI President, Brian Whitney. "It outlines the long view that public support for innovation must continue to take to transform the economy here in Maine."

The full report can be found at www.mainetechnology.org/mieapfull.

The Executive Summary can be found at www.mainetechnology.org/mieapexec

Copies of the plan may be obtained by contacting MTI.

The Maine Innovation Economy Advisory Board (MIEAB) was established by the 123rd Legislature (2007) to coordinate the State's research and development activities and to foster collaboration among its higher education and nonprofit research institutions and members of the business community. The Board consists of thirty-two members including thirty representatives from the industry and research communities,

all appointed by the Governor, as well as two ex-officio seats for the President of the Maine Technology Institute (MTI), and the Director of the Office of Innovation.

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.

###