

Ben Franklin to Invest \$275,000 in the Regional Economy

By Laura S. Epple

The Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Northeastern Pennsylvania's (BFTP/NEP) Board of Directors has approved the investment of \$275,000 in support of regional economic development. Five companies from BFTP/NEP's 21-county service area received funding.

BFTP/NEP announces the following early-stage company investments, which are provided in the form of loans with warrants.

Mussel Polymers, Inc., <https://www.musselpolymers.com/>, Ben Franklin Tech Ventures, Bethlehem, Northampton County

Ben Franklin Investment: \$100,000

Streamline production processes utilizing Poly(catechol-styrene) (PCS) to develop new adhesives and adhesive primers that have superior performance when used underwater or on wet surfaces. PCS-based adhesives and primers have applications in the medical, dental, electronics, roofing, automotive, defense, and marine sectors. The project also includes scaling up manufacturing to create an efficient and commercially viable pathway to meet existing and future demand for Mussel Polymers' products.



Governor Wolf Announces Over \$15 Million in Green Light-Go Grant Funds to Improve Traffic Safety

By Sean Brown

Harrisburg, PA – Governor Tom Wolf announced today that 50 municipalities will receive over \$15.6 million to support traffic signal upgrades, increasing mobility and efficiency across Pennsylvania's communities through the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's (PennDOT's) "Green Light-Go" program.

"The safety improvements supported by the Green Light-Go program not only help municipalities relieve congestion and traffic flow, they help Pennsylvanians move safely and efficiently," said Gov. Wolf. "I'm proud to help our communities improve mobility for Pennsylvanians."

Green Light-Go grants are provided as reimbursement to municipalities for updates to improve the efficiency and operation of existing traffic signals. Grant funding through the Green Light-Go program may be utilized for a range of operational improvements including, but not limited to light-emitting diode (LED) technology installation, traffic signal retiming, developing special event plans and monitoring traffic signals, as well as upgrading traffic signals to the latest technologies. This is the sixth round of funding disbursed through the Green Light-Go program for municipal traffic signals.

Locally in Northampton County:

Bath Borough – \$377,441.68 for detector installation, controller upgrades, new radio communications, and pedestrian signals at four intersections.

Bethlehem Township – \$25,600 for LED upgrades at six intersections.

Forks Township – \$58,000 for upgrading detection at the Kessler'sville Road/Uhler Road intersection.

Forks Township – \$498,336 for upgrading to an interconnected system at six intersections along Sullivan Trail with additional modernization upgrades such as controllers, battery backup systems and emergency pre-emption.

Wilson Borough – \$306,000 for modernization of the traffic signal at Butler Street and Freemansburg Avenue/South 18th Street/Palmer Street.

Ben Franklin provides 1:1 matching funding for work with a college or university partner on technology-based innovation in established manufacturers.

College Partner: Northampton Community College's Emerging Technology Applications Center

Further develop a processing method for a new circular polarizer lens, and expand the company's product line to include small lenses and small batch custom laminations using various substrates. American Polarizers manufactures polarized and non-polarized optical products that are used for scientific and medical instrumentation. The company also produces for the aerospace, electronics, photographic, and animated display industries.

BRD Noise and Vibration Control, Inc., <https://hushcore.net/>, Wind Gap, Northampton County

Ben Franklin investment: \$25,000

University Partner: Lehigh University

Incorporate new scanning and modeling techniques into the engineering process and streamline standard product management, to make the process for assessing new noise and vibration control projects more efficient. BRD Noise and Vibration Control specializes in HVAC acoustic design and manufacturing to help architects, MEP and acoustical consultants, and design/build contractors in the specification of cost-effective approaches to keep mechanical equipment quiet. The firm also troubleshoots and implements remediation treatments for sound problems in existing construction.

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