



\$97,500 was approved for Polaris MEP, a statewide nonprofit organization which provides competitive business improvement programs to grow Rhode Island's manufacturing industry. Polaris is developing a Materials Innovation Center in Rhode Island named *401 Tech Bridge* which will foster innovative research and development in a collaborative venue between government, academia and industry partners. This grant will be used to allow Polaris to immediately secure a building located at 1170 East Main Road in Portsmouth, Rhode Island as home for this project by supporting lease payments and architecture design for the Center. Plans call for the Center buildout to be supported through long-term grants from federal sources (USEDA and NIST) while the Office of Naval Research has expressed interest in supporting construction, equipment, purchases and personnel costs to support operations of the Center.

\$150,000 to RI BIO, a Rhode Island non-profit organization representing the southeastern New England life sciences industry. RI BIO is a group dedicated to galvanizing collaboration and growth among life sciences companies, hospitals, universities, sources of capital and governmental partners. In FY 18, RI BIO received a Network Matching Grant to staff a shared communication function with the New England Medical Innovation Center. This position was responsible for all internal and external communications and developed a new brand and an online presence for RI BIO that portrays a sense of vitality of RI's biomed innovation capacity. This Network Matching Grant to RI BIO will expand RI BIO's ability to serve its members and will be used to create a new position of Entrepreneur in Residence (EIR) at RI BIO to provide RI entrepreneurs and business leaders in the bio sciences field with access to hands-on experience in how to launch or grow their company.