

## MEGA TAX CREDIT AGREEMENT

The effective date of this Agreement is October 2, 1995 as entered into by and between the Michigan Economic Growth Authority, which was created by Act 24 of the Public Acts of 1995, within the Michigan Jobs Commission, whose address is P.O. Box 30234, Lansing, Michigan, 48909 (hereafter the "MEGA") and Meridian Incorporated, a Michigan corporation, whose address is P.O. Box 530, 17558 171st Avenue, Spring Lake, Michigan 49456, (hereafter, "the Company").

### RECITALS

WHEREAS, the MEGA has been created by the Michigan Economic Growth Authority Act, Act No. 24 of Public Acts of 1995 (the "Act") with the power to provide tax credits to businesses involved in manufacturing, mining, research, development, wholesale, trade and/or office operations, and enterprise; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Legislature has determined that it is in the public interest to promote economic growth and to encourage private investment, job creation and job upgrading for the residents of the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the MEGA has determined that providing tax credits to the Company for job expansion will promote and serve the intended purposes of and in all respects will conform to the provisions and requirements of the Act; and

WHEREAS, the MEGA and the Company desire to set forth the terms and conditions of the MEGA Tax Credit that the MEGA has authorized to the Company.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties hereto agree as follows:

**1.0 DEFINITIONS**

- (a) "Agreement" means this written agreement.
- (b) "Application" means any information submitted to the MEGA in support of the Company's request for a Tax Credit.
- (c) "Anniversary Date" means May 31, 1998.
- (d) "Authority" or "MEGA" means the Michigan Economic Growth Authority created by Public Act 24 of 1995.
- (e) "Base Employment Level" means the number of Full-Time Jobs at the Company in Michigan as specified in Schedule A attached to this Agreement.
- (f) "Beginning of Operations" means June 1, 1997.
- (g) "Certificate" or "Tax Credit Certificate" means the certificate required to be issued by Public Act 23 of 1995 which states that the Company is an authorized business, the amount of the Tax Credit authorized for a tax year, and the Company's federal employer identification number or Michigan Treasury number.
- (h) "Certificate Application" or "Application for a MEGA Tax Credit Certificate" means the written information submitted each year in support of the Company's request for a Tax Credit Certificate.

(i) "Company" means Meridian Incorporated, which is an authorized business as defined in Public Act 24 of 1995 upon execution of this Agreement.

(j) "Facility" means the "Project" or the site within this state at which the Company has committed to creating Qualified New Jobs.

(k) "Full-time Job" means a job performed by an individual who is employed by the Company for consideration for 35 hours or more each week and for which the Company withholds income and social security taxes.

(l) "MEGA Business Activity Credit" or "Business Activity Credit" means a credit against the single business tax authorized by and computed in accordance with Section 37d of Public Act 23 of 1995.

(m) "MEGA Employment Credit" or "Employment Credit" means a credit against the single business tax authorized by and computed in accordance with Section 37c of Public Act 23 of 1995.

(n) "MEGA Tax Credit" or "Tax Credit" means a MEGA Business Activity Credit and/or a MEGA Employment Credit.

(o) "Person" means an individual, proprietorship, joint venture, partnership, trust, business trust, syndicate, association, joint stock company, corporation, cooperative, limited liability company or any other organization.

(p) "Project" means the portion of a facility at which the Company will create Qualified New Jobs as described in the Project Description.

(q) "Project Description" means the description of the Project contained in Section 2.2(g) of this Agreement.

- (r) "Qualified New Job" means a Full-time Job at the Project that is,
- (1) created by the Company after the date of this Agreement,
  - (2) in excess of the Base Employment Level.

For purposes of this Agreement, a Qualified New Job shall be considered to be "at the Project" if it is located at the Company's principal business office at 17558 171st Avenue, Spring Lake, Michigan, and if, based upon information provided by the Company, the Authority is satisfied that substantially all of the Full-time Job supports the Project and that no part of the Full-time Job has been counted toward maintenance of the Company's Base Employment Level.

(s) "Statement of Eligibility" or "Statement" means the certified statement required by Section 4.2 of this Agreement.

## 2.0 REPRESENTATIONS

2.1 Representations by the MEGA. With respect to the Agreement entered into hereunder, the MEGA makes the following representations and warranties as of the date of this Agreement, each of which shall be deemed to be continuing representations and warranties which shall survive the execution and delivery of this Agreement;

(a) The MEGA is a public body duly established in compliance with the Michigan Constitution and all applicable laws and acting within the authority granted by the Act.

