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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The State of Maryland Announces Six Companies Receive a Total of \$300,000 from the Maryland Technology Transfer Fund

*TEDCO awards companies with \$50,000 each
to further develop diverse technology throughout the state*

COLUMBIA, Md. (June 22, 2004) — The State of Maryland today announced that the **Maryland Technology Development Corporation** (TEDCO) (www.MarylandTEDCO.org) has awarded six companies from different industries throughout the state \$50,000 each from its Maryland Technology Transfer Fund (MTTF). The six companies – Atlantic Biomass Conversions, Inc.; AriaVax, Inc.; Chesapeake Perl, Inc.; Diagnosoft, Inc.; DVIP Multimedia, Inc.; and Innovative Biosensors, Inc. – will use the funding to continue researching and developing their respective technologies.

“The Maryland Technology Transfer Fund ensures that early stage companies throughout Maryland are able to transfer their technologies into the public sector, creating the potential for job growth and strengthening the entire state's technology economy,” said Aris Melissaratos, secretary of the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED). “As these varied companies succeed, they help assure that Maryland holds its position as a technology development leader and bolsters the state's reputation for fostering entrepreneurship.”

Frederick-based Atlantic Biomass Conversions, which previously received TEDCO's Federal Lab Partnership Program (FLPP) award, is using the MTTF to help develop a genetic development technology, Directed Evolution, in collaboration with Hood College. The technology is focused towards maximizing the conversion efficient of sugar beet waste pulp to BioMethanol. The company also received a Maryland Industrial Partnership (MIPS) grant to support the project.

AriaVax, based in Gaithersburg, is transferring research stage technology from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to develop vaccines for diseases, including HIV and AIDS. The fund will allow for the creation of vaccines that will selectively and specifically generate effective immune responses. Currently, the vaccines available are unable to access critical segments of proteins on important pathogens.

Working with the University of Maryland College Park, Chesapeake Perl intends to improve the worldwide shortage of manufacturing capacity for biotech proteins with a new insect larval host system for recombinant baculovirus vectors. This project will allow the company, located in the Technology Advancement Program (TAP) incubator, to

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provide a low capital, fast turnaround, scalable and flexible process for manufacturing authentic glycoproteins with therapeutic applications.

Diagnosoft, located in Baltimore, is developing technology invented at Johns Hopkins University to analyze magnetic resonance images (MRI). The company will distribute standalone image analysis workstations and license the use of its algorithms to major imaging equipment manufacturers.

Rockville-based DVIP Multimedia is working with the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency to develop software image restoration products capable of correcting image distortions inherent in a digital image with a single mouse click. Current image restoration and enhancement products require complex sequences of image processing steps based on ad hoc judgments of image quality.

Working with U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, Fort Detrick (USAMRIID), Innovative Biosensors is developing a portable, rapid, sensitive and specific test for West Nile Virus in humans. A new tenant of the TAP incubator in College Park, the company will create a biosensor line incorporating the monoclonal antibody against West Nile that was developed at USAMRIID.

“The promising development of these diverse technologies will contribute significantly to the strength and vitality of Maryland's economy,” said Phillip Singerman, executive director of TEDCO. “It is our mission to manage these funding programs to help grow successful companies all over the state.”

Applications for the MTTF fund are accepted continually and reviewed monthly by representatives from TEDCO and DBED. Applicants must submit a proposal, a commercialization plan for the technology to be developed and a scope of work and budget.

TEDCO Funding Briefings: TEDCO also hosts a series of Funding Briefings to teach companies how to use TEDCO’s capital programs to help transfer technology from Maryland universities and federal laboratories to the Maryland marketplace. The program includes a description of TEDCO’s programs, eligibility requirements, guidelines for effective proposals, proposal submission and review process, and the terms of the agreement, among others. The next sessions are scheduled for: **Thursday, June 24, 2004 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.** at the Higher Education and Applied Technology (HEAT) Center in Aberdeen; and on **Friday, July 9 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.** at TEDCO’s offices. For more information, directions and to RSVP, call Linda Saffer at 410-715-4175.

Businesses can obtain more information on applying for TEDCO’s Maryland Technology Transfer Fund at www.MarylandTEDCO.org or by contacting Steve Fritz at 410-715-4166.

The Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO), a specialized technology transfer arm of the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED), was established by the General Assembly to facilitate the creation of businesses and foster their growth in all regions of the State through the development and transfer of technology. TEDCO connects emerging technology companies with federal laboratories, research universities, business incubators, and specialized technical assistance. For more information on TEDCO and its programs and resources, visit www.MarylandTEDCO.org.

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