



**There Are Great Things Happening in Michigan.
January 2008**

MICHIGAN CAN GIVE YOU THE UPPER HAND

With a clean, new calendar sitting before us loaded with only the optimism of a fresh start, a recap of the past year is in order. Here in easily digestible form is the year **2007** in numbers.

1 National ranking of michigan.org for visitors to state travel web sites every month from April through December.



4 International investment missions, to Sweden, Germany and two to China, to attract overseas companies to locate job-creating facilities in Michigan.

6 Michigan's ranking among all states on the Small Business Survival Index 2007 according to the national Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council.

7 Investments in national venture capital funds by Michigan's 21st Century Investment Fund to leverage \$62 million into greater investments in Michigan technology firms.

22 New technology companies created by former Pfizer scientists with loans from the 21st Century Jobs Fund which also established an entrepreneurial incubator and funded the distribution of Pfizer technology and equipment to emerging life sciences businesses in Michigan.

23 High Tech MEGAs awarded this year, compared to six in 2006, and a record-shattering number in a category that promises future high-paying jobs and economic diversification in new technology sectors.

43 Brownfield redevelopments tax credits approved to generate private investment of \$2.17 billion to convert contaminated and blighted properties into new residences, hotels, office buildings and retail centers and create more than 8,800 new jobs.

54 Banks enrolled in the re-established Capital Access Program and more than 500 loans, totaling more than \$50 million, made to Michigan small businesses to create and retain more than 4,600 jobs.

56 MEGA agreements projected to create and retain more than 38,000 jobs with private investments estimated to total more than \$2.5 billion.

56 Economic Development Job Training awards, totaling more than \$23 million, to upgrade the skills of 13,823 employees in new machinery, processes and systems at 114 Michigan businesses.

78 Completed agreements for loans and grants to awardees of the 21st Century Jobs Fund Commercialization Competition, investing \$126 million in new technologies by for-profit companies (45%), non-profit research institutions (27%) and universities with private sector collaborators (28%).

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

BUSINESS FACILITIES BRONZE GOES TO MEDC-CHRYSLER MEGA BUSINESS FACILITIES

Chrysler's \$1.73 billion investment commitment earned a top award in Business Facilities magazine's 2007 Economic Development Deal of the Year competition.

Per the publication, "...the 2007 Bronze Award goes to a state that secured a sizable automotive investment—this time in a location that gets more press for its woes than its successes. That state is Michigan, and this year's Bronze Award goes to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation for its ef-

forts (along with several local communities) to secure a \$1.73 billion investment from Chrysler. The automaker is investing \$730 million to replace its aging engine plant in the Downriver Detroit community of Trenton, MI; \$700 million to build a new axle plant in Marysville, MI; and the remaining \$300 million to expand a paint shop at its Sterling Heights, MI assembly plant, just outside of metro Detroit."

The entire article is available online at: www.businessfacilities.com/bf_07_12_cover1a.php

GRANHOLM, MEDC HONOR MICHIGAN BUSINESSES FOR DIVERSIFICATION EXCELLENCE

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, MEDC Executive Committee Chair and GM executive Matthew P. Cullen and MEDC President and CEO James C. Epolito honored Michigan businesses, economic development organizations and individuals during the Michigan Diversification Celebration held at the state Capitol on Thursday, December 6.

In all, the event showcased 29 honorees and finalists, each of which is noteworthy for their contributions to Michigan's economic diversification:

Diversification Achievement in Life Sciences Large Business Category

Caraco Pharmaceutical Laboratories, Ltd., Detroit For contributions to the Diversification of Life Sciences

One of the fastest growing companies in the generic pharmaceutical industry, Caraco products are used to treat a variety of disorders including hypertension, arthritis, epilepsy, diabetes, antipsychotic, depression and pain management. This year, Caraco announced a \$14.5 million investment in the state that will create nearly 600 new jobs in an expansion of its headquarters and operations in Detroit.

HealthMedia, Inc., Ann Arbor

For contributions to the Diversification of Life Sciences

HealthMedia methodology and technology effectively emulates a health coaching session via the web that increases compliance, reduces medical utilization, and boosts employee productivity. Based on 30+ years of behavioral science research by Health Media Research Laboratory at the University of Michigan, these programs are today used by clients includ-

ing Kaiser Permanente, UPS, Cleveland Clinic, Johnson & Johnson, GSK, and eight Blue Cross Blue Shield organizations across the United States. It has grown to more than 100 employees today from about 40 in 2005.



