



Maryland Rural Business Innovation Initiative

Maryland Rural Business Innovation Initiative (RBI²) Regional Contacts

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The **Rural Business Innovation Initiative (RBI²)** is designed to enhance commercialization activities and provide technical and business assistance to small technology-based companies in the rural areas of Maryland as defined by the Rural Maryland Council.

Providing intensive technical and general business assistance is a cornerstone of this program; connecting companies to business resources, funding, and federal laboratory and university research opportunities. The goal is to help companies move to the next growth level. Assistance is provided at no cost to the company.

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

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

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

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

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