



Regional Growth Partnership

BUILDING A HIGH-TECH, HIGH PERFORMANCE ECONOMY



Rocket Ventures

TECHNOLOGY ... REALIZED



NEWS

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Julie Myers
Regional Growth Partnership
Phone: 419/252-2700

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 8, 2009

Rocket Ventures Invests in Three Emerging Northwest Ohio Companies

Toledo, OH – Recognizing their strong growth potential, Rocket Ventures has awarded three Northwest Ohio technology start-up companies with Ignite! grants. The Ignite! grant program is designed to help companies develop and use technology to create new products or improve processes that have an impact on revenues -- and ultimately jobs within the Rocket Ventures footprint. DenDroCo, LLC, Nextronex, LLC, and Third Millennium Metals, LLC mark the 24th, 25th, and 26th grants the program has awarded since its inception in 2007.

“These three companies represent a cross section of our three technology areas (bioscience, alternative energy, and advanced materials and manufacturing technologies). Each involves a compelling technology which could have significant commercial application and business success,” said Greg Knudson, Director of Rocket Ventures.

DenDroCo, LLC has developed a unique pheromone derivative for pine beetles, which have destroyed about 35,000,000 acres of western North American forests. The revolutionary beetle control technology will create a barrier between the insects and forest, protecting the forests from imminent infestation. The DenDroCo pheromone prevents the spread of the Pine Beetle without removing the insect from the ecosystem. DenDroCo aims to combat the increasing rate of infestation in the U.S., as well as Canada.

“This is an exciting project because we can, without adversely affecting the ecological system, solve a problem that has plagued the western pine forests for decades. The technology, once fully developed, holds the promise of being applicable to problems caused in our area by

insect infestation,” said Jon Klotz, Rocket Ventures Entrepreneur in Residence, who is working closely with DenDroCo.

Nextronex Energy Systems, LLC (NES) was founded in 2008 to address the solar market’s need for electronic inverters. Commercially available inverters designed for larger installations have many shortcomings, including installation problems due to size, short life-span compared to the array or turbine, and loss of service during maintenance, among others. The NES inverter however, installed within a solar array as part of an energy maximization system, provides for higher energy output over time, longer life and reliability, and simplified and less costly installation of the inverter and the array.

Dan Slifko, Rocket Ventures Business Development Manager, recognizes the impact Nextronex could have on the industry, “The beauty of their business model is that *every* solar array requires inverters to convert DC power into usable AC power. The fact that they are conducting their research and manufacturing locally will give them a distinct competitive advantage in the Midwest region, not only because of their patent pending technology, but also their ability to provide ‘just-in-time’ service, maintenance, and delivery.”

Third Millennium Metals, LLC (TMM) has invented an advanced nano-composite process that significantly enhances the physical properties (thermal conductivity, electrical conductivity, ductility, tensile strength) of primary metals without adding significant cost during manufacture. With help from Rocket Ventures and an Ignite! development grant, TMM is ready to move from the research laboratory into the commercial market.

Louis Luedtke, CEO of Third Millennium Metals, recognizes the assistance Rocket Ventures has provided, “We are pleased with the responsiveness you have shown and look forward to a rewarding and successful venture with Rocket Ventures... I want to personally thank you for the dedication and progress we are making in bringing this new breakthrough technology to your area.”

About Rocket Ventures

Rocket Ventures, a division of the Regional Growth Partnership, is a pre-seed, early-stage venture fund for technology-based entities/companies operating within the state of Ohio. It consists of \$15 million in state funding and \$7.5 million in private sector investment.

About The Regional Growth Partnership

The Regional Growth Partnership is a private nonprofit development corporation dedicated to fostering local, national, and international economic growth opportunities for Northwest Ohio.