

LANSING REGION'S ECONOMIC GROWTH

Nuclear Physics Research Project Boosts Local Economy

The U.S. Department of Energy awarded Michigan State University the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB). The \$550 million research project is estimated to bring 400 jobs to Michigan. As an economic development accelerator, the FRIB will result in an estimated \$1 billion in new economic activity. Conceptual design work for the facility will begin this year and the project is expected to complete in 2017.

Technology Innovation Center Growing



The former Jacobson's department store in East Lansing is the new home to 10 technology-oriented startup businesses. The new Technology Innovation Center is a portion of East Lansing's contribution to the Lansing Regional SmartZone, designed to grow technology in the region.

The center opened October 1st and currently covers 7,000 square feet on the third floor of the building, with hopes to cover all 25,000 square feet.

LCC Establishes Nanotechnology Partnership

Lansing Community College has established a nanotechnology partnership (named Nano-Link) with seven other Midwest schools. Nano-Link will be funded by the National Science Foundation's four-year, \$3 million grant. It is estimated that by 2014, there will be 10 million nanotechnology jobs. Nanotechnology is the science of engineering materials to microscopic sizes, and has already been used in a variety of consumer products.

TechSmith Launches Camtasia Relay

TechSmith, an Okemos based software company, unveiled their new product Camtasia Relay. This software will be used to assist educators by allowing presentations and lectures to be captured, produced and published for playback online and to mobile devices. The new program will allow educators to increase their instructional effectiveness, maximize class time, and enhance learning.



State Pension Funds Investment

Invest Michigan has supplied state pension funds to two Michigan firms. The companies include Lansing-based Ecosynthetix, which makes bio-based replacements for petroleum-based chemicals, and Auburn Hills-based Microposite, which produces clean technology home building products. Although it is unknown how much was invested in the companies, Invest Michigan will use \$300 million in state pension funds overall.

Niowave Receives Third \$1 Million Contract

Niowave Inc. has received its third \$1 million contract for 2008. The Office of Naval Research will be using Niowave to build a superconducting radio frequency electron gun. The gun has defense, homeland security and medical applications and will be the first of its kind. The contract with the Navy allows Niowave to open a whole new market with the Department of Defense, growing the organization's staff, knowledge and capabilities.



Capitol Bancorp Moves Jobs to Lansing

Capitol Bancorp Ltd. is bringing its Tempe, Ariz., operations center to its Lansing offices. Consolidating all operations will add 35 jobs to Lansing and another 65 corporate jobs over the next two years. Consistency in operations and economies of scale are some of the benefits Capitol Bancorp will receive from the move.

MBI Further Develops Bio-Based Product

Lansing-based MBI International and DuPont Applied BioSciences are extending a research project for a new bio-based product. The development will move the product from the laboratory stage to production. MBI is a subsidiary of the Michigan State University Foundation and employs 28 at its campus research facility.

Potter Park Zoo Plans for Black Rhino

Potter Park Zoo is planning a \$1.1 million expansion to include a black rhinoceros exhibit. The project would double the current outdoor rhino yard and add 500 to 600 square feet to the existing building. Approximately 520 black rhinos currently exist in the wild. Bringing the rhinos to Potter Park Zoo will help with the breeding and preservation of the species.

Old Town Redevelopment Project

Former state legislator Lingg Brewer is renovating another Old Town building. The 308 Grand River building will be turned into expansive retail space and lofts. It is one of the few remaining Old Town buildings in need of renovation. Brewer's first Old Town renovation is the now occupied 317 Grand River building.

Local Golfers Donate \$10,000 to Sparrow

Former Michigan residents, Casey and Rachel Lubahn won Golf Channel's "Big Break X: Michigan." The Children's Miracle Challenge required participants to hole out from a 30-yard distance over a 16-foot high wall. The Lubahns won the \$10,000 prize for using the least number of strokes. The donation will help provide medical care to the children at Sparrow Regional Children's Center.



Lansing Plans for Single Stream Recycling Program

The City of Lansing plans to implement a single stream recycling program. Residents will no longer be required to sort recyclables, because it will be taken care of at the recycling facility. The city will also be adding a variety of items to its curbside pickup service, including plastic bags, all paper types, cardboard boxes and plastic containers numbered three through seven. The expansion is expected to increase recycling participation by 400 percent and reduce the amount of waste contributed to local landfills. The program will require three phases, beginning in March 2009.



\$4 Million Hotel Renovation Planned

Causeway Bay Group is planning a \$4 million renovation to the former Holiday Inn in south Lansing. The hotel will be completely gutted and remodeled close to a five-star rating, while remaining at three-star prices. They expect to double the amount of employees, adding more than 100 jobs to the hotel. Renovations are scheduled to complete in 2010.

Web Ascender Teams with Whitepages.com

Two Web Ascender employees created a new Google Phone application. The application works to connect whitepages.com with any incoming call not included in your cell phones contact list. It allows users to see the information of incoming callers they may not recognize and has been downloaded more than 100,000 in the first two weeks of its release.

If you have economic growth stories, please let us know. We compile stories from many different sources and would love to share your news!

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