



Rural Business Innovation Initiative

TEDCO Maryland Rural Business Innovation Initiative (RBI²) Regional Contacts

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The **Maryland Rural Business Innovation Initiative (RBI²)** is designed to enhance technology commercialization activities and provide technical and business assistance to small companies and early-stage companies in rural Maryland.

Assistance to companies is provided by the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO), through their local RBI² representatives. Each rural region has a RBI² mentor, whose job is to evaluate potential clients, provide resources, consulting services and technical management assistance.

Providing technical and general business assistance is a cornerstone of this program that helps small businesses gain access to general business resources, federal laboratory and university research opportunities.

The **RBI²** Initiative will achieve its goals through:

- Supporting current and planned incubator facilities
- Identifying companies seeking development of emerging technologies for commercialization
- Teaming with a network of service providers for local small businesses
- Providing grant and business support through local RBI² representatives

- Providing general business assistance to incubation stage companies in:
 - Technology commercialization strategy
 - Market channels
 - Financing options
 - Building a management team
 - SBIR and STTR proposal writing assistance
- Identifying funding opportunities for early stage companies

Examples of the types of companies participating in the program include:

- Agriculture technology
- Aquaculture
- Biofuels
- Poultry Technology
- Renewable Energy
- Machine shop expansion
- Motorcycle Manufacturing
- Software Developers
- Government Contractors
- Horticulture
- Water Quality
- Homeland Security Technology
- Unmanned Air Systems
- Educational software
- Specialty Fabrics
- Marine Equipment