Stryker Corporation, Kalamazoo
WINNER of the Outstanding Diversification Achievement
in Life Sciences

This global medical technology company is consistently recognized for its industry leadership. The Gallup Great Workplace Award cites Stryker for having one of the most engaged and productive workforces in the world in 2007. Fortune ranks it among the world's most admired companies in the medical products and equipment sector (#3 in 2007). According to Business Week, Stryker is #31 in the 50 best performers in the S&P500 in 2007 while IndustryWeek hails it among its 50 top performers of the best manufacturing companies.

Small Business Category

Galaxy Machine & Retrofit, Inc., Brighton

For contributions to the Diversification of Life Sciences

Galaxy has developed two advances to better assist medical patients and the elderly who require medications at specific times during the day. Its Advantage Drug Dispensing System secures pharmaceuticals and minimizes the chance of mistakes when dispensing medications. Its Medi-Clock, for in-home use, replaces pill bottles with a system that automatically administers medication at predetermined and programmed times up to five times per day.



Founded in 1913 in Ann Arbor to serve Michigan's growing auto industry, Hoover Precision Products today develops and produces quality precision balls and bearings for highly critical applications in aerospace, medical, and defense operations. In 1990, it became a subsidiary of Tsubaki Nakashima Company of Japan, a global manufacturer with facilities in Europe, Asia, and North America.

ProNAi Therapeutics, Inc., Kalamazoo

For contributions to the Diversification of Life Sciences

Founded in 2004, ProNAi Therapeutics nucleic acid-based DNA interference technology (DNAi[®]) enables the discovery and development of novel therapies for cancer and other diseases. The company expects to move its PNT2258 into clinical trials this year after striking preclinical activity in hematological and solid tumor models. Its product portfolio includes additional promising technology in the area of in vitro testing.

**Diversification Achievement in Advanced Manufacturing,
Automotive & Materials
Large Business Category**

Aircraft Precision Products, Inc., Ithaca

For contributions to the Diversification of Advanced Manufacturing,
Automotive & Materials

Aircraft Precision Products, Inc. (APPI) and its 65 employees manufacture high precision components for commercial and military aircraft. After an intensive, year-long review, they were recently certified to supply turboprop engine components to Rolls Royce, a global leader in the sector, adding to an impressive client list that includes General Electric Aircraft Engines. APPI provides precision machining, thermal coating, and metalworking with an emphasis on quality, delivery and lean manufacturing.

Cascade Engineering, Grand Rapids

WINNER of the Outstanding Diversification Achievement in Advanced Manufacturing, Automotive, Materials

Cascade Engineering, a leader in engineered plastic systems and components, provides innovations, expertise and intelligent solutions for the automotive, solid waste and industrial markets. Recent innovations include development of new thermoplastic nanocomposites and a new hybrid acoustic insulator. Widely recognized for its sustainable business practices, Cascade has approximately 600 employees in the Grand Rapids area.

Dowding Industries, Inc., Eaton Rapids

For contributions to the Diversification of Advanced Manufacturing,
Automotive & Materials

Once a small tool and die shop in Springport, Dowding today is poised to become a major player in alternative energy manufacturing. Its recently announced expansion, will enhance its capacity to produce large-scale castings and housings used in gas, oil and alternative energy production. Dowding produces more than \$33 million in sales per year and has grown to 215 employees in the Eaton Rapids area.

Small Business Category

Coherix, Inc., Ann Arbor

For contributions to the Diversification of Advanced Manufacturing,
Automotive & Materials

Automotive engineers use Coherix's digital holographic imaging technology to solve complex manufacturing problems. Three-dimensional high-definition images enable them to see instantly and intuitively what is wrong, and what to do about it. With annual expenditures of \$6-8 billion on measurement/testing devices in the auto industry alone, this technology promises significant opportunities for business success and job creation.

Eagle Manufacturing Corporation, Shelby Twp.

For contributions to the Diversification of Advanced Manufacturing, Automotive & Materials

Eagle, an often recognized leader in the extruded plastic industry, developed innovative, customized machining technologies that enable a manufacturing process for biodegradable corn starch-based eating ware. This advance promises significant growth and job creation opportunities for a company that primarily served the automotive industry until two years ago. The company has just completed a major expansion which will secure their growth trend for years to come.



