



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 29, 2007

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### **MidMichigan Innovation Center Businesses Having a Positive Economic Impact on Four-County Region**

**MIDLAND, MI (May 29, 2007)** — The twelve businesses located at the MidMichigan Innovation Center (MMIC) business incubator have created 32 new jobs in less than two years since moving into the facility, directly resulting in more than \$1.7 million in additional payroll for the region. The companies have also seen significant increases in revenues and are expanding operational space at MMIC, located in the former Dow Chemical Agricultural research facility, located on the eastern edge of Midland County.

To understand the economic impact these new jobs have on the region, Scott Walker of Midland Tomorrow calculated the number of indirect jobs created by the tenants at MMIC. “In the mid-Michigan region, each direct job results in additional spin-off jobs. The 32 direct jobs created approximately 73 spin-off jobs in the area, and an additional \$500,000 in payroll, creating over 100 jobs with total payroll of \$2.2 million in mid-Michigan.”

According to MMIC CEO Bill Money Penny, “For our entrepreneurial tenants, MMIC provides an ideal environment for direction and support of new ventures, because of the breadth of support we offer and our extensive network of state and regional resources.”

Current businesses working out of the facilities at MMIC include:

#### **Advanced Materials Companies --**

- Bordener Engineered Surfaces
- Caltech Industries
- Gantec

#### **Information Technologies Companies –**

- Imagine I/T
- Gradepoint
- ERS

-More-



### **Non-Profit Organizations –**

- Association of Building Contractors
- Great Lakes Safety Training Center
- MidMichigan Innovation Center
- MiTech Plus

Also located in the facility are: The New Venture Hatchery, an office occupied by Northwood University students pursuing a degree in entrepreneurship, and CDI Engineering.

Businesses cite various reasons for locating at MMIC, including access to the robust information technology infrastructure to the entrepreneurial environment that exists at the incubator.

Rob Bordener, CEO and founder of Bordener Engineered Surfaces, located his company there, he says, “To take advantage of the versatile space available at MMIC, including office, laboratories and manufacturing space. And the MidMichigan Innovation Center staff has helped us connect with valuable resources key to moving our company forward.”

Mark Clevey, Executive Director of the Small Business Administration of Michigan, recently published the third edition of the Michigan Entrepreneurial Scorecard. “The Mid-Michigan Innovation Center is a catalyst that is effectively revitalizing and, more importantly, amplifying the nascent entrepreneurial culture and spirit of the mid-Michigan area. They are proving that robust entrepreneurship needs only to be nurtured in order to flourish in our state. MMIC’s outstanding leadership and acumen is a tremendous asset which our policy makers need to recognize, celebrate, learn from, and support,” says Clevey.

As Money Penny describes, “MMIC’s goal is to positively impact Michigan’s economy at a time when good news is rarely heard. We are working collaboratively with many organizations across the region to provide a supportive, entrepreneurial environment for the mid-Michigan region and beyond.”

For more information about MidMichigan Innovation Center resources and the tenant companies, visit [www.midmichiganinnovationcenter.org](http://www.midmichiganinnovationcenter.org).

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### **Media Background Information:**

The *MidMichigan Innovation Center* is a private, non-profit organization created to provide entrepreneurs and start-up companies with a supportive and collaborative environment. MMIC connects entrepreneurs with critical resources, valuable services, flexible facilities, and entrepreneurial training and education that will help them develop their business venture.

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### **Our Goal: Growing Mid-Michigan’s Entrepreneurial Environment**

Catalyzing and supporting entrepreneurship in mid-Michigan stimulates economic growth in the state and



around the region. MMIC provides entrepreneurs with services and connections that will help companies prosper and create new businesses and jobs in mid-Michigan.

### **Our History:**

John Bartos and the late Ted Doan conceived of the idea of establishing a regional business incubator that could assist entrepreneurs and fledgling companies by connecting them with resources from around Midland, Bay, Isabella and Saginaw counties. Dow Chemical donated laboratory and office space within the facility on Ashman Road, while five area foundations contributed financial support to help establish the MidMichigan Innovation Center. Bill Money Penny, CEO of MiTech Plus, also serves as CEO for MMIC, assembled the board of directors and hiring the initial staff.

In July of 2005, non-profit organizations began occupying the business incubator, including the MidMichigan Innovation Center, MiTech Plus, The Association of Building Contractors, and the Great Lakes Safety Training Center.

For-profit companies began utilizing the laboratory and office space in September 2005. The businesses include advanced materials companies; Bordener Engineered Surfaces, Caltech Industries, Gantec, and two additional start-up companies. There are also information technology companies; Imagine I/T, Gradepoint, and ERS. The New Venture Hatchery is office space occupied by Northwood students pursuing a degree in entrepreneurship and CDI Engineering also has office space in the Innovation Center's lower level.

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