

DRAFT

MEGA TAX CREDIT AGREEMENT

Whirlpool Technologies, LLC

St. Joseph

This Agreement is between the Michigan Economic Growth Authority (“the MEGA”), whose address is Post Office Box 30234, Lansing, Michigan 48909 and Whirlpool Technologies, LLC (“the Company”), a Michigan limited liability company, whose address is 2000 M-63, Benton Harbor, MI. and whose Employer Identification Number is [REDACTED]

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the MEGA has been created by the Michigan Economic Growth Authority Act, Act No. 24 of Public Acts of 1995, as amended, (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.

WHEREAS, the 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.

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.

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 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 December 31, 2002.

(d) "Authority" or "MEGA" means the Michigan Economic Growth Authority created by the Act.

(e) "Average Weekly Wage" means the total Salaries and Wages paid during the applicable tax year to employees performing Qualified New Jobs at the Project, divided by 52, divided by the number of Qualified New Jobs at the Project.

(f) "Base Employment Level" means the minimum number, as specified in Schedule A attached to this Agreement, of Full-Time Jobs to be maintained in Michigan by the Company, an/or by Whirlpool Corporation at its St. Joseph Technical Center, 303 Upton, St. Joseph, Michigan.

(g) "Certificate" or "Tax Credit Certificate" means the certificate required to be issued by Public Act 23 of 1995, as amended, 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) "Facility" means the "Project" or the site within this state at which the Company has committed to creating Qualified New Jobs.

(j) "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.

(k) "MEGA Business Activity Credit" or "Business Activity Credit" means a credit against the Single Business Tax authorized by Section 37d of Public Act 23 of 1995.

(l) "MEGA Employment Credit" or "Employment Credit" means a credit against the Single Business Tax authorized by Section 37c of Public Act 23 of 1995.

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

(n) "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.

(o) "Primary Business Activity" means the activity first in degree or importance among the business activities of the Company.

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

(q) "Qualified New Job" means a Full-time Job at the Project held by a Michigan resident that is:

(1) created by the Company after the date of execution of this Agreement.

(2) in excess of the Base Employment Level.

(r) "Salaries and Wages" means wages, tips and other compensation reported in Box 1 of the employees' W-2 forms.

(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 this Agreement, the MEGA makes the following representations and warranties as of the date of execution of this Agreement:

(a) The MEGA is a public body established and acting pursuant to the Act.

(b) The MEGA has the necessary power under the Act to grant 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, binding and enforceable in accordance with its terms.

(c) The MEGA will issue the Company's Initial Tax Credit Certificate upon execution of this Agreement in the form attached to this Agreement.

2.2 Representations by the Company. With respect to this Agreement, the Company makes the following representations and warranties as of the date of execution 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 organization or its operating agreement.

(c) Full Disclosure. Neither 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 omit a material fact.

(d) Eligibility. (i) The Company's Primary Business Activity is or will be a "high technology activity" as that term is defined in Section 3(g) of the Act. (ii) The Company will use not less than 25 percent of its total operating expenses for research and development, as determined under generally accepted accounting principles in the tax year ending December 31, 2001.

(e) Project Description. The Company will relocate cooking products engineering, technical, procurement, managerial and ancillary support jobs and existing equipment from Dayton, Ohio and LaPorte, Indiana to a leased facility in the Renaissance Zone and/or owned facility in St. Joseph, Berrien County, ("the Project"). The Project will result in the creation of the statutory minimum of 5 Qualified New Jobs no later than the Anniversary Date and 25 Qualified New Jobs no later than four years after the Anniversary Date. The Qualified New Jobs created will pay an Average Weekly Wage of at least \$1,132 and at no time

will the average wage paid for these Qualified New Jobs be less than 400 percent of the federal minimum 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 the execution date of this Agreement, a lease has not been executed and equipment related to the Project has not been transferred to the Project site.

(f) 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.

(g) 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.

(h) Certification. The Company has made the certifications required by Section 8(3)(f) of the Act, which are attached to this Agreement as Schedule B.