ElectroJet Inc., Brighton
WINNER of the Outstanding Diversification Achievement
in Advanced Manufacturing, Automotive & Materials

ElectroJet technologies improve the efficiency and reduce pollution from motorcycle, ATV, watercraft and utility engines. Its intellectual property enables the use of accurate controls to existing engine designs without significant modification to engine castings. ElectroJet solutions have garnered attention across the globe where small scooter engine efficiency and pollution are concerns. It is developing an unmanned drone for the U.S. Dept. of Defense and will manufacture fuel injection components for the Chinese market.

Diversification Achievement in Homeland Security/Defense Large Business Category

Burtek, Inc., Chesterfield Twp.

WINNER of the Outstanding Diversification Achievement
in Homeland Security/Defense

MEDC first provided Burtek with economic development job training assistance in 2005 when its 78 employees manufactured \$13 million in parts for AM General's military HUMVEE. Since then, it has grown to 220 employees and sales of \$70 million. The company now supplies 500 different parts to AM

General and is manufacturing mobile radiation portal monitors, radar platforms, and mobile electronic command centers for Raytheon, Northrop-Grumman, Lockheed, and Navistar. It expects to expand into a second facility in 2008.

Demmer Corporation, Lansing

For contributions to the Diversification of Homeland Security/Defense

Demmer, a family-owned business founded in 1950, today serves vital industries from automotive to defense, aerospace, commercial, crude oil and power generation. The company is now a key supplier of armor and metal fabrications, stampings and machinings for military applications. MEDC assistance has helped the company through job training assistance and brownfield redevelopment credits and will enable it to add 750 new jobs to its Lansing workforce.

Spartan Motors, Inc., Charlotte

For contributions to the Diversification of Homeland Security/Defense

Spartan, long a mainstay supplier of chassis for recreational vehicles, fire trucks, ambulances, and emergency-rescue and specialty vehicle markets, today also supplies and integrates key chassis components for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles. The MRAP vehicles are designed to protect their occupants from mines, rocket-propelled grenades and improvised explosive devices, through their V-shaped hull, raised chassis and improved armor. The company has 1,200 employees in Michigan and maintains facilities in Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and South Dakota. Spartan reported sales of \$445 million in 2006.

Small Business Category

Evigia Systems, Inc., Ann Arbor

For contributions to the Diversification of Homeland Security/Defense

Evigia, founded in 2004, develops and commercializes highly integrated, low power and high performance sensing systems. It integrates commercially proven micro- and nano-scale electro-mechanical sensors onto high performance CMOS semiconductor circuits. The 21st Century Jobs Fund Commercialization Competition awarded Evigia more than \$1.7 million to commercialize the use of RFID tags to track and monitor military supplies, weapons and munitions.

Pilgrim Technology, LLC, Midland

For contributions to the Diversification of Homeland Security/Defense

One of Michigan's 2006 50 Top Companies to Watch, Pilgrim Technology provides wireless technology now being used by

U.S. military forces that keeps critical equipment working while being used on the front lines of battle. It also is working with the U.S. Dept. of Defense to apply innovative technologies to hybrid and fuel cell vehicles, up-armored, traditional and unmanned robotic vehicles, as well as secure communications and bandwidth-dependent applications.

Pixel Velocity Inc., Ann Arbor

WINNER of the Outstanding Diversification Achievement in Homeland Security/Defense

Pixel provides intelligent high-speed image processing technologies to industries with demanding needs for visual information, such as security surveillance, medical imaging, teleconferencing, vehicle guidance, military/defense and data archive and retrieval. Formed in 2001, the company's first security system is up and running at the University of Michigan Stadium, the largest stadium in the U.S.

Diversification Achievement in Alternative Energy Large Business Category



Dow Corning's Hemlock Semiconductor Corporation, Hemlock
WINNER of the Outstanding Diversification Achievement
in Alternative Energy

Dow Corning's Hemlock Semiconductor Corporation (HSC), the world's leading producer of polycrystalline silicon for the solar and semiconductor industries, is in the midst of a \$1 billion expansion. This, the largest expansion in the industry's history, will nearly double the company's production capacity to 36,000 metric tons annually. A joint venture of Dow Corning, Shin Etsu Handotai and Mitsubishi Materials Corp., HSC announced two expansions in Michigan in an 18 month period. Polycrystalline silicon is the base material used in microchips in computers and cell phones as well as solar cells that harvest renewable energy from light.

