

# **MEMORANDUM**

TO:

Delegates of the Michigan Strategic Fund ("MSF") Board for the Michigan

Business Development Program

FROM:

Marcia Gebarowski, Development Finance Manager

DATE:

August 27, 2012

SUBJECT:

Approval of Michigan Business Development Request for \$500,000 Performance-

based Grant to:

Alternative Automotive Technologies, LLC ("Applicant" or "Company")

1225 East Maple Road Troy, Michigan 48083 www.altautotech.com

## MBDP PROGRAM AND ITS GUIDELINES

On December 21, 2011, the MSF Board approved the Michigan Business Development Program ("MBDP") and its guidelines. The primary intended objective of the MBDP is to provide incentives to businesses that create qualified jobs, make qualified investments, or a combination of both, in Michigan.

## SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

It is the role of the Development Finance staff ("MEDC Staff") to review for eligibility, completeness, and adherence to MBDP guidelines, the information provided by the applicant and to manage the MSF's investment. Explanatory and background information is supplied in summary form to provide context for the request and is drawn exclusively from materials submitted by the applicant, and, as applicable, from other relevant third party sources utilized by MEDC staff.

## HISTORY OF THE APPLICANT

Alternative Automotive Technologies, LLC (AAT) is a Troy-based automotive contract engineering company that can design and build niche prototype vehicles. The Company also builds after-market performance enhancement products as well as provides restoration services. The Company's current customers are primarily automotive OEM's including GM and Chrylser, however; AAT has begun to diversify their customer base and have gained new customers in the defense industry as well.

The Applicant has not received any incentives from the MSF previously.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Applicant plans to rehabilitate a vacant brownfield facility to relocate and expand their operations in the City of Troy, make investments and create jobs related to automobile manufacturing

a) The Applicant is a "Qualified Business", as defined in MCL 125.2088r(9)(b), that is located and operates in Michigan.

b) The project will be located in the city of Troy. The City has offered a "staff, financial, or economic commitment to the project" in the form of a PA 198 property tax abatement for 12 years with an estimated value of \$161,290.

c) The Applicant has demonstrated a need for the funding based on a lower cost to purchase a building in Indiana requiring no environmental remediation or rehabilitation as well as a lower labor cost in northeast Indiana.

d) The Applicant plans to create 176 Qualified New Jobs above a statewide base employment level of 6.

e) Pursuant to the program guidelines, the following was taken into consideration for the proposed project: The company indicates that investment and job creation will begin in 2012, the project involves the rehabilitation of an existing brownfield facility and the project will result in a positive ROI for the state.

# **INCENTIVE OPPORTUNITY**

This project involves the creation of 176 Qualified New Jobs, with the potential for up to 207 total jobs as a result of the Project, and a capital investment of up to \$5.7 million in the City of Troy. The requested incentive amount from the MSF is \$500,000 in the form of a performance-based grant. Please see below for more information on the recommended action.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

MEDC Staff recommends (the following, collectively, "Recommendation"):

- a) Approval of the MBDP Proposal as outlined in the attached term sheet (collectively, "MBDP Proposal");
- b) Closing the MBDP Proposal, subject to available funding under the MBDP at the time of closing ("Available Funding"), satisfactory completion of due diligence, (collectively, "Due Diligence"), finalization of all MBDP transaction documents, and further subject to the following terms and conditions:
  - a. Commitment will remain valid for 90 days with approval for MSF Fund Manager to extend the commitment an additional 30 days.

# APPROVAL AUTHORITY – MBDP SUPPORT MEMO

Michigan Economic Development Corporation

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|-------------|---|-------|
| Amy Deprez, | Director, Development Emance              |       |
| M           | a Dhy B                                   |       |
| Mark Moran  | ite, Senior Vice President, Program Manag | ement |

The Recommendation is approved subject to Available Funding and Completion of Due Diligence, and execution of all MBDP transaction documents, all in accordance with the MBDP and its guidelines:

Note: To utilize the delegation authority granted by the MSF Board, the approval of the Chairperson, and either the MSF Fund Manager of the MSF State Treasurer Director, are required for this commitment under the MBDP:

Michigan Strategic Fund

By: Michael A. Finney

Its: Chairman

By: Karla Campbell

Its: Fund Manager

By: Andy Dillon, State Treasurer

Its: Director



## MICHIGAN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM Performance Based Grant - Term Sheet

The following is a summary of the highlights of the project and basic terms for which the Company desires grant support from the Michigan Strategic Fund ("MSF") under the Michigan Business Development Program ("MBDP"). While the MBDP is operated and funded through the MSF, recommendation for approval of a MBDP incentive award is presented by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation ("MEDC") to the MSF.

7/27/2012 Date:

> Alternative Automotive Technologies, LLC ("Company" or Company Name:

> > "Applicant")

1225 East Maple Road Company Address:

Troy, Michigan 48083

Performance Based Grant **MBDP Incentive Type:** 

Maximum Amount of MBDP Incentive: Up to \$500,000 ("MBDP Incentive Award")

6

176

5. Base Employment Level

The number of jobs currently maintained in Michigan by the Company based on data submitted by the Company to the MEDC reflecting the Company's statewide employment level in Michigan prior to the proposed project. Employment Level, including identification of the Company data used to establish this level, shall be included in the final Award agreement MBDP Incentive: ("Agreement") between the MSF Company.

