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HEADLINE: GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES LANSING REGIONAL SMARTZONE
OPEN FOR HIGH-TECH BUSINESS

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The following information was released by the **Michigan** Governor:

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm and the **Michigan** Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) today announced the final development agreement for the Lansing Regional SmartZone and announced the initial members of its governing consortium. MEDC President Jim Epolito joined **Michigan** State University President Lou Ann Simon and local officials today for the announcement.

"Bringing high-tech businesses, and the jobs they create, to **Michigan** is critical to strengthening our economy and staying competitive in a 21st century economy," Granholm said. "The Lansing Regional SmartZone will be a huge asset to Mid-**Michigan** and the entire state."

The opening of the Lansing regional zone completes the network of 11 SmartZone technology clusters around **Michigan**. The SmartZones were established to foster collaborations between industry and universities aimed at the commercialization of **research**. Since the inception of the SmartZones program in 2002, more than 315 businesses have located or expanded in the zones, resulting in more than 4,500 jobs and \$600 million in private investment.

"The Lansing Regional SmartZone will be closely linked with MSU and help **commercialize** cutting-edge **research** to create high-tech investment and jobs in mid-**Michigan**," MEDC President and CEO James C. Epolito said. "**Michigan's** network of SmartZones is playing a key role in our efforts to diversify the economy to meet the demands of the 21st century."

Supported by the cities of Lansing and East Lansing in partnership with Ingham County, Lansing Community College, the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, MBI International, **Michigan** State University, the **Michigan** State University Foundation and

the University Corporate **Research** Park, the zone seeks to stimulate the growth of technology-based businesses in the Lansing region. It will focus on business attraction, creation and expansion in the fields of life sciences, advanced manufacturing and information technology. Special attention will be given to helping firms capitalize on **research** and technical resources at **Michigan** State University and MBI International.

"Higher education and economic development go hand in hand," MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon said. "MSU was founded 150 years ago to be an engine for economic development for **Michigan**, and that's what we're doing today as well: connecting the knowledge we generate in our classrooms and laboratories with practical applications that create jobs and industries; working on a program of strategic **research** with public and private partnerships that will benefit **Michigan's** people and **Michigan's** communities."

The Lansing SmartZone Consortium will include a total of 21 members, 11 of which will be from the private sector. The private sector emphasis is intended to ensure that the SmartZone will be serving the region's business needs. Following are the consortium members announced today:

George Benson - MSU Foundation

Tim Daman - Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce

Cindy Douglas - **Michigan** Economic Development Corporation

David Hayhow - University Corporate **Research** Park

Chris Holman - The Greater Lansing Business Monthly

Loraine Hudson - **Michigan** State University

Bob Johnson - City of Lansing

Lori Meeder - National City Bank

Susan Pigg - County of Ingham

Lynnette Rhodes - L & S Associates

Theda Rudd - Rudd Enterprises Kevin Schoen - ACD.net

Dean Souden - Lansing Community College

Ted Staton - City of East Lansing

Mark Stowers - MBI International

The 11 SmartZones throughout the state represent collaborations between universities, industry, **research** organizations, government and other community institutions intended to stimulate the growth of technology-based businesses and jobs. The focus is on commercializing ideas, patents and other opportunities surrounding corporate, university or private **research** institute R&D efforts.

In addition to Epolito and Simon, speakers at today's event included Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero; East Lansing Mayor Pro Tem Vic Loomis; and Chris Holman, SmartZone Consortium member; owner and publisher of the Greater Lansing Business Monthly

The **Michigan** Economic Development Corporation, a partnership between the state and local communities, promotes smart economic growth by developing strategies and providing services to create and retain good jobs and a high quality of life. For more information on MEDC initiatives and programs, visit the Web site at www.michigan.org.