ORT, Erie

For contributions to the Diversification of Alternative Energy

ORT, a supplier of precision and large machining, engineering, fabrication, in-plant service and EDM to manufacturers for 50 years, has become a force in the alternative energy sector. Its success in designing and building solar power related manufacturing systems over the past six years has enabled further expansion of renewable energy. It projects solar energy-related revenues to grow to 20 percent next year from 11 percent in 2005 and wind-related revenues to grow to as much as 18 percent from zero in the same time frame.

United Solar Ovonix, LLC, Auburn Hills

For contributions to the Diversification of Alternative Energy

With the first of the company's new manufacturing facilities in Greenville beginning production of photovoltaic solar panels and a second plant under construction, United Solar Ovonix has positioned Michigan to be the solar energy manufacturing capital of the United States. Its plans for four more manufacturing plants here are projected to create some 1,200 alternative energy manufacturing jobs in the state.

Small Business Category

Edgewater Automation LLC, St. Joseph

For contributions to the Diversification of Alternative Energy

This six-year-old venture designs, engineers and builds custom assembly and test equipment for the automotive, robotic, medical, stored power, and military sectors. Its facility has grown from 10,000 sq. ft. to nearly 50,000 after the addition of solar panels manufacturing to its production portfolio. MEDC assistance includes two High Tech MEGAs to enable the company's growth in Michigan.

ilumisys, Inc., Troy

WINNER of the Outstanding Diversification Achievement in Alternative Energy

Formed in 2007 as a subsidiary of Altair Engineering, this five-employee company is just months away from production of energy-saving next-generation solid-state lighting technology. It is expected to revolutionize the commercial lighting market by reducing the energy consumption by 20 percent. Ilumisys expects increased sales from a few thousand units in 2008 to over 6 million units in 2012, with a 10 percent market share representing over 50 million units by 2017.

Tellurex Corporation, Traverse City

For its contributions to the Diversification of Alternative Energy

Tellurex engineers and manufactures thermoelectric modules for thermal management and micro power generation applications. Its product applications span automotive, medical device, food service and military markets. Best known today for their first-to-market heated and cooled beverage-holder, available in Chrysler vehicles, this 21st Century Jobs Fund Commercialization Competition awardee has attracted \$4 million in angel capital and \$1 million in federal research grants to develop the next generation of micropower applications.

Diversification Achievement Urban Community Economic Development Partner

Ann Arbor SPARK

WINNER of the Outstanding Diversification Achievement Urban Economic Development Partner Award

With a focus on innovation-based businesses, SPARK has keyed significant economic growth in the region. Its work can be seen in expansions of Handylab, Cayman Chemicals and Compendia Biosciences and recent arrivals of Barracuda Networks from California and Aernnova from Spain. SPARK also administers the Michigan Pre-Seed Capital Fund, a collaborative equity fund of the state's 12 SmartZonesSM, that invests in technology-based companies. From assistance for displaced Pfizer employees now starting new enterprises, to boot-camps for entrepreneurs and its active support for new tech businesses, SPARK embodies the best in economic development leadership.

Rural Community Economic Development Partner

Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation

WINNER of the Outstanding Diversification Achievement Rural Economic Development Partner Award

Created in 1981 by the city of Sault Ste. Marie, the EDC has helped grow the area's manufacturing base with nine major industrial expansions and the city's manufacturing footprint has grown more than 60 percent to 423,000 sq. ft. since 1991. Its staff of three half-time employees has established multiple funding sources for economic development, including creation of the \$320,000 Essex Fund, the Airport Tax Increment Financing Authority and managed growth through land sales and development projects from \$0 assessed value to over \$4,000,000 by 2005.

Individual



Kenneth I. Rogers , Automation Alley
WINNER of the Outstanding Diversification Achievement Individual Award

Automation Alley, initiated in 1997 to leverage the strength of Oakland County's high-tech companies into a national marketing strategy to attract skilled talent and cutting-edge businesses, has flourished under the direction and guidance of Executive Director Ken Rogers. Under his leadership, Automation Alley has dramatically increased its membership and expanded its geographic scope to an eight county region with well over 800 members. Ken also established a new International Business Center, a Technology Center, and oversaw the opening of a new headquarters in Troy.

