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MEMORANDUM

DATE:

October 19, 2004

TO:

Michigan Economic Growth Authority

FROM:

James Donaldson, Vice President

Michigan Business Development

SUBJECT:

Briefing Memo – Grupo Antolin Michigan, Inc.

Rural MEGA Credit

COMPANY NAME AND ADDRESS:

Grupo Antolin Michigan, Inc. 6300 Euclid Street Marlette, Michigan 48453

HISTORY OF COMPANY:

Grupo Antolin Michigan, Inc. is a supplier of automotive interior trim components and systems to the automotive industry. Grupo Antolin - Irausa is a privately held company headquartered in Burgos, Spain. The company has 62 locations world wide with 42 manufacturing, 15 assembly and logistic centers, and 5 Technical Centers (the most recent in Troy, MI). They are also a minority partner in an assembly and sequencing center in Wayne, MI.

In April, 2003 the company was awarded a MEGA credit for up to 214 new employees to begin operations at a former Lear Seating facility in Marlette. Extensive renovations of the facility have been completed, production activites are well underway, and the company currently employs 140 at the Marlette facility.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The company recently has been offered new opportunities in the assembly of modular headliner systems that may also lead to growth into injection molding of commodities used across the company. The company will supply the GMX 211, produced at the General Motors facility in Oshawa, Ontario. The Marlette facility manufactures the raw materials for this product, but the company generally assembles and sequences close to the final assembly facility to avoid shipping damage and to manage broadcast requirements. The Marlette facility has devised new shipping racks that will make assembly and shipment to Oshawa feasible. The expansion will require a capital investment of \$8.8 million and will create up to 120 net new jobs with an average weekly wage of \$440.



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BENEFIT TO STATE:

According to the economic analysis done by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, utilizing Regional Economic Models, Inc. software, we estimate that this facility will create a total of 310 jobs in the state by the year 2015. We also estimate that the project would create total state government revenues through the year 2015, net of MEGA cost and adjusted for inflation, of \$10.5 million (2004 dollars) due to the location of this facility.

BUT FOR:

The company is also considering using an assembler and sequencer in Oshawa, Ontario. Using a contract sequencer would increase the company's labor costs, but would reduce their capital and ongoing transportation costs. The company estimates that operating costs would be up \$540,000 lower per year in Ontario.

OTHER STATE AND LOCAL ASSISTANCE:

The State of Michigan has offered a 50 percent abatement of the 6-mill State Education Tax for the term of the abatement offered by the City of Marlette. This abatement is valued at \$52,000.

The City of Marlette has proposed 50 percent abatement of the company's new real and personal property for 12 years. The estimated value of the local property tax abatement is \$400,000. The abatement is expected to be finalized on October 18, 2004.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation recommends a 100 percent rural employment tax credit for 10 years, and a 100 percent rural business activity credit for three years for up to 120 net new employees.