

technology...realized



Rocket Report

Accelerating Opportunities.

Volume: 1/Issue: 3

Upcoming Events

August 2

ACCE Convention Going Green for Gold?

9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.
Pittsburgh PA
Cost: varied

September 4

Tech Connect

5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Navy Bistro
Cost: Free

September 19

Boot Camp

7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Owens Community College,
Findlay Campus, 3200 Bright
Road, Findlay, OH
Cost: \$50

Rocket Ventures Makes its

First Investment

Rocket Ventures made its inaugural investment in early July. With a commitment of \$300,000 in Mithridion Inc., which is the merged company of both Toledo-based Cognitive Pharmaceuticals, a University of Toledo spinoff and Madison, Wisconsin-based Mithridion Inc.

Mithridion Inc. is a private drug discovery and development company that seeks to commercialize drugs for treating Alzheimer's disease and other central nervous system (CNS) disorders.

With the \$300,000 investment from Rocket Ventures, as part of an over \$2 million round led by Venture Investors (fund), Mithridion will initiate Phase I clinical trials for its first drug candidate, MCD-386.

The drug was developed from technology invented in the laboratories of William S. Messer Jr., Ph.D., of the College of Pharmacy, University of Toledo.

Weathers and Knudson on Popular Radio Show

Steve Weathers, president and CEO of the Regional Growth Partnership, was the guest host of the 1370 AM WSPD talk radio show "Eye on Toledo."

Armed with his extensive knowledge on economic development, Steve led a high-energy show that was filled with positive forecasts on Northwest Ohio's economic future. Greg Knudson, Rocket Ventures director, and Steve discussed Rocket Ventures' role in creating high-tech, high paying jobs in the region. A highlight of the program

was when Steve, Greg and Paul Weiss, managing director of Venture Investors, discussed the Mithridion investment and then went into detail on what

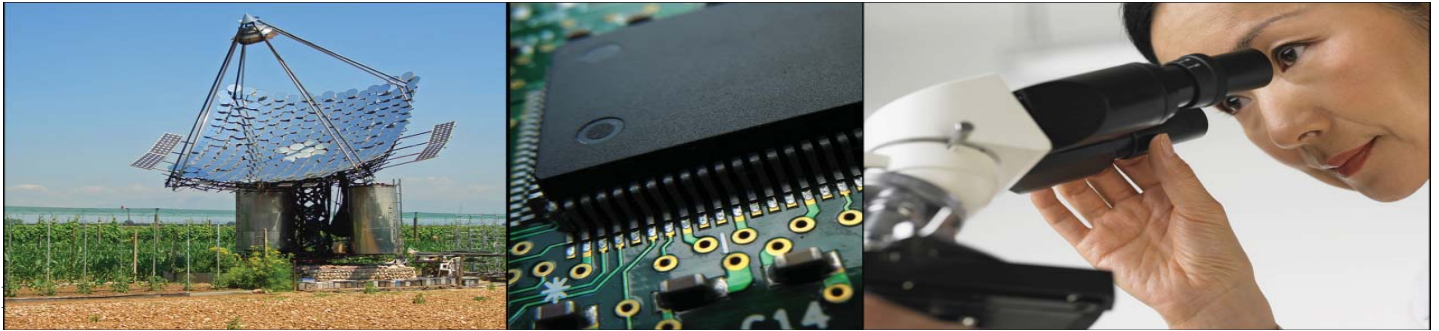
Northwest Ohio companies needed to do to become more attractive to investment.

Steve and Greg truly showed Northwest Ohio's promise of becoming the epicenter of innovation-based businesses, with Rocket Ventures and the Regional Growth Partnership leading the charge!

Eye on Toledo is broadcast on WSPD 1370 AM weekdays from 6-7 p.m.

Shape Your Business Idea!

Entrepreneurial Technology Boot Camp



Boot Camp - "Building & Funding Your Technology-Based Business" on Friday, September 19, 2008, from 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Owens Community College, Findlay Campus, 3200 Bright Road, Findlay, Ohio.

Sign up before September 12, 2008 and pay \$50! Those signing up after September 12 up to the day of the event will pay \$75. Students with valid school identification pay just \$15!

What sets the Boot Camp apart from typical workshops is its comprehensive range of topics – taking entrepreneurs from the seeds of an idea through marketing a product - as well as its lineup of high-level speakers and planned networking opportunities.

To sign up, visit the Rocket Ventures website at www.rocketventures.org. For more information, please contact Julie Myers, marketing manager, Rocket Ventures, at 419-252-2700, ext. 310.



