

technology...realized



Rocket Report

Accelerating Opportunities.

Volume: 1/Issue: 4

Upcoming Events

January 21
Tech Connect

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

March 5
Technology Innovation Luncheon
Details Coming Soon!

April 17
Boot Camp
Details Coming Soon!

Rocket Ventures...

A Year in Review

What a year! It's hard to believe at this time last year, Rocket Ventures did not exist. In just about one year's time, we've passed many milestones and have gained momentum. This edition of the Rocket Report will feature a look back at the many accomplishments our young organization has achieved.

The Funnel of Success

To-date, Rocket Ventures has seen over 200 companies come through its door – proving that Northwest Ohio is a hot-bed for technological opportunities. Of those 200 companies, we are actively working with 30 and helping them grow by identifying high growth opportunities, assisting in the development of high growth plans and connecting entrepreneurs with a network of resources -- financial, technical, marketing, legal and consulting.

Below are the logos of some of the companies we have worked with in 2008.



Igniting Imagination

An integral part of Rocket Ventures is our Ignite! program. The purpose of an Ignite! grant is to provide very early-stage emerging technology companies and innovative manufacturers in high-growth industries a chance to grow and nurture their technology, allowing them to compete more effectively within the marketplace. Rocket Ventures has a specialized review process with strict parameters that companies must meet and every Ignite! grant is reviewed and approved by the Rocket Ventures board of services. In 2008, we awarded 10 Ignite! grants to companies to assist them with marketing analysis and planning, prototype development, beta site testing and business and technology validation.

Investing in Northwest Ohio

In early May, Rocket Ventures hired Bob Savage of Savage Consulting as its fund manager and they immediately got to work on identifying companies that had strong potential in the marketplace, solid prospects for high growth, and are likely to qualify for later-stage funding. To that end, Rocket Ventures made four investments in 2008 in the bioscience, alternative energy, and advanced materials and manufacturing arenas.

Targeted Technology

A Focus on our Future

Rocket Ventures' creed is to accelerate the growth of new technology ventures in the bioscience, alternative energy and Advanced Materials & Manufacturing Technologies sectors.

Below is a brief description of each sector.

Bioscience is a wide and continuously evolving field that requires an effective balance of regulation, demand, new technology, and rising costs. Novel products designed to improve outcomes while cutting costs are in high demand. The biomedical cluster helps maximize commercial success in areas such as medical imaging, medical devices, medical delivery systems, pharmaceuticals, bioengineering, biomaterials, and industrial/environmental biosciences.

Recent changes in market dynamics have generated intense interest in energy independence, creating an ever-increasing need for environmentally friendly technologies, specifically Advanced and Alternative Energies. These cleantech energies include wind, solar, and biomass technologies. Even countries with plentiful power will be challenged to improve energy performance, productivity, and efficiency while reducing costs, energy consumption, waste, and pollution.

Significant leaps in technology are driven by the creation of advanced materials. These remarkable new material composites allow auto engineers to design more fuel efficient, lightweight vehicles, bring radar transparency to aircraft and give amputees the ability to compete in world class athletic events. Advanced materials include unique composites of plastics, glass fibers, carbon fibers, ceramics, metals, and nano-materials finer than smoke particles. Any two or three of these materials could be used simultaneously to create end products that are stronger, faster, lighter than anyone thought possible.

As a part of our ongoing focus on these areas, we have identified sector leaders, who are experts in their field.

Bioscience	Alternative Energy	Advanced Materials & Manufacturing Technologies
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jon Klotz (EIR)• Todd Davies (BDM)• Joanne Abbott (BDM)• Blake Culver (Launch)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paul Horst (EIR)• Dan Slifko (BDM)• Blake Culver (Launch)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mike Brooks (EIR)• David Miller (BDM)• Craig Ortega (PM)• Blake Underwood (launch)

Xunlight and SuGanit Systems Awarded Third Frontier Grants



Two Rocket Ventures' clients were recently awarded Third Frontier Grants.

Xunlight Corporation was awarded \$995,577

for its Online Performance Measurement for Roll-to-Roll Thin Film Photovoltaic Manufacturing project. Xunlight will improve the product yield by developing a QA/QC system for online characterization of materials and solar cells on its first production line for flexible thin film photovoltaic modules. The 25 megawatt (MW) line will be completed during the first quarter of 2009. The manufacturing process instrumentation in this project will permit measurement of the film thickness and measurement of the

current/voltage of the solar cell as it is produced. This process control instrumentation will be replicated on future Xunlight lines further increasing its value.

SuGanit Systems, Inc. was awarded \$999,900 for its Scale-Up of Cellulosic Ethanol Process Based on Novel Biomass Pretreatment and Efficient Co-Fermentation project. In its current project, SuGanit has demonstrated the ability to convert 1 kg per day of biomass to produce 0.25 kg per day of ethanol in a series of steps demonstrated in a batch configuration. Its ethanol yield was 89 gallons per dry ton of feedstock compared with the 2012 U.S. Department of Energy target of 90 gallons per dry ton. Its reported performance in terms of ethanol yield, projected costs, and residence time was significantly better than competitors. This project will enable SuGanit to construct and operate a complete cellulosic ethanol process that will process 60 kg per day of biomass to produce five gallons per day of ethanol in a continuous process.



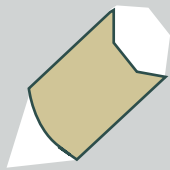
Rocket Ventures Sponsors...

Annual Collaboration for Entrepreneurship (ACE)

Annual
Collaboration for
Entrepreneurship | ACE'09

Rocket Ventures is pleased to announce that for the ninth straight year, entrepreneurs, investors, and support organizations from across the Great Lakes region will gather at a conference that showcases innovative business ventures and celebrates the spirit of entrepreneurship. ACE '09 will take place on Thursday, January 22, 2009 at Washtenaw Community College's Morris Lawrence Building, from 4:00 – 9:00 p.m. Attendees will have excellent opportunities to network, learn, and connect at ACE.

New this year, ACE '09 will feature an intercollegiate pitch competition, where competitors from University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University, University of Toledo, Bowling Green State University, and other schools will go head-to-head with three-minute elevator pitches. For event information and online pre-registration, visit www.ace-event.org. Admission is \$9 for pre-registered attendees; registration at the event is \$20.



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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Rocket Ventures Client Featured on Plugged-In



Rocket Ventures is pleased to announce that its client company, Toledo-based 3-D rotational imaging company TechTol Imaging, LLC was featured on the WGTE Public Media program Plugged-In on Wednesday, December 17. Plugged-In is a monthly series that explores the latest innovations in technology and research in Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan.

TechTol's patented Imaging Capturing System, which can take an image of any object and make a 360 view, will be prominently featured during the episode. TechTol has been working with Rocket Ventures and Launch, programs of the Regional Growth Partnership, who have been assisting them with business development, marketing plans and growth initiatives.

"The TechTol team's entrepreneurial spirit and drive is awe-inspiring," said Joanne Poe Abbott, business development manager. "It's amazing to see their dream of providing Internet users with a high-quality, low-cost 3-D image come to fruition and I'm excited for WGTE's viewers to see a glimpse into the very-near future."

TechTol's featured episode premiered at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 17 on WGTE, Toledo Channel 30 with repeating episodes throughout the month of December.



Fun Fact:

We've all heard that you never have a second chance to make a first impression. This is not to say we shouldn't be ourselves, but to remind us that everything a person sees in us speaks as loudly as our words. The second part of this is that everyone you know could be in a position to help you reach your goals, even if you don't know how they can.