Non-profit Economic Development Partner

Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center

WINNER of the Outstanding Diversification Achievement Non-Profit Economic Development Partner Award

With 12 regional and more than 30 satellite offices, Michigan SBTDC each year provides much-needed counseling, training and research and advocacy to more than 14,000 new ventures, small businesses and innovative technology companies. The SBTDC network provides MEDC assistance to Michigan entrepreneurs and small business community offering help with access to capital, business management, cash flow variables, intellectual property issues and technology assistance.

Diversification Achievement Transformational Project



Detroit RiverFront Conservancy
WINNER of the Outstanding Diversification Achievement
Transformational Project Award

Thanks to The Detroit RiverFront Conservancy, the vision of a transformed waterfront in Detroit is fast becoming reality. This

summer a 2.5-mile stretch of the East RiverWalk opened, which includes two plazas and pavilions located at Rivard Plaza and Gabriel Richard Park, just east of the Belle Isle Bridge, as well as a more than one mile stretch of walkway that spans from Stroh River Place to Mt. Elliot Park. The RiverWalk will ultimately span from the Ambassador Bridge to beyond the MacArthur Bridge at Belle Isle into Gabriel Richard Park, about a five mile stretch. The Conservancy has raised \$93 million of the \$140 million goal set for the RiverWalk. Other additions will include a new Riverfront Carousel at Rivard Plaza, a new State Park and marina, and the creation of the Dequindre Cut which will link the Riverwalk with many neighborhoods in Detroit. The riverfront transformation effort has attracted a substantial amount of private investment and new mixed-use developments. The successful work of the Conservancy in bringing together business, developers and government has provided a new riverfront that all citizens can be proud to show off.

COMPANY SUCCESSES

14 COMPANY EXPANSIONS, COMMUNITY PROJECTS TO CREATE 2,800+ JOBS

The MEDC is helping six companies and backing eight redevelopment projects that combined are expected to create 2,851 jobs and involve more than \$550.8 million in new capital investment.

Approved by the Michigan Economic Growth Authority (MEGA) on December 18, the 14 deals include three in the Ann Arbor area that capped a record-setting year for High Tech MEGA awards:

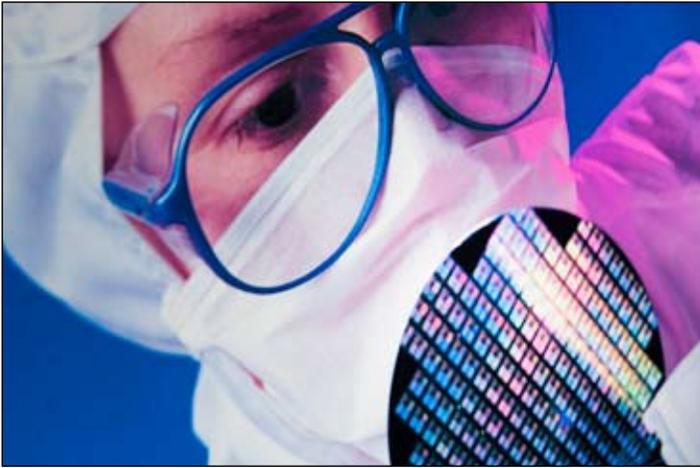
- **ProQuest LLC:** Acquired by Cambridge Information Group (CIG) in 2007, this digital repository and provider of scholarly documents plans to build a new data center at its current site and create 809 new jobs, including 303 directly by the company.
- **Danotek Motion Technologies:** The developer/manufacturer of Permanent Magnet Generators, Power Control Electronics and Brushless Motors, expects its relocation to a new expanded facility in Pittsfield Township with \$7.8 million in private investment, to create 313 new jobs, including 141 directly by the company. The enlarged operations will enable the manufacture of variable speed

PM generators with capacity of up to 3 Megawatt for use with wind turbines, CHP (combined heat and power) and a brushless steering system for electric vehicle application.

- **Accuri Cytometers:** This maker of cell analysis tools and 21st Century Commercialization Competition awardee, is planning to invest \$2 million to expand its Scio Township operations and create 215 new jobs, including 88 directly by the company.