6. Total Qualified New Job Creation: (above Base Employment Level)

The minimum number of total Qualified New Jobs the Company shall be required to create in Michigan (above the Base Employment Level), in addition to satisfying other milestones if applicable, to be minimally eligible to receive the full amount of the MBDP Incentive Award. Each Qualified New Job must be performed for consideration by a Michigan resident (whose Michigan income taxes are withheld as required), and each Qualified New Job must be in excess of the Base Employment Level. The final terms and conditions of the requirements for the minimum

number of Qualified New Jobs that must be created, including provisions addressing disbursements of portions of the MBDP incentive Award, shall be included in the final Agreement.

a. Start Date for Measurement of Creation of Qualified New Jobs: Date of Signed Terms Sheet

7. Company Investment:

Approximately \$5.7 million on building purchase, building renovations, machinery and equipment, FFE, computers, pollution control equipment, special tooling or any combination thereof, for the Project.

8. Municipality supporting the Project:

City of Troy

- a. Municipality Support. One of the conditions of execution of the final Agreement is the requirement that the municipality shall have committed to provide: <u>approval of a property tax abatement.</u> The final terms and conditions demonstrating this support shall be included in the final Agreement.
- 9. Disbursement Milestones: The final terms and conditions of each of the disbursements of any portion of the MBDP Incentive Award shall be included in the final Agreement, including that before any disbursement is made to the Company, the Company must have maintained: (i) the Base Employment Level (exclusive of the number of Qualified New Jobs then created) and (ii) any Qualified New Jobs created for which disbursements by the MSF have been made, and must otherwise be in compliance with all terms and conditions of the final Agreement, and further shall include:

| a  | Disbursement Milestone 1: | Up to \$350,000 | Upon demonstrated creation of 5 Qualified New Jobs above the Base Employment Level, demonstration of executed lease agreement for the building located at 1225 East Maple Road, Troy, Mi, and verification of final approval of municipality support by no later than December 31, 2012. |
|----|---------------------------|-----------------|--|
| b  | Disbursement Milestone 2: | Up to \$100,000 | Upon completion of Disbursement Milestone 1, and upon demonstrated creation of 110 additional Qualified New Jobs above the Base Employment Level, by no later than December 31, 2013.  |
| c. | Disbursement Milestone 3: | Up to \$50,000  | Upon completion of Disbursement Milestone 1 and Disbursement Milestone 2, and upon demonstrated creation of 61 additional Qualified New Jobs above the Base Employment Level, by no later than December 31, 2014.  |

#### 10. Term of Agreement:

#### 11. Repayment Provisions:

Repayment provisions are required by law. The Repayment terms and conditions will be effective through the Term of the Agreement and shall be defined in the final Agreement. The final repayment provisions may require repayment of some or all of the disbursements made by the MSF, including if the Company moves 25% or more of their employees out of Michigan, if the Company fails to maintain the Base Employment Level in Michigan, if the Company fails to maintain the Qualified New Jobs Incented by this Award.

### 12. Reporting Requirements:

Periodic reporting will be required with this program. The detailed information needed from the Company will be included in the final Agreement, but will include Project reporting for such things as: amount of proposed incentive, amount of actual incentive received by Company; amount of proposed and actual investment made by Company for Project; the committed number of new jobs and the actual number of new jobs created as a result of the Project; the educational attainment of the employees hired; the number of new patents, copyrights, or trademarks applied for and issued to the Company; the number of licensing agreements by the Company and the number of such licensing agreements entered into by the Company with Michigan based firms; and any products commercialized by the Company.

#### 13. Public Announcements:

The Company shall not make, or cause, any announcement of the proposed MBDP Incentive Award parameters outlined in this letter before the date of approval by the MSF of the MBDP Incentive Award, unless prior authorized and coordinated with the MEDC.

Any final MBDP Incentive Award is contingent upon several factors, including: (i) submission by the Company of a completed application and all other documentation required under the MBDP (ii) satisfactory municipality support (iii) available MSF funding (iv) completion of financial review, business integrity review, required background checks, and other business and legal review and due diligence as required, and the results of which must be satisfactory the MEDC, the MSF, and as applicable, the Chief Compliance Officer, (v) approval of an award by the MSF, and (vi) execution of a final Agreement containing the established milestones, repayment terms, reporting requirements, and all other detailed terms and conditions, required by the MSF.

If the Company is interested in the MEDC pursuing a recommendation to the MSF for a possible MBDP incentive Award for the Company along the above parameters, please sign and date this Term Sheet. If the MEDC does not receive the signed Term Sheet from the Company by July 30, 2012, the MEDC may not be able to proceed with any recommendation to the MSF.

COMPANY NAME

By:

Its:

Dated:

VRESDENT \_\_

# Acknowledged as received by:

Michigan Economic Development Corporation

By:

Its:

Dated: