



IS YOUR TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS LOOKING FOR THE UPPER HAND?

Michigan is ready to invest if you are ready to compete...

Michigan's \$2 billion **21st Century Jobs Fund** is ramping up for the next \$30 million round of investing in cutting edge companies producing great technology businesses in the following sectors:

- Alternative Energy
- Life Sciences
- Advanced Automotive, Manufacturing & Materials
- Homeland Security & Defense

The investment will be made through the 21st Century Jobs Fund **2008 Business Plan Competition** where for-profit companies will compete on the merits of their technology, business management team and potential, current or near term investors and projected market opportunity and success.

Michigan wants companies to take advantage of this investment and the myriad of resources such as incubators and business support services that are available to young technology companies throughout the state.

The 21st Century Jobs Fund was created to diversify Michigan's economy and has already made a significant impact. Some of our current success stories can be found at MichiganAdvantage.org. Your company could be the next!

Basics on how the competition will work:

- There is \$30 million dedicated to the 2008 Business Plan Competition.
- The focus is on for-profit companies that can demonstrate a viable, sustainable business opportunity with near term job creation—five years or less.
- Your business must be focused on any one of the following industry sectors:
 - ❖ Alternative Energy
 - ❖ Life Sciences
 - ❖ Advanced Automotive Manufacturing & Materials
 - ❖ Homeland Security & Defense

- Matching funds from outside investors is a requirement.
- Proposals will be submitted and managed via an easy to use website.
- Proposals will be evaluated by independent peer review experts on four equally weighted criteria:
 - ❖ Commercialization merit
 - ❖ Personnel expertise
 - ❖ Ability to leverage additional funds
 - ❖ Scientific and technical merit
- Awards will most likely be structured as convertible loans.
- Awardees will have an experienced portfolio manager assigned to them from the Michigan Economic Development CorporationSM (MEDC) to provide significant value add beyond the loan capital awarded.
- There are MEDC partners across the state that offer outstanding services to support early stage technology companies with everything from business plan writing to high level strategic and market plan assessments. These organizations are ready to help you with your business plan for this competition now.

The 2008 competition currently launches in April and closes in June for applications, but potential applicants should refer to the web portal frequently for the latest information on the competition. The official website portal for all information relevant to a potential applicant, including timelines and the official competition request for proposals is TheMEDC.org/21CBizPlan.

Michigan welcomes you to its new business landscape should you choose to compete.