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 4.0 of this Agreement.

3.1 Business Activity Credit

(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 seven consecutive tax years beginning with January 1, 2012

(b) No more than 164 Qualified New Jobs may be used in calculating the ratios as provided in Section 37d (4) of Public Act 23 of 1995.

3.2 Employment Credit.

(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 seventeen consecutive tax years beginning with January 1, 2002.

(b) No more than 164 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 Eligibility. The Company shall not be eligible for the Tax Credit provided in Section 3.0 of this Agreement unless:

(a) The statutory minimum of 5 Qualified New Jobs have been created at the Project, no later than the Anniversary Date.

(b) The statutory minimum of 25 Qualified New Jobs have been created at the Project no later than four years after the Anniversary Date.

(c) The Average Weekly Wage paid to all employees performing Qualified New Jobs is at least \$1,132.

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

(e) The Company's Primary Business Activity continues to be a "high technology activity" as that term is defined in Section 3(g) of the Act.

(f) The Company uses not less than 25 percent of its total operating expenses for research and development, as determined under generally accepted accounting principles, for a period of three fiscal years beginning on January 1, 2002.

4.2 Statement of Eligibility. Any time after 5 Qualified New Jobs have been created at the Project, but in no case later than 30 days after the Anniversary Date, and in all cases prior to or concurrent with the first application for a Tax Credit Certificate, 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:

(a) The aggregate number of Full-time Jobs at Whirlpool Corporation's St. Joseph Technical Center located at 303 Upton, St. Joseph, Michigan and at all Michigan locations of the Company, excluding Qualified New Jobs at the Project, and excluding any jobs counted as qualified new jobs at any other project pursuant to any other MEGA tax credit agreement with the Company.

(b) The number of Qualified New Jobs.

(c) The Average Weekly Wage paid to employees performing Qualified New Jobs.

(d) A certification by an officer of the Company that the Company's Primary Business Activity is a "high technology activity" as that term is defined in Section 3(g) of the Act.

(e) A certification by an officer of the Company that the Company used not less than 25 percent of its total operating expenses for research and development, as determined under generally accepted accounting principles, in the tax years ending December 31, 2001 through December 31, 2004.

(f) A certification by an authorized officer of the Company that the information provided in the Statement of Eligibility is true.

4.3 Tax Credit Certificate. To obtain a Tax Credit Certificate in connection with the tax credits authorized in this Agreement for any tax year, the Company, or for purposes of the Base Employment Level, the Company and/or Whirlpool Corporation, shall:

(a) Maintain the minimum number of Qualified New Jobs, as required by Schedule A of this Agreement, for the applicable tax year. In computing the number of Qualified New Jobs in any tax year except the first year and the fifth year of the credit, the Company shall determine the number of Qualified New Jobs as of the last day of each of the four quarters of the applicable tax year, total the results for the four quarters, and divide the sum by four (4)

In computing the number of Qualified New Jobs for the first year of the credit, the Company shall determine the number of Qualified New Jobs as of the last day of each quarter of the applicable tax year and beginning with the first quarter in which there are at least 5 Qualified New Jobs, compute the average number of Qualified New Jobs over the remaining quarters of the tax year.

In computing the number of Qualified New Jobs for the fifth year of the credit, the Company shall determine the number of Qualified New Jobs as of the last day of each quarter of the applicable tax year and beginning with the first quarter in which there are at least 25 Qualified New Jobs, compute the average number of Qualified New Jobs over the remaining quarters of the 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 400 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 Whirlpool Corporation's St. Joseph Technical Center located at 303 Upton, St. Joseph, Michigan and at all Michigan locations of the Company, excluding the Qualified New Jobs at the Project for which it is seeking a Tax Credit and excluding any jobs counted as qualified new jobs at any other project pursuant to any other MEGA tax credit agreement with the Company, 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 tax year.

(e) Certify that the Primary Business Activity of the Company was a "high technology activity" as that term is defined in Section 3(g) of the Act, throughout the applicable tax year.

