



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MAINE TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE ISSUES REQUEST FOR INFORMATION  
ON EMERGING FOREST INDUSTRY TECHNOLOGIES**

*A precursor to MTI's forthcoming Forest Industry Innovation Challenge, the project seeks to connect the most viable technologies with Maine's forest industry*

**BRUNSWICK, ME** - The Maine Technology Institute (MTI) has announced a request for information (RFI) regarding emerging forest industry technologies, with the goal of accelerating matchmaking to connect the most viable, commercially-relevant forest industry technologies with Maine.

MTI seeks to solicit publicly available information on all types of emerging forest industry technologies, including technologies to manufacture solid wood products, energy products, engineered wood products, advanced products, construction materials, mass timber, wood composites, biobased chemicals, bioplastics, advanced biofuels, and nanocellulose.

A precursor to MTI's upcoming Forest Industry Innovation Challenge in Fall 2018, companies must submit basic information in response to this RFI in order to qualify for the innovation challenge. Submitted information will be included in MTI's Forest Industry Emerging Technology Database, which is currently under development.

**Submissions are due by July 20, 2018** and should be submitted to Biobased Maine via email at [info@biobasedmaine.org](mailto:info@biobasedmaine.org). MTI has contracted Biobased Maine to help collect information on forest industry technologies and help evaluate them. Questions about this RFI should also be directed to Biobased Maine at [info@biobasedmaine.org](mailto:info@biobasedmaine.org). For detailed submission guidelines, visit [www.biobasedmaine.org/blog](http://www.biobasedmaine.org/blog).

“MTI has a strong track record of accelerating the development of new technologies in Maine,” said Brian Whitney, MTI’s President. “We anticipate that this RFI and the resulting Forest Industry Innovation Challenge this fall will result in more timely MTI investments in emerging forest industry technologies and enterprises that will add quality jobs in rural Maine regions that are enthusiastic for the new opportunities.”

"This project is critical to bridging the gap between Maine's still strong forest industry, emerging technologies, and communities eager to host new manufacturing that can create good jobs making value-added products," said Charlotte Mace, executive director of Biobased Maine.

“Leveraging MTI's leadership in innovation and project development and Biobased Maine's network of technology companies, this project will identify emerging technologies that represent the most viable investments,” Mace continued. “And this isn't a one-time thing. We're developing a process to continuously fill Maine's pipeline with promising technologies in a coordinated, well-organized way.”

Over the past several years, Maine’s forest industry has come together to chart a course for the future of the industry. The industry remains strong and robust, contributing an estimated \$8.5 billion annually to the state’s economy.

The industry is also poised to embrace new opportunities and there have already been success stories. In just the past two years, \$253.5 million in investment has been made in Maine’s forest industry, including investments in pulp and paper equipment, wood processing equipment, energy production, and new facility construction.

*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. For information on MTI programs, events and resources, visit the Maine Technology Institute at [www.mainetechnology.org](http://www.mainetechnology.org).*

*Biobased Maine is a mission-driven trade association promoting the sustainable use of renewable biomass from forests, farm, and sea. Its mission is to achieve a sustainable biobased manufacturing industry in the state of Maine. Its members include manufacturers, raw material suppliers, landowners, farmers, consultants, research institutions, private equity and non-governmental organizations. For more information visit: [www.biobasedmaine.org](http://www.biobasedmaine.org).*

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