(b) The MEGA has the necessary power under the Act, to authorize MEGA

Tax Credits, and has duly taken all action on its part required to authorize, execute and deliver this Agreement. This Agreement when executed will be valid, and binding and enforceable against the parties in accordance with its terms. The Person executing this Agreement on behalf of the MEGA has been duly authorized for this purpose.

(c) The Company's initial Tax Credit Certificate will be issued upon execution of this Agreement in the form attached to this Agreement.

2.2 Representations by the Company. With respect to the Agreement entered into hereunder, the Company makes the following representations and warranties as of the date of this Agreement.

(a) Existence and Power. The Company is validly existing and is in good standing under the laws of the State of Michigan, and is duly qualified to transact business in Michigan.

(b) Corporate Authority. The execution, delivery and performance by the Company of this Agreement have been duly authorized by all necessary corporate action and will not violate any provision of law or of its Articles of Incorporation or bylaws.

(c) Full Disclosure. Neither any representations or warranties made by the Company in this Agreement, the Company's Application, nor any written statements furnished by the Company to the MEGA in connection with the authorization of a MEGA Tax Credit, contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omits to state

a material fact necessary to make statements contained there in not misleading.

(d) Misrepresentation. The Company acknowledges that a misrepresentation in an Application, a Statement of Eligibility or a Certificate Application, may result in the revocation of the Company's designation as an authorized business and the refund of any Tax Credits the Company has received.

(e) Compliance with Agreement. The Company acknowledges that a violation of this Agreement may result in the revocation of the Company's designation as an authorized business and the loss or reduction of future Tax Credits.

(f) Eligibility. The Company will create Qualified New Jobs in this state in the manufacture of metal desks, filing and storage products and related products which are generally classified under SIC code 2522.

(g) Project Description. The Company will construct a new manufacturing plant adjacent to its existing facilities in Spring Lake, Michigan, for the fabrication, painting/coating, and assembly of metal office furniture and related products. The Project will result in the creation of the statutory minimum of 75 Qualified New Jobs no later than May 31, 1998. The Qualified New Jobs created will pay an average weekly wage of at least \$443, and at no time will the average wage paid for these Qualified New Jobs be less than 150 percent of the federal minimum hourly wage which shall, from time to time, then be in effect.

The Company believes that the Project is economically sound and affirms that the investment capital and/or financing needed to complete the Project is now committed or will soon be available to the Company. As of October 2, 1995, the

Company had not begun construction of the Project.

(h) Need for MEGA Tax Credits. The Tax Credits authorized by this Agreement address the competitive disadvantages of locating in Michigan instead of a site outside this State. The Project will not occur in Michigan without the tax credits offered by this Agreement.

(i) Site Reuse. The Company has considered the reuse or redevelopment of property previously used for an industrial or commercial purpose and the Company has determined the use of such property is not feasible in locating the Project.

(j) Transfer of Employment. The Project will not result in transferring employment within the Company from one or more local governmental units in Michigan to the governmental unit in which the Project is located unless the Company has obtained consent resolutions from all local units of government in Michigan from which employment is to be transferred, as required by Section 8(1)(m) of Public Act 24 of 1995.

(k) The Company has made the certifications required by Section 8 (3)(f) of Public Act 24 of 1995, which are attached to this Agreement as Schedule B, that it:

(1) Will follow a competitive bid process, open to all Michigan residents and firms, for the construction, rehabilitation, development or renovation of the facility, and that it will not discriminate against any contractor on the basis of its affiliation or nonaffiliation with any collective bargaining organization;

(2) Will make a good faith effort to employ, if qualified, Michigan residents at the facility;

(3) Will make a good faith effort to employ or contract with Michigan residents and firms to construct, rehabilitate, develop, or renovate the facility.

3.0 MEGA Tax Credit. Based upon the Company's Application and the representations and warranties made in this Agreement, the Authority has authorized the following tax credits subject to the conditions specified in Section 4 of this Agreement.

3.1

(a) A Business Activity Credit of 100 percent of that portion of the Company's single business tax liability that is attributable to the Project. The portion of the tax liability attributable to the Project is the same as the tax liability attributable to authorized business activity as calculated under Section 37d (4) of Public Act 23 of 1995. The Business Activity Credit is authorized for fifteen consecutive tax years beginning with the Company's tax year ending May 31, 1998.

