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Lake County startup developing night vision device for motorcycle riders



More than half of motorcycle riders in the United States don't ride at night or feel uncomfortable doing so because of the unseen hazards, says Robert Schindler.

The co-founder of Rubicon Technologies is trying to change that.

"At Rubicon, what we're doing is developing a night vision system to make riding at night safer," he said.

Schindler said the product will be a device that mounts onto a bike—either on the handlebars or the windshield—so the riders can glance at it and see what is up ahead.

He co-founded Rubicon with Joe Krizmanich (whom Schindler credited with the night vision idea). The company is a client of the Lake County small business accelerator LakeStart, which was founded in 2016.

The company was recently awarded a \$25,000 grant to help with the project through the Great Lakes Innovation and Development Enterprise.

"We're going to be developing this product and hopefully this time next year, we'll be in production," Schindler said.

They plan to have their product assembled at the Painesville-based Virtec Enterprises. Schindler has a long history with Virtec's Michael Stardevant.

"He gave me my start when I first got laid off," he said. "We worked together on a number of medical devices, products for companies all over the Pennsylvania and Ohio area."

Schindler said that it's fitting that he's now using Virtec for his own product.

Stardevant said his company develops new products for startups all the way to companies the size of STERIS.

"We're really small, there are six of us, and that's all we do is develop new products," he said.

There are 8.5 million registered motorcycles in the United States. Ohioans own the third most motorcycles behind California and Florida.

"It makes sense that a company developing motorcycle safety technology accessories could be located here," Schindler said.

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