

BUSINESS NEWS

Solomons Inventor and Entrepreneur Takes First Place at Crab Pot Pitch Contest

Lowell Cade was driving home from work in a snowstorm one evening and noticed a police officer attempting to control traffic in zero visibility conditions. Barely able to see the officer in the roadway, he wondered if there could be a safer way to conduct traffic – and the RYG Light was conceived.

On May 10, Cade's patented device won first place in the finals of PaxSpace's fourth annual Crab Pot Pitch Contest. Crab Pot is a uniquely Southern Maryland contest for inventors and entrepreneurs. Made popular by television shows like ABC's "Shark Tank," pitch contests provide an opportunity for entrepreneurs to present their ideas to a panel of judges or investors in front of an audience. As the first-place winner, Cade received a \$5,000 cash prize to further his concept, a bushel of crabs and a one-year membership to PaxSpace, a member-operated maker space where entrepreneurs can work on their projects. He admitted being surprised by the win. "The room at the Calvert Marine Museum was packed and the competition was very solid," he said. "I've been working on this product for quite some time and have received a lot of support and feedback along the way. I was thrilled to be selected as the Crab Pot winner. It further validates my concept and demonstrates that people understand it and appreciate the need for it."

Cade envisions applications for the device in emergency management, public safety, construction, school crosswalk activities and general pedestrian management. He intends to finalize design elements and begin production, in Maryland, within a year. For more information on RYG Light, [visit online](#). The Crab Pot event was supported by the Southern Maryland Innovation and Technology (SMIT) Initiative. SMIT is a monthly meet-up which seeks to fuel technology entrepreneurship in Southern Maryland. It is supported regionally by all three Southern Maryland counties and includes representatives of several members of the entrepreneurial ecosystem including the Southern Maryland Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Maryland Technology Economic Development Corporation (TEDCO), the NAWC-AD Technology Transfer Office, PAXSpace, Gaiawrx and St. Mary's College of Maryland.



Economic Development Services

The Department of Economic Development monitors economic trends and works to execute business programs to complement Calvert County's business community. The department's goal is to attract and retain strong, healthy and dynamic companies of all sizes and industries. We're available to help entrepreneurs and small business owners start, grow and manage their businesses; we are also skilled in providing relocation and site selection assistance. [Visit online](#) for an overview of the services we provide.