



Regional Growth Partnership
BUILDING A HIGH-TECH, HIGH PERFORMANCE ECONOMY



NEWS

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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

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Rocket Ventures Invests in Two Northwest Ohio Companies

TOLEDO, OH - Rocket Ventures continues its charge towards the **technology-based** economic advancement of Northwest Ohio with \$100,000 of investment through its Ignite! grant fund. Ignite! grants are used 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.

“Rocket Ventures is pleased to provide these innovative companies with funding to aid in the development, transfer and commercialization of valuable technologies into the marketplace,” said Greg Knudson, director of Rocket Ventures. “Northwest Ohio will greatly benefit from the success of their research, and we are proud to offer our support.”

Innovative Thin Films, Ltd. has created a patented, anti-soiling and self-cleaning coating designed to increase light transmission on photovoltaic solar panels. This revolutionary coating is designed for application during glass production or as an aftermarket service.

“The Rocket Ventures’ Ignite! grant supports our effort to deliver a self-cleaning product for solar application, said Norm Johnston, Innovative Thin Films Chairman of the Board. “Our goal is to ensure that photovoltaic solar panels continue to output the maximum alternative energy benefits to their users throughout their product span and the Rocket Ventures grant allows us to accelerate our prototyping and expand our marketing efforts. We are grateful for their support.”

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SuGanit Systems, Inc. has developed a cost competitive process for making cellulosic ethanol and useful bio-renewable byproducts. SuGanit's superior ethanol production process will be cost competitive with gasoline production. SuGanit will license its technology ,as well as produce renewable products in different parts of the world.

SuGanit Systems began its relationship with Rocket Ventures through the Regional Growth Partnership's Launch Program, where it benefited from comprehensive business assistance. Launch's relationship with SuGanit has culminated in the writing of two major Ohio Third Frontier Advanced Energy Program grant proposals from which SuGanit has been awarded \$1.24 million. In addition, Launch has provided SuGanit with business planning assistance and supply chain and market analysis.

"SuGanit became a Launch client in July 2007. The company has achieved very important milestones in validating their new technologies in the alternative energy sector. We are proud to be a part of the support system in growing this company and we look forward to their continued success in Northwest Ohio," said Tasha Hussain Black, Launch Director

"We came to Northwest Ohio because of the vast of amount of resources available to us. The Launch and Rocket Ventures programs have been an integral part of our company's growth and we are very thankful for the Rocket Ventures Ignite! grant and the assistance that we have received from Launch," said Praveen Paripati, SuGanit president and CEO.

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 Launch

Launch is a technology-based business incubation program of the Regional Growth Partnership. Launch provides comprehensive business assistance for entrepreneurs and startup companies that are commercializing revolutionary, world-class technologies, to accelerate company growth and time to-market-entry.

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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. The Regional Growth Partnership acknowledges the contribution of the state of Ohio, Department of Development and Thomas Edison Program, which provide funding in support of the Launch program.

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