(b) No more than 500 Qualified New Jobs may be used in calculating the ratios as provided in Section 37d (4) of Public Act 23 of 1995.

3.2



(a) An Employment Credit equal to 100 percent of the state's personal income tax rate, as it exists at the beginning of the Company's tax year for which the credit is being sought, multiplied by the total salaries and wages, before deducting any personal or dependency exemptions, of employees performing Qualified New Jobs. The Employment Credit is authorized for 20 consecutive tax years beginning with the Company's tax year ending May 31, 1998

(b) No more than 500 Qualified New Jobs may be used in calculating the Employment Credit as provided in Section 37c (2) of Public Act 23 of 1995.

**4.0 Conditions of the MEGA Tax Credits**

4.1 The Company shall not be eligible for the Tax Credit provided in Section 3 of this Agreement unless;

(a) The statutory minimum of 75 Qualified New Jobs have been created at the Project, no later than the Anniversary Date,

(b) The average weekly wage paid to all employees performing Qualified New Jobs is at least \$443, and

(c) The minimum Base Employment Level as required by Schedule A has been maintained.

4.2 Any time after 75 Qualified New Jobs have been created at the Project, but in no case later than 30 days after the Anniversary Date, the Company shall file a Certified Statement of Eligibility in a form as specified by the Authority from time to

time. The Statement shall contain the following information, as of the end of the pay period in which at least 75 Qualified New Jobs have been created or as of the end of the pay period in which the Anniversary Date falls:

- (a) The number of Qualified New Jobs.
- (b) The average weekly wage paid to employees performing Qualified New Jobs.
- (c) A certification by an authorized officer of the Company that the information provided in the Statement of Eligibility is true.

4.3 To obtain a Tax Credit Certificate in connection with the tax credits authorized in this Agreement for any tax year, the Company shall:

- (a) Provide the minimum number of Qualified New Jobs at the Project, as required by Schedule A of this Agreement, for the applicable tax year.
- (b) Pay an average weekly wage in connection with the Qualified New Jobs of at least the amount required by Schedule A of this Agreement for the applicable tax year.
- (c) Pay an average hourly wage in connection with Qualified New Jobs that equals or exceeds 150 percent of the highest hourly federal minimum wage in effect for the applicable tax year.
- (d) Maintain its Base Employment Level as required by Schedule A. In computing the Base Employment Level in any tax year, the Company shall determine the aggregate number of Full-time Jobs at all Michigan locations of the Company,

excluding the Qualified New Jobs at the Project, as of the last day of each of the four quarters in that tax year. The sum of the results for the four quarters, divided by four, is the Base Employment Level for that year.

(e) Make an Application to the MEGA for a Tax Credit Certificate as provided in Section 5 of in this Agreement.

#### 4.4 Information Subject to Audit and Verification

(a) The information provided in an Application is subject to audit and verification, by the Authority or its designee as provided in subsection (d) of this Section.

(b) The information provided in an Application for a MEGA Tax Credit Certificate is subject to audit and verification, by the Authority or its designee, as provided in subsection (d) of this Section.

(c) The information provided in the Statement of Eligibility is subject to audit and verification by the Authority or its designee as provided in subsection (d) of this Section.

(d) Upon reasonable advance notice to the Company by the Authority, the Company shall permit the Authority or its designee, during normal business hours, to inspect the files of the Company, in order to verify information which has been provided to the Authority. The files subject to inspection include, but are not limited to, those relevant to wage and hour records, job classification, job assignments and employment histories, but only to the extent such files are relevant to a determination

of the Company's eligibility for a MEGA Tax Credit. The provisions of Section 5 of Public Act 24 of 1995 shall apply to a record, data or other material created or retained by the Authority or its designee in connection with the inspection contemplated by this subsection.

4.5 Adjustment of Credits

(a) A Tax Credit authorized by the Authority is subject to adjustment in any tax year following the tax year for which a Tax Credit Certificate was issued, if the information on which the tax credit certification was based is found to be incorrect or cannot be verified;

(b) If the Authority determines that an adjustment is warranted pursuant to 4.5 (a), the Authority may adjust the amount of any future Tax Credit due the Company under this Agreement.

4.6 Separate Company Tax Filings. The Company shall remain eligible for the credits authorized in this Agreement only so long as it files its Michigan Single Business Tax return on a separate company basis.

