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Seven Maryland Startups Receive Nearly \$513,000 Total from TEDCO

Chesapeake Micro Products, Fyodor Biotechnologies, Green Eyes, Rafagen, SD Nanosciences, Tendyne Medical, and Vorbeck Materials Corporation Receive Funding to Transfer Technologies from Laboratories to Marketplace

COLUMBIA, Md. (Apr. 1, 2009) – **The Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO)** announced today that seven Maryland technology companies have received \$512,637 total in funding. Chesapeake Micro Products, LLC; Fyodor Biotechnologies, Inc.; Green Eyes, LLC; Rafagen, Inc.; SD Nanosciences, Inc.; Tendyne Medical, Inc.; and Vorbeck Materials Corporation, each received approximately \$75,000 from TEDCO’s Maryland Technology Transfer Fund (MTTF). This program is designed to foster greater collaboration between businesses and Maryland universities and federal laboratories in order to bring technology into the marketplace.

“Maryland’s Technology Transfer Fund, administered through TEDCO, plays a critical role in economic development and job creation here in our State,” said Governor O’Malley. “The fund fosters the development and commercialization of innovative technologies in Maryland’s private sector, providing the tools for these start ups to thrive and contribute positively to the State’s economy for the long term.”

“We are pleased to provide these promising companies with funding to aid in the development and advancement of their technologies,” said Renée Winsky, president and executive director of TEDCO. “Maryland benefits greatly from the success of their commercialization strategies and we look forward to tracking their progress.”

To date, 121 companies have received funding from MTTF and completed their projects. With an investment of \$7,088,513 these companies have gone on to receive downstream funding from angel and venture investors, federal awards and other resources exceeding \$266 million. This is a leverage of the state’s investment through TEDCO of \$37.56 to \$1.

- Chesapeake Micro Products, LLC, located in Salisbury, Md., is working with the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) to develop a manufacturing process to

convert chicken feathers into pellets for injection molding machines in order to create biodegradable horticultural pots and plastic products.

- Fyodor Biotechnologies, Inc., located in Baltimore, is working with Johns Hopkins University to develop blood-based malaria tests to detect intact proteins in the blood for malaria patients. The technology is performed and read within minutes, and will offer a more valuable tool for the management of clinical malaria.
- Green Eyes, LLC, located in Easton, Md., is working with the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) to commercialize its ProbeGuard and Water to Web (W2W) products. ProbeGuard controls the accumulation of organisms on various moored aquatic instruments. The system will automatically collect data from field deployed water quality monitors and display that data on public or private internet sites minutes after collection.
- Rafagen, Inc., located in Rockville, Md., is working with University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute (UMBI) to further develop and commercialize a next generation gene expression system which can be applied to solving problems in molecular therapeutics. Applying Rafagen's synthetic gene promoters will lead to dramatic reduction in the cost of biotherapeutics manufacturing and the development of gene and cell-based drugs with minimum toxicity.
- SD Nanosciences, Inc., located in Beltsville, Md., is working with the University of Maryland College Park to further develop patent-pending carbohydrate-functionalized nanomaterials. Their vesicle technology, Targeted Delivery Vesicles (TDV), encapsulates and target drugs and can be stored and shipped as a stable liquid at room temperature. SD Nanosciences also has demonstrated their TRIAD™ technology which uses gold nanoparticle presenting carbohydrates capable of eliciting a potent IgG response directed against polysaccharide and generate a maximal antibody response. A single dose of vaccine is sufficient to generate a maximal antibody response.
- Tendyne Medical, Inc., located in Baltimore, is working with the University of Maryland Baltimore to develop and manufacture medical devices that address the features of structural heart disease. This technology will focus on developing minimally invasive devices.
- Vorbeck Materials Corporation, located in Jessup, Md., is working with the Army Research Laboratory to develop and manufacture applications using Vor-x, Vorbeck's novel graphene material as an electrical contact to semiconductor materials like silicon and silicon carbide. The results and technical know-how generated as part of this study will be used to identify applications for these contacts in both mainstream and niche electronics applications.

Applications for funding programs are accepted continually and reviewed monthly by the TEDCO funding review team, which includes representatives from TEDCO, the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development and affiliated venture capital groups. Applicants must submit a proposal, a commercialization plan for the technology to be developed, a scope of work and a budget.

Funding Briefings: TEDCO hosts briefings to teach companies how to use TEDCO's funding programs to help develop, transfer and commercialize technology from Maryland universities and federal laboratories to the Maryland marketplace. A session will be held at TEDCO's office in Columbia from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Friday, April 10. The briefing is free, however registration is required. To register, send an email to info@marylandtedco.org and put "Funding Briefing Registration" in the subject line.

The Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO), an independent entity, was established by the Maryland General Assembly in 1998 to facilitate the creation of businesses and foster their growth in all regions of the State. TEDCO's role is to be Maryland's leading source of funding for seed capital and entrepreneurial business assistance for the development, transfer and commercialization of technology. TEDCO connects emerging technology companies with federal laboratories, research universities, business incubators and specialized technical assistance. For the fifth consecutive year, TEDCO was recognized as the most active seed/early-stage investor in the nation in the August 2008 issue of Entrepreneur magazine and received the national Excellence in Technology-Based Economic Development award from the State Science and Technology Institute (SSTI) for the Maryland Technology Transfer Fund (MTTF) program in October 2008. For more information on TEDCO and its programs and resources, visit www.MarylandTEDCO.org.

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