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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEDCO & Army Research Laboratory Held Technology Partnering Showcase on Nanotechnology

Federal Laboratory Provided Tours of Facilities for Use by Md. Businesses

(Adelphi, Md.) February 3, 2004 – The Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) and the Army Research Laboratory (ARL) today hosted "Providing a Competitive Advantage Through Innovative Nanotechnology," a technology partnering showcase geared toward small businesses and entrepreneurs. More than 220 people attended the event to explore available ARL technologies for commercialization and facilities, equipment, and expertise available through collaboration with ARL.

"These technology partnering showcases provide the interaction needed to increase technology commercialization coming from the many government laboratories and universities in the State," said Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. "As outlined in the recent report submitted by the Governor's Commission on Development of Advanced Technology Business, this event also helps to market Maryland as a center of valuable research for budding companies."

With an emphasis on Micro-Electro-Mechanical Systems (MEMS) and nanotechnologies, the event included presentations from ARL researchers on their inventions for commercial applications and the capabilities of the lab. Tech transfer officials from ARL, TEDCO and the State presented information on funding programs and opportunities to support tech transfer projects.

Phillip Singerman, executive director of TEDCO, opened the event with a welcome address to the attendees; followed by John M. Miller, director of the Army Research Laboratory who reviewed the details about the lab. Chris Foster, Deputy Secretary of the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) spoke on behalf of his agency explaining the importance of nanotechnology to the future growth of Maryland's tech economy and how federal laboratories contribute to the success of that growth.

"The technologies developed in the federal labs provide a wealth of possibilities for companies," said Foster. "These showcases coordinated by TEDCO fit into DBED's overall strategy to expand Maryland's high tech economy."

To demonstrate the potential impact of working with ARL, Paratek Microwave, a 1998 start-up company, shared its success story with the audience on patenting its materials technology for wireless communications devices from ARL. The company has grown to more than 50 employees and $50 million in financing.

"Paratek's successful commercialization of its technology by working with a federal lab is a good example of a partnership that provides the Army with a source for valuable technology while keeping the cost down," said Miller. " These partnerships serve the important purpose of accelerating the delivery of advanced technologies to the soldiers on point for our nation. We hope we are able to establish more successful partnerships as the result of today's event."

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After the presentations, ARL officials lead attendees on a tour of three of its highly regarded facilities: The Cleanroom offers a full suite of state-of-the-art processing equipment with a wide range of materials and applications for research and prototype development of nano- and micro-scale electronic devices. The Microanalysis Lab handles chemical and structural analysis of electronic materials, analytical tools and technique development, and failure analysis. The Materials Growth Lab gives ARL an advanced, centralized laboratory capable of producing cutting-edge semi-conductor materials.

For businesses wanting more information on this showcase or upcoming showcases in 2004, contact Ron Kaese at 410-715-4170 or rkaese@marylandtedco.org or visit www.MarylandTEDCO.org/programs/federal_labs.html.

Army Research Laboratory (ARL) is the Army's premiere in-house laboratory for fundamental and applied research. For more than 50 years, laboratories of the U. S. Army Materiel Command (AMC) and its predecessors have led the Army's fundamental and applied science programs. ARL's mission is to provide the American soldiers with innovative research, technology, and analytical support to ensure full-spectrum operations. ARL, with its state-of–the-art facilities and world-class workforces, constitutes the largest source of integrated science and technology services in the Army. A diverse group of scientists and engineers make up more than half of ARL's workforce. Nearly 70% hold advanced degree, and many are internationally known for their patents and major contributions to the scientific community. ARL is headquartered in Adelphi, Maryland. For more information visit, www.arl.army.mil

The Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO), a specialized technology transfer arm of the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, was established by the General Assembly as a tool for Maryland to use in maintaining and enhancing its reputation as a leader in technology. TEDCO's mission is to foster the development of a technology economy that will create and sustain businesses throughout all regions in the State of Maryland. Currently, TEDCO has programs that aid and promote state-funded incubators, federal and university laboratories to increase technology transfer and Maryland's eCommerce. For more information on TEDCO, visit its updated website that includes better access to information on programs and resources at www.MarylandTEDCO.org.

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