Maine MEP Nominee among 2011 New England Innovation Award Finalists

Augusta, Maine: A high tech Maine manufacturer has been selected as a finalist for the 2011 New England Innovation Award. The Smaller Business Association of New England (SBANE) announced Monday that Biovation LLC, a Boothbay firm that produces antimicrobial formulations and non-woven fiber products for food packaging and wound care, is among 20 finalists for its 2011 Innovation Award. Biovation LLC was nominated for the award by the Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Maine MEP).

“Biovation is an entrepreneurial Maine firm that has demonstrated how engineering innovation can be applied to solve some of our most rapidly emerging problems. The firm, for example, has developed a line of cost-effective antibacterial treatments for textiles used in healthcare facilities that reduce the risk of transmitting infection between patients and staff by preventing bacteria and fungi from thriving on fibers. Biovation’s treatments not only endure for the lifetime of the product but are manufactured from renewable resources and represent the latest development in green technology,” said Rosemary Presnar of Maine MEP.

Biovation’s products are not limited to medical applications, Presnar noted. The firm last month was selected by the US Marine Corp to develop a boot-drying technology for troops in the field. The technology will utilize a super-absorbent liner to allow troops patrolling in wet environments to dry their boots overnight in locations where they do not have access to electricity.

Each year the Smaller Business Association of New England bestows its Innovation Awards in three categories to for-profit companies headquartered in New England. The three business categories are technology, manufacturing and rising star. Biovation LLC was nominated for the rising star category. The companies are judged according to criteria that include: the nature of the compelling idea or technology, the demonstrated benefit to users, its ability to address a market need or create a new market, and its marketplace success.

Of the 20 award finalists for 2011, two companies are from Maine, one company is from New Hampshire and the remaining 17 are from Massachusetts. Both Maine firms, Biovation LLC, and Technology Systems, Inc., of Brunswick, have been Maine MEP clients.

“We’re very pleased that Biovation has been selected as a finalist for this year’s award,” Presnar stated. “One of the most satisfying aspects of working for Maine MEP is to be able to assist start-up firms like Biovation as they develop new technologies and find creative ways of utilizing these technologies in marketplace solutions. Maine MEP specializes in helping manufacturers establish processes to support growth opportunities and overcome production challenges so that they can be cost-competitive in the global market. This award announcement is proof that Maine is home to some of the nation’s most exciting cutting-edge manufacturers.”
The Innovation Awards will be presented on May 11, 2011, at SBANE’s annual gala dinner.

The Smaller Business Association of New England, Inc. (SBANE), founded in 1938, is a private not-for-profit association of approximately 700 member companies located throughout the six-state region.