5.0 Annual Application for Tax Credit Certificate

5.1 For each year that it seeks a Tax Credit under this Agreement, the Company shall complete an Application for a MEGA Tax Credit Certificate.

5.2 The Certificate Application shall be filed with the Authority within 45 days after the last day of the Company's tax year, unless the Company extends its Michigan Single Business Tax return for the applicable tax year, in which case the Certificate Application shall be filed with the Authority within 120 days after the last day of the Company's tax year.

5.3 The form of the Certificate Application shall be as specified by the Authority from time to time. The Certificate Application shall contain the following information:

(a) The Base Employment Level.

(b) The number of Qualified New Jobs at the Project as of the end of each of the four quarters in the applicable tax year.

(c) The number of Full-time Jobs, in Michigan, in the Company other than Qualified New Jobs at the Project, as of the end of each of the four quarters in the applicable tax year.

(d) The total salaries and wages, before deducting any personal or dependency exemptions, paid to employees who performed Qualified New Jobs at the Project during the applicable tax year.

(e) The total salaries and wages, before deducting any personal or dependency exemptions, paid to employees who performed Full-time Jobs in Michigan, for the Company, other than Qualified New Jobs at the Project, during the applicable tax year.

(f) The value of the property added at the Project as part of the expansion

described in the Project Description, as of the end of the applicable tax year.

(g) The value of all property owned in the state by the Company as of the end of the applicable tax year. For the purposes of subsection (f) and (g) of this section, the value of properties shall be determined by the same method and shall be consistent with the method by which property is valued for purposes of the Michigan Single Business Tax.

(h) Any other information the Authority deems reasonably necessary in determining the applicable Tax Credit.

(i) A certification by an Authorized Officer of the Company that the information provided in a Certificate Application is true.

5.4 The information in a Certificate Application is subject to audit and verification by the Authority or its designee in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.4 (d) of this Agreement.

5.5 Within 60 days of receiving a complete Application for a Tax Credit Certificate, the MEGA will review that application to determine whether the requirements of this Agreement have been satisfied and, if so, will calculate the credit authorized under this Agreement and issue a Tax Credit Certificate to the Company. If in the reasonable opinion of the MEGA, the Certificate Application is incomplete or is in a condition which does not permit the MEGA to determine whether the requirements of this Agreement have been satisfied, the MEGA shall notify the

Company of that fact, identifying the items requiring completion or additional information required, and shall provide the Company a reasonable opportunity to amend or complete its Certificate Application.

**6.0 Termination or Reduction of Credits**

6.1 If the Company does not comply with the conditions required in Sections 4.1, 4.3(a), 4.3(b), 4.3(d), and 4.4(d), this Agreement is null and void, the Company is no longer an authorized business with respect to the Facility, and no Tax Credits are, or will be, authorized under this Agreement.

6.2 Failure of the Company to comply with any other provision of this Agreement may result in the reduction or loss of Tax Credits for which a Certificate has not yet been issued.

6.3 If the Authority determines that the Company misrepresented information in order to qualify for, or increase the amount of a Tax Credit, the Authority may revoke the Company's designation as an authorized business and notify the Michigan Department of Treasury of that revocation.

**7.0 Reporting.** The Company shall provide the MEGA with such information regarding its participation in the Tax Credit Program as the MEGA may reasonably require for so long as this Agreement is effective.

8.0 MISCELLANEOUS.

8.1 Assignment of Credits. The Tax Credits authorized by this Agreement shall not be transferred or assigned to any other Person provided, however, that in the event a person acquires substantially all of the assets of the Company in Michigan after the date of this Agreement, the Authority shall authorize the transfer of the Company's rights under this Agreement to that Person if,

(1) The Person agrees in writing to assume all of the duties and responsibilities of the Company under this Agreement and

(2) The Authority reasonably determines that such a transfer would be consistent with and serve the purposes of Public Act 24 of 1995 and this Agreement.

8.2 Severability. If any clause, provision or section of this Agreement is held illegal or invalid by any court, the invalidity of such clause, provision or section shall not affect any of the remaining clauses, provisions or sections hereof and this Agreement shall be construed and enforced as if such illegal or invalid clause, provision or section had not been contained herein.

