

## **Governor Rendell Announces More Than \$2.2 Million in Technology-Based Funding for Northwest Region**

October 17, 2005

ERIE – Governor Edward G. Rendell today announced more than \$2.2 million in funding to support two innovative technology projects in Erie that will create new jobs and strengthen the economy in the entire northwest region.

“Pennsylvania is investing in cutting-edge and innovative technology-based ventures that are designed to make our state a global powerhouse in biosciences and advanced technology,” Governor Rendell said. “We’re also working to increase collaboration between our universities, colleges and businesses which will lead to a more competitive, highly-skilled workforce.

“Our educated and talented young people are among our greatest assets and we want to capitalize on them in helping to build the future of Pennsylvania,” Governor Rendell said.

“When I came to Harrisburg, I said we were going to do things differently and we have. We’ve made strategic investments in specific industries and businesses to support growth, private sector investment and new jobs,” the Governor added.

The Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority (BFTDA) approved \$250,000 for the Erie Keystone Innovation Zone (KIZ). Coordinated by the Technology Council of Northwest Pennsylvania and partnering with Penn State Erie The Behrend College, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, Mercyhurst College and Gannon University, the funding will be used to support innovation and entrepreneurship in the region.

The KIZ will focus on advanced manufacturing, information technology, life sciences and homeland security businesses that can develop innovative ideas and products for the marketplace.

“This Keystone Innovation Zone will help to drive northwest Pennsylvania’s economic success,” Governor Rendell added. “A prime source of economic funding comes from the more than 400 institutions of higher learning, located in communities throughout Pennsylvania. Making sure our well-trained graduates stay in Pennsylvania will help us to successfully compete on a global scale in key industries.”

The KIZ program offers the commonwealth’s graduates an incentive to stay in Pennsylvania by supporting new business development, supporting new research and development and facilitating the transfer of technology transfer to existing companies. Sixteen KIZs have been certified and established throughout the commonwealth since the program’s inception in early 2004.

Governor Rendell also presented eBizITPA with \$2 million in Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority (BFTDA) grant funding. The Center, a technology-based

economic development organization created in 2002 to promote and develop the use of e-commerce, information technologies (IT) and advanced IT technology throughout the commonwealth, will use the funding to support and enhance technology transfer and advanced IT.

eBizITPA will also educate, train and provide businesses with IT solutions and continue to foster the growth of Pennsylvania's technology-related companies and the integration of e-business technology and processes to existing businesses. Through the Center's apprentice and intern programs, the commonwealth will also have the ability to attract and retain young talent throughout the region.

The BFTDA is a state-funded network dedicated to fostering technology innovation, strengthening the commonwealth's economy and creating and retaining high-salary jobs that require advanced skill levels. The BFTDA provides funding and support for partners throughout Pennsylvania that identify the most promising technological ventures and provides them with technical assistance and capital.

For more information on KIZs and other DCED programs, visit [www.newPA.com](http://www.newPA.com) or call 1-866-GO-NEWPA (1-866-466-3972).