



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tuesday, April 18, 2006

CONTACT: Shareese DeLeaver
410.974.2316

MD RELAY: 800.735.2258

Morag Muirhead – TEDCO
410.902.5051
410.499.3095 (cell)

Governor Ehrlich Supports State Backing of Startups with Visit to Biotech Recipient of TEDCO Funding

Ten Maryland Companies Receive \$749,730 Total from MTTF During Last Six Months

ANNAPOLIS, Md. – Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., today toured the laboratory space of Amulet Pharmaceuticals, Inc., an early-stage biotech company that recently received \$75,000 from the Maryland Technology Development Corporation’s (TEDCO) Maryland Technology Transfer Fund (MTTF). Amulet is located at the University of Maryland Baltimore County’s (UMBC) business incubator, techcenter@UMBC, and will use the funding to advance its cardiovascular stent coating technology. The MTTF program is designed to help businesses transfer technology from Maryland universities and federal laboratories into the marketplace.

Ten companies from Maryland received MTTF funding during the last six months. The 10 companies were represented at today’s event and include: ADF Solutions, Inc.; Alertus Technologies, Inc.; Amulet Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; Baltimore Shipping Technologies, LLC; BioFortis, Inc.; Excimus Biotech, Inc.; NetImmune, Inc.; Nora, LLC; and Promogen, Inc., which each received \$75,000, while Mirari Biosciences, Inc., received \$74,730. Each company will use the funds to collaborate with universities and federal laboratories to continue researching and developing their respective technologies.

“The State is very pleased to provide vital seed funding to these 10 companies, and we look forward to them prospering and helping to strengthen Maryland’s technology economy,” said Governor Ehrlich. “Resources like the techcenter@UMBC, which supports the growth of new companies, continues to drive Maryland to our goal of technology dominance.”

As of April 1, 2006, 49 Maryland companies that completed their MTTF projects have leveraged \$100,100,063 in downstream funding from federal agencies, venture capitalists, angel investors and other sources – a return of \$36.70 per state dollar invested.

“MTTF is a useful resource for startups that are not yet at the stage where they can attract venture capital funding or angel investors,” said Renee Winsky, interim executive director at TEDCO. “Through developing partnerships with research labs in the state, early-stage technology companies can advance their unique innovations for introduction into the consumer marketplace.”

The University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) is collaborating with the following companies:

- ADF Solutions, Inc., located in Silver Spring and employing two people, plans to develop a tool to identify and categorize digital files by semantic similarity, allowing defense and law enforcement agencies to gather relevant evidence from digital sources quickly and efficiently.
- Alertus Technologies, Inc., located in Potomac and employing two people, is commercializing a breakthrough emergency alert and notification system. With the system, emergency managers of

enterprises and communities will be able to disseminate customized local alerts to wall-mounted beacons containing a LCD text display and internal siren/LED strobes for signaling.

- NetImmune, Inc., located in Germantown and employing five people, is providing an effective solution for the Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) problem, which detects the presence of DDoS in an aggregate of Internet traffic at an early stage, before an attack turns into a flood.

UMBC is collaborating with the following organization:

- Amulet Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a biotechnology company located at the techcenter@UMBC and employing three people, is developing and licensing premium, proprietary NORTECH™ nitric oxide-releasing chemistry for the coating of cardiovascular stents.

The University of Maryland School of Medicine is working with the following company:

- Promogen, Inc., located in Gaithersburg and employing two people, is developing innovative gene expression technologies, which will be adapted for the development of cancer gene therapy drugs targeting neuroblastoma and various other cancer types.

Johns Hopkins University is collaborating with the following two businesses:

- Nora, LLC, located at the Emerging Tech Center in Baltimore and employing two people, is focusing on translational research in immunology. Nora will focus on developing a therapy designed to allow women who suffer from immune-mediated miscarriage and assisted reproduction failure to carry children to term.
- Excimus Biotech, Inc, located in Savage and employing two people, is working to simplify the study and detection of genes particularly as it applies to drug discovery and disease diagnosis for humans. In addition, the company will continue its work to identify and isolate compounds from natural products for therapeutic application towards various human diseases.

The Naval Surface Warfare Center, Indian Head Division is collaborating with the following organization:

- Baltimore Shipping Technologies, LLC, located in Baltimore and employing three people, is working to commercialize its flagship product, the Joint Modular Intermodal Container, a versatile, reusable shipping container originally developed by the U.S. Navy.

The National Cancer Institute/National Institutes of Health (NCI/NIH) is working with the following company:

- Mirari Biosciences, Inc., located in Rockville and employing one person, is working to commercialize Microwave-Accelerated Surface Chemistry, a technology-enhanced diagnostics test that reduces the time required to perform protein and gene-based testing of proteins involved in cancer and other diseases.

The National Eye Institute/NIH is collaborating with the following business:

- BioFortis, Inc., located at the Emerging Tech Center in Baltimore and employing four people, is developing an Electronic Medical Record integration module compatible with the Health Level Seven standard. This will allow BioFortis' product, Labmatrix™, which integrates data and information across the gap between life science research and clinical practice, to be more easily integrated into the hospital research environment and interact with other medical information systems.

Applications for the MTTF fund are accepted continually and reviewed monthly by representatives from TEDCO and the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development. Applicants must submit a proposal, a commercialization plan for the technology to be developed, a scope of work and a budget at <http://www.marylandtedco.com/tedcoprograms/mttf.cfm>.

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 technology transfer and development programs. TEDCO connects emerging technology companies with federal laboratories, research universities, business incubators and specialized technical assistance. For the second consecutive year, TEDCO was recognized as the most active early/seed stage investor in the nation in the July 2005 issue of *Entrepreneur Magazine*. For more information on TEDCO and its programs and resources, visit www.MarylandTEDCO.org.

#