8.3 Notices. All notices, certificates, requests or other communications hereunder shall be in writing and shall be sufficiently given when delivered, if delivered by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested or by messenger or professional courier services addressed as follows:

If to the MEGA, by mail;



Michigan Jobs Commission  
PO Box 30234  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Attention: Jim Paquet

If to the MEGA, by messenger or professional courier service;

Michigan Economic Growth Authority  
Michigan Jobs Commission  
525 W. Ottawa Street  
Fifth Floor, Law Building  
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Attention: Jim Paquet

If to the Company;

Meridian Incorporated  
P.O. Box 530  
17558 171st Avenue  
Spring Lake, MI 49456

Attention: Jeff Dolbee

*Received 6/1/99  
BOB MOODT  
~~ALFRED HALL~~  
TAY DEPARTMENT  
HERMAN MILL  
INC.*

A party may change its address by providing notice thereof in compliance with this Section.

8.4 Entire Agreement and Amendment. Subject to the provisions of Public Act 24 of 1995, this Agreement and the Schedules attached to it, contain the entire Agreement between the Company and the MEGA, with respect to the matters described herein and supersede any and all previous Agreements. This Agreement may not be amended except with the written consent of the Authority and the Company.

8.5 Captions. The captions in this Agreement are for convenience only and in

no way define, limit or describe the scope of intent of any provisions or sections of this Agreement.

8.6 Interpretation. This Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan.

8.7 Binding Effect. All of the terms and provisions of this Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of and be enforceable by the parties.

8.8 Acceptance. The terms of this Agreement are hereby accepted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of JANUARY 1997,

MEGA:  
Michigan Economic Growth Authority

By D. Ro. 211

Its: Chairperson

Company:  
Meridian Incorporated

By Jeffrey S. McEllell

Its: V.P. FINANCE

**MERIDIAN INCORPORATED**  
**SUBSTITUTE Schedule A: Minimum Employment and Wage Levels**  
**to Qualify for the MEGA Tax Credits**

Year of Credit	<del>Tax Year</del> <i>TAX YEAR</i> <del>ENDING</del> <del>Tax Year</del> <i>ENDING</i> <u>MAY 31ST</u>	Minimum # of Qualified New Jobs	Minimum Average Weekly Wage	Minimum Base Employment Level to be maintained
1	1998 7	75	\$443	823
2	1999 8	75	443	823
3	2000 9	75	443	823
4	2001 0	75	443	823
5	2002 1	75	443	823
6	2003 2	75	443	823
7	2004 3	75	443	823
8	2005 4	75	443	823
9	2006 5	75	443	823
10	2007 6	75	443	823
11	2008 7	75	443	823
12	2009 8	75	443	823
13	2010 9	75	443	823
14	2011 10	75	443	823
15	2012 11	75	443	823
16	2013 12	75	443	823
17	2014 13	75	443	823
18	2015 14	75	443	823
19	2016 15	75	443	823
20	2017 16	75	443	823

MERIDIAN INCORPORATED

Schedule B

Meridian Incorporated, certifies that:

1. It will follow a competitive bid process, open to all Michigan residents and firms, for the construction, rehabilitation, development or renovation of the facility, and that it will not discriminate against any contractor on the basis of its affiliation or nonaffiliation with any collective bargaining organization.

2. It will make a good faith effort to employ, if qualified, Michigan residents at the facility.

3. It will make a good faith effort to employ or contract with Michigan residents and firms to construct, rehabilitate, develop, or renovate the facility.

Certified this 9<sup>TH</sup> day of JANUARY, 1997,

By: Jeffrey R. Wallen  
(Name)

Its: V.P. FINANCE  
(Title of Authorized Officer)

*Certificate Number*

009 - 00 - 95

***Initial Tax Credit Certificate***

*Issued this 9th day of January, 1997 by the*

***Michigan Economic Growth Authority***

*to Meridian Incorporated, employer identification number, 38-1908162, which is an Authorized Business pursuant to Public Act 24 of 1995.*

*The MEGA authorizes to Meridian Incorporated, an Employment Credit of 100 percent for 20 consecutive tax years, beginning with the Company's 1998 tax year, under Section 37(c) of Public Act 23 of 1995. The MEGA authorizes a Business Activity Credit of 100 percent for 15 consecutive tax years, beginning with the Company's 1998 tax year, under Section 37(d) of Public Act 23 of 1995.*

by \_\_\_\_\_

*D. Ro. 211*

*Chairperson, Michigan Economic Growth Authority*