Other MEGA actions for the month were:

- **MS Automotive LLC:** Germany-based Maschinenfabrik Spaichingen plans to invest more than \$21.8 million in a new, custom-built North American headquarters and manufacturing facility in Fowlerville. The project is expected to create 244 new Michigan jobs, including 106 directly by the company.
- **Unified Brands:** The restaurant equipment manufacturer, plans to relocate its Arizona operations to its Weidman (Broomfield Twp.) facility, an expansion that will generate \$6.7 million in investment by the company and create 327 new Michigan jobs, including 158 directly by the company.



Brownfield redevelopment actions included:

- Dow Chemical Company plans to invest over \$100 million to expand its Midland operations for production of a new automotive filter, creating 55 new jobs. A state brown-field tax credit valued at \$10 million helped convince the company to invest and create jobs in Michigan.
- Argonaut Campus Developer LLC will transform the Argonaut Building in Detroit's New Center into a mixed-use College for Creative Studies campus for art and design education. General Motors will donate the building for redevelopment for a number of uses by the College as well as retail and office space for non-profit organizations and an incubator/accelerator for start-up businesses in design and creative industries. The project is expected to generate capital investment in excess of \$120 million and create 200 new jobs.
- FRBD LLC will convert the historic Federal Reserve Building in Detroit's central business district into 84 one and two-bedroom apartments with retail and commercial space, a project that is expected to generate more than \$20.2 million in capital investment and create 12 new jobs.
- Gardenvue Estates, a multi-phase residential mixed-use redevelopment of the former Herman Gardens Public Housing Complex in northwest Detroit will create the 186 rental units, is the first phase of an overall plan approved by the Detroit Housing Commission of a \$227.2 million mixed-use, mixed-income development consisting of 920 residential units, commercial/retail space, a central park and the recently completed NFL Boys and Girls Club.
- Piquette Square and Southwest Housing Solutions will redevelop an industrial site on Piquette St. in Detroit that once housed the Studebaker Manufacturing Facility and the Detroit Artillery Armory. A four-story building with 150 supportive housing units for homeless veterans and retail and commercial space, the project is expected to generate \$20 million in capital investment and create 22 new jobs.
- Tireman & Epworth Properties, the redevelopment of 7.3 acres at the corner of Tireman and Epworth streets in northwest Detroit, includes demolition of two blighted buildings, renovation of two viable ones and removal of debris and contaminated soil to make way for the expansion of Parts Galore, an auto parts salvage business. The site will also house a new towing company to support its parent company's operations throughout southeast Michigan and will generate \$1.97 million in capital investment and create up to 25 new jobs.
- Urban Development Company will transform the former Globe Trading Building and Detroit Dry Docks Engine Works in Detroit north of the marina in Tri Centennial State Park into a mixed-use development with 64 new loft condos, 28 loft apartments, retail/commercial space and indoor parking. Michigan DNR has proposed a visitor's center for the park in the building, a project that is expected to generate \$17 million in capital investment and create up to 75 new jobs.
- North Woodward Garden Block Development will help revitalize a blighted block in Detroit including restoration of the Garden Theatre and the Blue Moon Building. A new, three-story building with retail and commercial space will also be constructed along with a 300-space parking garage. The project will generate \$28.7 million in capital investment and create more than 200 new jobs.
- Dearborn Village Partners will undertake a multi-phased, mixed-use development across 12 sites along Michigan Ave. in Dearborn including two 10-story mid-rise condos and a tri-level 881-space parking deck. The project is expected to generate \$125 million in capital investment and create 350 new jobs.

MICHIGAN PRE-SEED CAPITAL FUND INVESTS \$4 MILLION IN TECH COMPANIES

The Michigan Pre-Seed Capital Fund announced on December 20 that it has made 18 investments totaling more than \$4 million to technology-based companies in advanced manufacturing and materials, alternative energy, homeland security and defense and the life sciences.

The fund, a collaborative effort of Michigan's 12 SmartZones and the MEDC, received \$6.6 million in start-up investment money from the 21st Century Jobs Fund. The investments attracted 1.5 times matching funds from outside sources in the investments.

The fund is administered by Ann Arbor Spark. Further information is available at www.annarborspark.com.