Fun Fact:

Collect as many business cards from interesting people as you can. If you want to stay in touch with anyone in particular, follow up with a brief card or note. There's no better way for someone to remember meeting you (and want to meet again) than by being so courteous as to remember them first.



Rocket Ventures Hosts Record Setting Third Frontier Event



On July 10, Rocket Ventures hosted a breakfast event where business owners, members of academia and media alike came together for a Third Frontier-sponsored informational session.

The event was a part of a road show series where the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) traveled to select cities to introduce the Third Frontier Program's funding opportunities for 2009. The opportunities are specifically created to assist Ohio companies in developing new products and services based on new and existing technologies within targeted industry segments.

At the event, attendees learned that the Third Frontier has \$100 million in grants available in 2009, with \$67 million for research and commercialization projects and \$33 million for engineering and physical sciences projects.

John Griffin, Technology Director for the Ohio Department of Development, gave kudos to Rocket Ventures for having the second highest attendance for their road show series proving Northwest Ohio's commitment to economic advancement.

Those interested in finding out more about funding opportunities can visit the homepage of Rocket Ventures at www.rocketventures.org.



In the News...

Rocket Ventures Client Wins Toledoan of the Year



Dr. Deng and Xunlight co-founder Dr. Liwei Xu, showcase their flexible and lightweight photovoltaic panel.

Xunming Deng, president and co-founder of Toledo-based Xunlight Corporation won Toledoan of the Year in the innovation category.

Xunlight Corporation and its academic partner, the University of Toledo (UT), have been leaders in tf-Si photovoltaic technologies. UT has granted Xunlight a worldwide, exclusive license for all of their

film silicon based photovoltaic and related technologies developed

by Dr. Deng and his group at the University.

Xunlight began its relationship with the Regional Growth Partnership, as a very early-stage entity and worked with the Launch program. As a proud "Launch graduate," Xunlight is now working with the Rocket Ventures program, as it maintains its course on the path to acceleration.

Tech Connect

Connecting Minds, Money and Motivation

The second Tech Connect of 2008 was held on Thursday June 12, at Toledo's Navy Bistro. Hosted quarterly by the Regional Growth Partnership and its Launch and Rocket Ventures programs, Tech Connect events provide entrepreneurs and small technology based companies an opportunity to interact and network with each other and the business and academic community. The events bring together bankers, attorneys, service and client companies, non-profit organizations, and universities to connect minds, motivation, and money in the Northwest Ohio area.

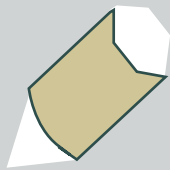
The keynote speaker was Jim DeVerne, a former Launch client who has an ongoing success story. Upon graduating from Michigan State University in 1992, Jim worked in Chicago for a few years before returning to Toledo in 2001 to found GatewayDefender, an email security company. With a small investment of only \$75,000, Jim raised sales to more than \$1 million in just three years. Utilizing the Launch program services, GatewayDefender earned the Technology Investment Tax Credit, which allowed the company's investors to receive a 25% tax credit for every dollar invested. GatewayDefender was sold to MX Logic in 2006.

Continuing his entrepreneurial ways, Jim and his father currently own an email management company called Vergeline. Jim offered praise and thanks to many individuals and organizations that helped him along the way, including the RGP.

Along with Rocket Ventures and Launch, the event was co-sponsored by the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce, Gorillas and Gazelles, Ohio IT Alliance, University of Toledo, and Bowling Green State University. This Tech Connect event drew over 160 professionals from all over the state of Ohio, as well as Michigan. Many introductions and connections took place, and the event was a great success!



Rocket Ventures Ingitel Grant Manager, Craig Ortega (right), discusses the event with clients.



We Want to Hear from YOU!

Please send us your comments on this issue, ideas for future stories, and news about how your company is changing its entrepreneurial and technology landscapes.

Direct comments to:

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419.252.2700 x 310



And the Envelope Please...

It's an Honor to be Nominated



The Entrepreneurial & Business Excellence Hall of Fame ceremony will take place November 20, 2008, at Lourdes College.

Nominations are now being accepted for this program that was created to encourage, promote and recognize outstanding entrepreneurship,

family business and business excellence. The event is presented by Rocket Ventures and Launch, both programs of the Regional Growth Partnership.

Who can be nominated?

- Leaders who demonstrate successful entrepreneurship
- Leaders who inspire innovation in business
- Leaders who grow and sustain businesses
- Leaders who create jobs and careers within our region

To nominate a business, go to www.ebehof.com. Hurry! The deadline for nominations is August 10, 2008.