



## **Innovation Voucher Award Fact Sheet**

*January 25, 2016*

The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation (“Corporation”) is recommending that its Board of Directors select 11 companies as the inaugural recipients of awards under the Innovation Voucher program. The Corporation received 34 applications seeking over \$1.4 million in funding. The 11 awards recommended total \$451,897.25.

### **Innovation Voucher Program Quick Facts**

The Innovation Voucher program lets businesses unlock R&D capacity here in Rhode Island. Rhode Island small businesses can receive grants of up to \$50,000 to fund R&D assistance from a university, research center or medical center.

- Program created in state fiscal year 2016 budget
- Program allocated \$500,000
- Final program regulations filed on November 5, 2015, after public comment period
- Application launched November 18, 2015
- Application deadline of January 5, 2016
- 34 applications received requesting over \$1.4 million in funding

More information on the Innovation Program is available here: <http://commerceri.com/finance-business/taxes-incentives/innovation-vouchers/>.

### **Recommended Voucher Recipients**

**Applicant:** Agcore Technologies LLC

**Knowledge Partner:** URI Department of Fisheries, Animal & Veterinary Science

**Location:** Cranston

**Industry:** Algae Farming & Feed-Ag and Biofuel products.

**Recommended Funding:** \$50,000.00

**Use of Funds:** Validation testing bio-nutrition algae (Spirulina) to create fish species targeted nutrition products.

**Innovation Project:** Aquaculture is the fastest animal food-producing sector worldwide. Agcore Technologies is producing a solution for aquaculture feed by growing a sustainable, high protein, nutrient dense, plant based blue-green algae called Spirulina. Agcore already has some fish feed experience but needs assistance from a Knowledge Provider (URI) in understanding specific fish dietary needs, along with product testing capabilities; successful results will translate into commercial products.

**Applicant:** Applied Radar, Inc.

**Knowledge Partner:** Polaris MEP

**Location:** North Kingstown

**Industry:** Defense Electronics

**Recommended Funding:** \$10,000.00

**Use of Funds:** Lean Manufacturing for Catalog Microwave Electronic Components & Systems  
Derived from Defense R&D

**Innovation Project:** The project goal is to establish a lean manufacturing facility to support catalog sales of microwave electronic systems and components derived from an established defense R&D business. The company has recently received tremendous interest in its catalog components, and currently has a backlog of manufacturing work, along with a global distribution partner. The lean manufacturing will lead to increased efficiencies and improved quality, furthering its sales and value proposition to customers, and leading to increased jobs and taxable commercial activity.

**Applicant:** CBC, LLC

**Knowledge Partner:** URI Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

**Location:** Warwick

**Industry:** Renewable wind energy technology

**Recommended Funding:** \$50,000.00

**Use of Funds:** New product development for *Hidden in Plain Sight (HIPS) Wind Energy System* which is designed to harness the wind to provide onsite energy for office buildings, data centers, large residential buildings, manufacturing, and national security facilities.

**Innovation Project:** Prove performance of CBC's *Hidden In Plain Sight (HIPS) Wind Energy System* to customers through fluid analysis and empirical testing. The team will perform fluid analysis and structural analysis on the design and then build a 5kW unit for evaluation and testing to demonstrate performance to clients.

**Applicant:** EpiVax, Inc.

**Knowledge Provider:** RI Hospital

**Location:** Providence

**Industry:** Biotechnology

**Recommended Funding:** \$50,000.00

**Use of Funds:** A graft-versus-host-disease (GVHD) mouse model to evaluate the treatment and human-relevant response to an immune-modulating Tregitope therapy.

**Innovation Project:** EpiVax proposes to apply its Tregitope Immune Modulation Platform to develop a treatment for graft-versus-host-disease (GVHD). GVHD develops in 10-15% of transplant recipients and is associated with a 50% mortality rate. Tregitopes will be formulated in a clinically tested delivery vehicle and tested for efficacy in an established mouse model of GVHD.

**Applicant:** Full Measure, LLC

**Knowledge Partner:** Roger Williams University Shellfish Analytical Laboratory

**Location:** Bristol

**Industry:** Agricultural calcium products

**Recommended Funding:** \$48,814.00

**Use of Funds:** Develop a calcium based product to improve shell strength in nursery raised shellfish.

**Innovation Project:** This proposal will test the concept of injecting a dilute solution of Full Measure CAL into the flow stream of an upweller system to allow for the uptake of the treatment by shellfish seed, leading to improved shell growth and resiliency.

