



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**LAUNCH NY RECEIVES \$200,000 IN RENEWED
SUPPORT FROM THE JOHN R. OISHEI FOUNDATION**
Four-year award will support new cleantech incubator

Buffalo, N.Y., September 14, 2018 – Launch New York (Launch NY), Upstate New York’s first and only venture development organization to provide pro bono mentoring and capital access to high-growth potential startup businesses across the 27 westernmost counties of the state, has received a new \$200,000 grant from The John R. Oishei Foundation, whose prior awards of \$838,000 starting in 2012 fueled the creation and growth of Launch NY to serve over 800 companies with pro bono mentorship as one of the most active sources of seed funding in Upstate NY.

The new award, allocated over four years, will help Launch NY’s Emerging Cleantech Opportunity (ECO) Incubator achieve its mission of providing dedicated support for seed and early stage, high-growth potential clean energy companies, while growing the overall innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem and clean energy cluster activity. Launch NY received support earlier this year from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), New York State’s energy innovation agency, to operate the ECO Incubator. In addition to leveraging its well-established mentorship services and financing programs to benefit individual cleantech entrepreneurs and startup companies, the ECO Incubator is developing the overall network of resources, supporting product development, co-location, pilot testing, industry relationships, and access to NYSERDA programs.

The ECO Incubator boosts public and private efforts to create innovation and economic impact through the region’s cleantech assets, which the Brookings Institution has highlighted as a driver of a clean economy hub, but one that is yet to be fully realized in Western New York.

“Western New York has significantly grown its overall entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem in the last five years, thanks to funders such as The John R. Oishei Foundation, who recognize that high-growth companies are the future of our economy,” said Marnie LaVigne, Ph.D, President and CEO of Launch NY. “This new award will help accelerate ECO Incubator’s efforts to build the clean energy industry cluster in our region to support these new businesses, introducing new products to the market and creating economic impact.”

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The [John R. Oishei Foundation](#), one of Western New York's largest private foundations with over \$260 million in assets, enhances the economic vitality and quality of life for the Buffalo Niagara region through grantmaking, leadership and network building.

“As a long term supporter of Launch NY, we have seen the growth and impact the organization has had for our region's entrepreneurs. We are pleased to be supporting their latest efforts in growing the new cleantech economy here in Western New York,” said Blythe Merrill, Senior Vice President of Programs, for The John R. Oishei Foundation.

“Launch NY continues to expand the network of stakeholders to drive the clean energy ecosystem forward in the region,” said Nicholas Querques, Program Manager, Technology to Market, NYSERDA. “Public-private partnerships such as this are helping to support a robust ecosystem for new clean energy ventures and entrepreneurs, which is critical in achieving Governor Cuomo's nation-leading energy and climate goals.”

For more information about Launch NY, or to become involved in its programs (including Entrepreneur-in-Residence), mentorship or entrepreneurial opportunities, go to its website at www.launchny.org, or follow Launch NY on its [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages.

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About Launch New York:

The mission of Launch New York, Inc. (Launch NY), a United States Treasury-designated Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) is to identify, support and invest in high-growth, high-impact companies, and catalyze the entrepreneurial culture in the 27 counties comprising the western half of Upstate New York. Launch NY is a 501(c)(3) non-profit venture development organization that promotes economic development through best practices, proven activities of experienced business mentoring and seed capital investing in order to create investment-ready companies which have the promise to create significant economic impact and jobs for our region.

Launch NY uniquely fills the gap in connecting all of Upstate New York's entrepreneurship resources to a pathway to success via unique proof-of-concept capital and high-quality pro bono mentoring support through 18 experienced local entrepreneurs-in-residence and a national mentor network of 2,000 industry, business and investment experts. Launch NY was formed as a result of a collaboration between private and public stakeholders in Upstate New York to create long term strategies that would foster a robust, self-sustaining entrepreneurial ecosystem built on regional

collaboration. Launch NY is headquartered in Buffalo and has regional co-locations with partner organizations in Binghamton, Ithaca, Rochester and Syracuse. It has served over 750 companies comprising more than 2,500 jobs since starting operations in 2012.

About The John R. Oishei Foundation:

The John R. Oishei Foundation enhances the economic vitality and quality of life for the Buffalo Niagara region through grantmaking, leadership, and network building. The Foundation was established in 1940 by John R. Oishei, founder of Trico Products Corporation, one of the world's leading manufacturers of windshield wipers.