



Rural Business Innovation Initiative

## About the Program

The Maryland Rural Business Innovation Initiative (RBI<sup>2</sup>) is designed to enhance technology commercialization and provide technical and business assistance to small and early stage companies in rural Maryland.

Assistance to companies is provided by the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) through our local RBI<sup>2</sup> representatives. Each rural region has a dedicated, highly experienced mentor who evaluates potential clients and provides 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 and federal laboratory and university research opportunities.

## How We Support Innovation Throughout Maryland

- 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 RBI<sup>2</sup> 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
  - Prototype development
- Identifying funding opportunities for early stage companies





## Types of Companies in the Program

- Agriculture Technology
- Aquaculture
- Biotech
- Biofuels
- Poultry Technology
- Renewable Energy
- Transportation Technology
- Software Developers
- IoT Devices
- Government Contractors
- Nanotechnology
- Water Quality
- Homeland Security Technology
- Unmanned Air Systems
- Educational Software
- Specialty Fabrics
- Marine Equipment
- Environmental Solutions



For more info, visit:  
[TEDCO.MD](http://TEDCO.MD)

## Regional Mentors

### Lower Shore

Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset, Talbot, Worcester Counties

#### Bill Bernard

443.786.4471  
bbernard@tedco.md

### Upper Shore

Cecil, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's Counties

#### Jack Schammel

443.617.7614  
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### Western

Frederick, Washington, Allegany, Garrett, Carroll Counties

#### Chuck Ernst

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### South Central

Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's Counties

#### Tiffany Davis

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