(f) If any portion of the applicable tax year is within three years after January 1, 2002, certify that the Company used not less than 25 percent of its total operating expenses for research and development, as determined under generally accepted accounting principles during the tax year.

(g) Make an Application to the MEGA for a Tax Credit Certificate as provided in Section 5.0 of this Agreement.

(h) Provided that the Company has initially satisfied the requirements of Section 4.1, (except for 4.1 (b) which is not required to obtain a credit until four years after the Anniversary Date), failure of the Company to satisfy the requirements of Section 4.3 in any given year does not preclude the Company from qualifying for and obtaining a Tax Credit in any other year authorized by Section 3.1 or Section 3.2 of this Agreement.

4.4 Audit and Verification. The information provided in the Application, the Application for a MEGA Tax Credit Certificate, and the Statement of Eligibility are subject to audit and verification, by the Authority or its designee. Upon reasonable advance notice to the Company, or its parent Whirlpool Corporation, by the Authority, the entity notified shall permit the Authority or its designee, during normal business hours, to inspect its files solely for the purpose of verifying eligibility for the Tax Credits authorized under, and compliance with, this Agreement. 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.

The Authority or its designee shall use all information received pursuant to an inspection authorized by this section solely for the purpose of verifying

eligibility for the Tax Credits authorized under, and compliance with, this Agreement. The entity which has its files inspected may request confidentiality pursuant to Section 5(3) of the Act on financial or proprietary information retained by the Authority in the course of its inspection of the files.

4.5 Administrative Fee. An Administrative Fee of \$47,090 is due and payable upon submission of the Certified Statement of Eligibility required in Section 4.2. The Administrative Fee is one-half of one percent of the MEGA Cost, as reported in current dollars, in the cost/benefit analysis of the Project, as presented to the MEGA at the time the Tax Credit was authorized.

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 at least 45 days prior to the day the Company's Single Business Tax return is due. If the Company receives an extension of the deadline to file its Michigan Single Business Tax return for the applicable tax year, the Company shall notify the MEGA of the extension and the Certificate Application shall be filed with the Authority at least 45 days prior to the extended deadline.

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 aggregate number of Full-time Jobs at Whirlpool Corporation's St. Joseph Technical Center located at 303 Upton, St. Joseph, Michigan and at all Michigan locations of the Company, excluding the Qualified New Jobs at the Project for which it is seeking a Tax Credit and excluding any jobs counted as qualified new jobs at any other project pursuant to any other MEGA tax credit agreement with the Company, as of the last day 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 for which the Company is seeking a Tax Credit, 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) The certifications required by 4.3(e) and 4.3(f) and a certification by an authorized officer of the Company that the other information provided in the Certificate Application is true.

(i) Any other information which is reasonably related to determining the applicable Tax Credit.

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 of this Agreement.

5.5 Within 45 days of receiving a complete Certificate Application, 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.

6.0 ADJUSTMENT, REDUCTION, OR TERMINATION OF CREDITS

6.1 If the Company does not comply with the conditions required in Section 4.1, this Agreement is null and void, the Company is no longer an authorized business, and no Tax Credits are, or will be, authorized under this Agreement.

6.2 Failure of the Company to comply with any provision of this Agreement, other than as a result of a clerical or technical error which is corrected when it is discovered to be an error, may result in revocation of the Company's designation as an authorized business or the reduction or loss of Tax Credits for which a Certificate has not yet been issued.

6.3 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.

6.4 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. Any tax credits that have been received based upon a misrepresentation may be subject to recovery by the State of Michigan.

6.5 Prior to taking any adverse action against the Company under Sections 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, or 6.4, the Authority shall provide the Company with written notice of its intent to take such action and of the basis for that action and shall provide the Company with a reasonable opportunity to respond.