KELLOGG EXPANDING IN BATTLE CREEK

Kellogg Company this week announced a \$54-million expansion of its W.K. Kellogg Institute for Food and Nutrition Research in Battle Creek. The 157,000 sq. ft. pilot plant and office space addition will expand Kellogg Company's global center for research and innovation activities.

The expansion plan involves the creation of a 10-year Agricultural Processing Renaissance Zone.® The Renaissance Zone, starting in 2009, will provide a 10-year exemption from all property taxes except local schools' special millages and bond issues.

LEGISLATURE APPROVES SUPPORT FOR ACCIDENT FUND EXPANSION

A measure to give Michigan banks and insurance companies access to state historic tax and Renaissance Zone tax credits has been approved by both the Michigan Senate and House of Representatives. Governor Jennifer M. Granholm is expected to sign the legislation into law.

The move will support the Accident Fund Insurance Co. of America's \$182-million plan to renovate Ottawa Power Station



in downtown Lansing for its new headquarters. The new headquarters is expected to create 500 new jobs.

MICHIGAN MADE CTS, ENCLAVE FINALISTS FOR 2008 NORTH AMERICAN CAR AND TRUCK OF YEAR AWARD

The Cadillac CTS and Buick Enclave are among six finalists for the North American Car of the Year and the North American Truck of the Year. Other finalists include the Chevy Malibu and Honda Accord in the car category and the Chevy Tahoe and Mazda CX-9 in the truck category.

The awards are unique in the United States—unlike others given by a single publication, radio or television station—are chosen by the votes of 46 automotive journalists from the United States and Canada.

Winners will be announced January 13, 2008 at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit.

MEDC SECURES MANUFACTURER'S GROWTH IN SAGINAW

A \$400,000 infrastructure award to Kochville Township in Saginaw County will support the expansion of Glastender Inc. The funds will enable the township to extend the public water main and make sanitary sewer improvements to support the company's 40,000 sq. ft. expansion. The family-owned manufacturer of restaurant and bar equipment is expected to invest \$7 million in the project and create 40 new jobs.

The grant is being made available by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation with federal Community Development Block Grant funds. Glastender products are sold to establishments throughout the United States and internationally including Chili's, TGI Friday's and Outback Steakhouse. Glastender donated \$40,000 to Kochville Township to help finance the cost of the necessary infrastructure improvements.

NEW COMMISSIONS TO PROMOTE CULTURAL HERITAGE, CREATE TOURISM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm has created three commissions to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Idlewild resort community in Lake County, the sesquicentennial of the Civil War and the bicentennial of the War of 1812, all designed to increase awareness of Michigan's cultural heritage and to support cultural economic development opportunities in the state.

“History and historical sites are economic magnets for tourism and economic development that can help create jobs,” Granholm said. “Here in Michigan and across the nation, there are countless examples of historic sites and celebrations commemorating historical milestones in our past that have generated tremendous economic benefit. It is important that we build on that experience.”

Founded in 1912, Idlewild represented freedom for many African Americans, being one of more than 30 resorts in the country where African Americans were permitted to vacation and purchase property before such discrimination became illegal in 1964. Commonly known as ‘Black Eden’, Idlewild was an active, year-round community through the mid-1960s, frequented by well-known entertainers and professionals from throughout the country.

Earlier this year, Granholm established the Idlewild, Michigan Transformation Initiative to leverage the community’s unique strengths so it can attract new investment and economic growth. The initiative is being supported by \$93,875 in combined federal and state grants.

In November, Granholm issued a request for proposals to develop an economic development action strategy for Idlewild

that will help continue the revitalization and preservation efforts currently underway as part of the initiative.

The sesquicentennial of the Civil War in 2011 and the bicentennial of the War of 1812 in 2012 offer two additional opportunities for statewide observances that will help build on Michigan’s cultural tourism and economic development activities.

“Michigan’s role in these wars deserves recognition,” Granholm said. “We want to encourage activities and programs that will increase awareness of Michigan’s cultural heritage and promote cultural economic development activities in our state to honor these two important historical events.”

“The cultural sector is a critical contributor to Michigan’s economy, because it can strengthen a community’s tax base and help attract and retain people to live and work in Michigan,” said Dr. William M. Anderson, director of the Department of History, Arts and Libraries (HAL). “There is strong reason to believe that the cultural sector will, in fact, have an even more important role in the new economy characterized by technology, innovation and creativity.”