



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **REDI Extends Deadline To Apply For Free Incubator Office Space In Rockville, Maryland; New Business Plan Writing Seminar Dates Announced**

Rockville, MD – Rockville Economic Development, Inc. (REDI) and The Maryland Technology Development Center (MDTC) extended the deadline for technology start-up businesses interested in competing for a year’s worth of free incubator space until **April 30, 2009**. The space comes with access to business mentoring from sponsors and Montgomery County Department of Economic Development staff; legal/IP protection support; access to a community lunch room, copier and fax machine; and four conference rooms with video conference capabilities. Offices are data and voice technology-ready and building security and utilities are also included. The space, located at 9700 Great Seneca Highway in Rockville, was made available by an anonymous donor.

This competition for free office space is just one of many ways REDI is supporting entrepreneurship in today’s tough business environment. In 2009 alone:

- Almost fifty women-owned companies from Maryland, DC and Virginia have applied to participate in the annual StartRight! Women’s Business Plan Competition. Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in mid-July.
- 50 local companies were visited as part of Rockville’s Business Appreciation Week March 17-21, 2009. Local officials including the Mayor of Rockville, City of Rockville Councilmembers, Montgomery County Councilmembers and business leaders visited retail, restaurant, high-tech, biotech, entertainment and construction focused businesses to discuss success stories, challenges, and future plans.
- Several hundred entrepreneurs have attended free business plan writing seminars held at the Rockville Public Library. The next monthly session is scheduled for April 8 from 9 – 11 at the Rockville Regional Library. Dr. Mary Ann Spilman, Director of Executive Management Programs, University of Maryland University College, will teach attendees how to present a business plan verbally. On May 26, 2009, Ruth Semple, Business Development Manager, Montgomery County Economic Development will cover the aspects of writing a solid business plan. On June 23, Deric Mims, Senior Vice President and Head of the SunTrust Small Business Resource Center, will present an intensive class on business plan writing. To register for any or all of these seminars, visit [www.RockvilleREDI.org](http://www.RockvilleREDI.org).

“In these challenging economic times, it is imperative that we actively seek out and deliver opportunities for small businesses to prosper and grow in Rockville. We are committed to helping our local entrepreneurs succeed, whether it’s writing business plans, forming networks among business owners, finding office space or facilitating communication between government

WE ARE REDI

**Rockville** for Life.  
REDI FOR BUSINESS

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leaders and businesses. REDI is continually working to support area business,” said Sally Sternbach, executive director of REDI.

Incubator space competitor applications and accompanying business plans will be reviewed by a committee of stakeholders during the first week of May 2009. Finalists will be asked to make an oral presentation to the evaluation committee. The free office incubator space will be made available on or before June 1, 2009.

To learn more about the Maryland Technology Development Center and its incubator facility services visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/ded/incub/pdf/MTDC.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/ded/incub/pdf/MTDC.pdf) or contact Ruth Semple at 240-453-8488 or [ruth.semple@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:ruth.semple@montgomerycountymd.gov). To download the free office space competition application visit [www.RockvilleREDI.org](http://www.RockvilleREDI.org).

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#### **About the Montgomery County Business Innovation Network.**

The Montgomery County Business Innovation Network (BIN) is a program of the Montgomery County Department of Economic Development, which works to create a globally competitive, highly diversified and knowledge-based economy that provides for the retention and growth of existing companies, stimulates new job creation and enhances entrepreneurial opportunities for all businesses. The Network consists of five facilities located in Shady Grove, Downtown Silver Spring, Wheaton, Rockville and Germantown and provides more than 150,000 square feet of incubator office and lab space. The BIN currently houses over 140 companies that employ 350 county-based employees. Since 2000, over 85 companies have graduated, creating more than 1,800 jobs and occupying over 500,000 square feet of commercial space in the county. To learn more, visit [www.SMARTMontgomery.com](http://www.SMARTMontgomery.com) or call **240-777-2000**.

#### **About Rockville Economic Development, Inc.**

The mission of Rockville Economic Development, Inc. (REDI) is to strengthen and broaden the economic base of Rockville. As part of that mission, REDI supports entrepreneurship, promotes Rockville as a great place to work and live; assists businesses looking to relocate or expand in Rockville; facilitates the site selection, permitting and licensing processes; serves as a liaison to the people and programs in other levels of government; and maintains and disseminates information on the community, workforce, and economic climate of Rockville, where we are "Known for the Companies We Keep." REDI offers its resources to the community free-of-charge, and welcomes inquiries and referrals. To learn more, visit [www.RockvilleREDI.org](http://www.RockvilleREDI.org) or call 301 315-8096.