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 all or 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:

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

(b) The Authority determines that such a transfer would be consistent with and serve the purposes of the Act 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 sufficiently given when delivered, if delivered by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, or by messenger or professional courier service, addressed as follows:

If to the MEGA by mail: Michigan Economic Development Corp.
Michigan Economic Growth Authority
Post Office Box 30234
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Attention: Jim Paquet

If to the MEGA by messenger or professional courier service:

Michigan Economic Growth Authority
Michigan Economic Development Corp.
201 North Washington Square
Victor Office Center, 5th Floor
Lansing, Michigan 48913
Attention: Jim Paquet

If to the Company:

Whirlpool Technologies, LLC
2000 M-63
Benton Harbor, Michigan 49022
Attention: Harold Schewe, M/D 2900

8.4 Project Sign. The Company agrees to erect a Project sign within thirty (30) days after execution of this Agreement. The sign must be located on the Project site in the most visually accessible place to ensure maximum public exposure. The sign shall remain on the Project site until the completion of construction. The Company will be responsible for the cost of the sign (\$290). The Company is responsible for contacting the sign vendor and providing the city name, project name, and shipping address. The sign vendor is: Mr. Scott Hildebrant, ImageLine Productions, (517), 729-7446, whose offices are located at 811 West Main, Owosso, Michigan 48867. If the sign required by this Section is prohibited by applicable local ordinances or the terms of the Company's lease, the sign requirement will be waived upon receipt of a copy of the ordinance or lease prohibiting the sign.

8.5 Entire Agreement and Amendment. Subject to the provisions of the Act, 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.

8.6 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.

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

8.8 Acceptance. The terms of this Agreement are hereby accepted this 15th day of May, 2001.

Michigan Economic Growth Authority

By _____

Jim Paquet
Secretary to the MEGA Board

Whirlpool Technologies, LLC

By _____

Tom Catania
Vice President

DRAFT

Revised 1-22-01)

Whirlpool Technologies, LLC

St. Joseph

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

| <u>Year of Credit</u> | <u>Tax Year Ending Dec. 31st</u> | <u>Minimum # of Qualified New Jobs</u> | <u>Minimum Average Weekly Wage</u> | <u>Minimum Base Employment Level</u> |
|-----------------------|---|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2002 | 5 | \$1,132 | 484 |
| 2 | 2003 | 5 | \$1,132 | 484 |
| 3 | 2004 | 5 | \$1,132 | 484 |
| 4 | 2005 | 5 | \$1,132 | 484 |
| 5 | 2006 | 25 | \$1,132 | 484 |
| 6 | 2007 | 25 | \$1,132 | 484 |
| 7 | 2008 | 25 | \$1,132 | 484 |
| 8 | 2009 | 25 | \$1,132 | 484 |
| 9 | 2010 | 25 | \$1,132 | 484 |
| 10 | 2011 | 25 | \$1,132 | 484 |
| 11 | 2012 | 25 | \$1,132 | 484 |
| 12 | 2013 | 25 | \$1,132 | 484 |
| 13 | 2014 | 25 | \$1,132 | 484 |
| 14 | 2015 | 25 | \$1,132 | 484 |
| 15 | 2016 | 25 | \$1,132 | 484 |
| 16 | 2017 | 25 | \$1,132 | 484 |
| 17 | 2018 | 25 | \$1,132 | 484 |

Whirlpool Technologies, LLC

Schedule B

Whirlpool Technologies, LLC 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 non-affiliation 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 15th day of May, 2001.

By: _____

Tom Catania
Vice President

Certificate Number

00 - 149 -01

Initial Tax Credit Certificate

Issued this _____ day of May, 2001 by the

Michigan Economic Growth Authority

to Whirlpool Technologies,LLC, Employer Identification Number 38-3591617,which is an Authorized Business pursuant to Public Act 24 of 1995, as amended.

The MEGA authorizes to Whirlpool technologies, LLC an Employment Credit of 100 percent for seventeen consecutive tax years, beginning with the Company's tax year ending December 31, 2002 under Section 37c of Public Act 23 of 1995.

The MEGA authorizes a Business Activity Credit of 100 percent for seven consecutive tax years, beginning with the Company's tax year ending December 31, 2012 under Section 37d of Public Act 23 of 1995.

By _____
Secretary to the MEGA Board