

MICHIGAN SMARTZONES

SmartZonesSM provide distinct geographical locations where technology-based firms, entrepreneurs and researchers locate in close proximity to all of the community assets that assist in their endeavors. SmartZone technology clusters promote resource collaborations between universities, industry, research organizations, government and other community institutions, growing technology-based businesses and jobs. New and emerging businesses in SmartZone technology clusters are primarily focused on commercializing ideas, patents and other opportunities surrounding corporate, university or private research institute R&D efforts.

TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS ACCELERATION AND INCUBATION

Michigan's 15 SmartZones include technology business accelerators that provide the services identified below and help facilitate the commercialization of technology emerging from research in Michigan universities and private companies. Accelerators mine technology from universities and private enterprise, assist companies and entrepreneurs in building business structures around the technology, conduct product development and help companies secure necessary start up financing. The SmartZones are also home to incubation facilities providing office and wet lab space to technology companies.

Business accelerator services include, but are not limited to:

- Business development mentoring
- Networking events
- Business feasibility studies
- Business planning
- Entrepreneurial training
- Grant writing
- Incubator and wet lab space

- Management recruitment
- Market analysis
- Product development
- Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) assistance
- Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) assistance
- Technology assessments
- Technology mining
- Venture capital preparation and introductions
- Sixteen incubators/demonstration facilities in the following cities: Ann Arbor (two), Detroit (two), Grand Rapids (one), Houghton/Hancock (three), Kalamazoo (one), Lansing/East Lansing (two), Mount Pleasant/Midland (two), Muskegon (one), Rochester Hills (one) and Troy (one)

PRE-SEED FUND

The Michigan Pre-Seed Capital Fund supports high-tech start-up companies as they near commercial viability by providing access to early-stage capital to accelerate company development. Supported by a consortium of Michigan SmartZones, these funds will extend the personal investment of entrepreneurs during the critical stage when they are developing their businesses to the point of readiness for outside investment.

The fund targets companies throughout the state that are creating the newest technologies in the following competitive areas:

- Advanced automotive, manufacturing, and materials
- Alternative energy
- Homeland security and defense
- Life sciences

Additional information regarding the Pre-Seed Fund can be found on the Ann Arbor SPARK Web site at annarborspark.org/start-ups/pre-seed-fund.

SMARTZONE SERVICE AREAS

1. MTEC SmartZone

Michigan Technological University
www.mtecsz.com

2. Sault Ste. Marie

Lake Superior State University
www.ssmartzone.com

3. Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center

Grand Valley State University
www.gvsu.edu/marec

4. West Michigan Science and Technology Initiative

Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences
www.wmsti.org

5. CMU Research Corporation

Central Michigan University
www.cmurc.com

5a. Mount Pleasant SmartZone Satellite

MidMichigan Innovation Center
www.midmichiganinnovationcenter.org

6. Lansing Regional SmartZone

Cities of East Lansing and Lansing, Ingham County, Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, MBI International, Michigan State University, the Michigan State University Foundation and the University Corporate Research Park
www.thesmartzone.org

7. Southwest Michigan Innovation Center

Western Michigan University
www.kazoosmic.com

8. Battle Creek Unlimited

Western Michigan University and Kellogg Community College
www.bcunlimited.org

9. Jackson Technology Park

Baker College, Jackson Community College and Spring Arbor University
www.enterprisegroup.org

10. Ann Arbor SPARK

University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University
www.annarborusa.org

11. Pinnacle Aeropark

Detroit Metropolitan Airport, Wayne County Economic Development Growth Engine (EDGE)
www.waynecounty.com/mygovt/edge/initandtech/init/Aerotropolis.aspx

12. TechTown

Wayne State University
www.techtownwsu.org

13. OU INCubator

Oakland University—Rochester
www.oakland.edu/ouinc

14. Macomb INCubator

Oakland University—Macomb
www.oakland.edu/macombouinc

15. Automation Alley

Lawrence Technological University and Oakland University
www.automationalley.com