**Applicant:** HMSolution Inc.

**Knowledge Provider:** Brown University, Department of Earth, Environmental and Planetary Studies

**Location:** Providence

**Industry:** Water Treatment Technology – low cost and scalable

**Recommended Funding:** \$20,000.00

**Use of Funds:** Validation of water treatment equipment and media source consumables to eliminate Arsenic and other contaminants from drinking water.

**Innovation Project:** The proposed project objective is to enhance the company's process of in-situ media generation of our water treatment system to reduce the system's energy costs while also improving the process efficiency and control.

**Applicant:** Materials Science Associates, LLC

**Knowledge Partner:** RI Hospital

**Location:** North Kingstown

**Industry:** Biomedical engineering

**Recommended Funding:** \$50,000.00

**Use of Funds:** Clinical laboratory testing of an antibiotic-independent antimicrobial applicator with broad spectrum effectiveness against drug-resistant bacteria

**Innovation Project:** This collaboration will allow for MSA, LLC's antibiotic-independent antimicrobial applicator to be tested for clinical effectiveness, as well as real-world use. The Weiss Laboratory will simulate continuous use of the applicator chemistry on targeted clinical surfaces, while also providing antimicrobial efficacy and longevity on the most commonly encountered pathogens in the orthopaedic trauma setting.

**Applicant:** Pilgrim Screw Corporation

**Knowledge Provider:** URI Thin Film Surface Analysis Laboratory

**Location:** Providence

**Industry:** Aerospace and Defense

**Recommended Funding:** \$49,921.25

**Use of Funds:** To embed information for traceability, counterfeiting and inventory control in existing screw product line.

**Innovation Project:** The aerospace industry faces three important challenges: Traceability, Counterfeiting, and Inventory control. This project intends to address all three challenges with an innovative approach to embedding information directly into discrete parts.

**Applicant:** S2S Surgical LLC

**Knowledge Partner:** Rhode Island College's Langevin Center for Design, Innovation, and Advanced Manufacturing.

**Location:** East Greenwich

**Industry:** Medical device- orthopedic

**Recommended Funding:** \$37,613.00

**Use of funds:** Computational modeling development and testing.

**Innovation Project:** The team will utilize design software and 3D printing technologies to create a significant innovation for the treatment of wrist and thumb disorders using X-rays, CT scans or MRI files and manipulate them into 3D computer model images. This will support the development of a set of procedures that will lead to the 3D printing of custom built, patient-specific implant prototypes using the company's powerful design software and 3D printers. Because no two CMC joints are the same, developing a suitable replacement for the trapezium and other parts within the wrist makes for an interesting and potentially life altering solution to a problem that plagues millions of people.

**Applicant:** Vitae Industries, Inc.

**Knowledge Provider:** Brown University, Medical Science & Engineering

**Location:** Providence

**Industry:** Biomedical Research & Development

**Recommended Funding:** \$40,000.00

**Use of Funds:** Development of a gel for personalized drug compounding.

**Innovation Project:** Prescription pills are a few sizes fits all which limits efficacy and disproportionately harms women and certain minority groups. Vitae is developing an innovative automated compounding platform that enables pharmacies to provide cost-effective, tailored medication doses for each patient. With resources from the Mathiowitz group at Brown University, Vitae can complete the critical project of chemical formula development necessary for the platform to produce pharmaceutical grade tablets

**Applicant:** Yushin America, Inc.

**Knowledge Partner:** URI Mechatronics Lab

**Location:** Cranston

**Industry:** Robotics and Automation

**Recommended Funding:** \$45,549.00

**Use of Funds:** Development of a pneumatic gripper.

**Innovation Project:** Yushin America and URI Mechatronics lab will design and fabricate a grip mechanism utilized by a robot to handle various parts, and extend the functionality of Yushin's current robotic product line. The new grip mechanism will improve manufacturing robotics capabilities and efficiencies. It will be activated by air, produced from lightweight, plastic material and have a small enough footprint to allow many grippers per tooling project. This new gripper mechanism will increase Yushin's sales in the area of component and replacement parts, and decrease its reliance on suppliers.