

For Immediate Release
October 9, 2009

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ABOUT MTEC SMARTZONE

The mission of MTEC SmartZone is to provide technology-based facilities, resources and programs to high-growth entrepreneurs and companies that increase employment, income, wealth and recognition in the U.P. communities where we serve. Our vision is having integrated economic development of the region that includes a vibrant technology sector, driving Michigan's technological leadership and economic growth with sustainable opportunities for companies and their employees to prosper. More information is available at www.mtecsz.com

ABOUT THE MEDC

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) is the State of Michigan's one-stop resource for businesses seeking to grow in Michigan. Whether it's an expansion, a relocation, or even a concern with another agency of state government, the MEDC can help. From site location assistance to job training grants, from help with permits to tax abatements, we're the state's economic development corporation. More information is available at www.themedc.org.

SmartZone is a service mark of Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

MTEC SmartZone “Graduate” Wins \$25 Million Military Contract

GS Engineering, one of the founding companies in the MTEC SmartZone program has been awarded a five-year, \$25 million contract with the US Special Operations Command.

GS was the first MTEC SmartZone “graduate” in 1998, where the company evolved so successfully that it ultimately built its own facility in the Houghton area. Previous to that move, GS occupied the historic SmartZone Powerhouse building, where the support relationship with the SmartZone team flourished for over 10 years. Learn more about how GS and the SmartZone worked together at www.mtecsz.com. On the site, you'll see video segments that feature Glen Simula and Chris Coxonof talking about how the SmartZone helped their company through growth and ultimately – to a highly successful graduation.

GS was founded in 1980 by Michigan Tech graduate Glen Simula. GS Engineering grew out of Simula's work with Michigan Tech's Keweenaw Research Center (KRC). Through his involvement with KRC, he could envision that a small, for-profit entity could have more flexibility in bidding on contract proposals and doing work on state and federal projects.

GS is one of several companies that have spun off of KRC. Simula is grateful for that relationship with Tech and for another important, current connection: his employees. Nearly all his engineers are Tech grads.

“We wouldn't be here without Tech and the support of the SmartZone,” he says. “I can't stress that enough. We get asked sometimes why we aren't in Minneapolis or Detroit, but we have this great university right here in this beautiful area. We can attract the kind of engineers who want to live in the Keweenaw. This is home.”

“We are talking about expanding next spring,” Simula says.



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That's the result of a lot of hard work, according to Chief Operating Officer Jim Bottomley. "This was a tremendous effort by a lot of people," he says. "This gives us a good, stable base, and the effect will be felt all over the region. It's going to be a big impact."

Regarding the new contract with the Special Operations Command, Glen Simula received the news in September of 2009. Technically, it is an "indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity task order contract to supply system test support services for US Special Operations Forces (SOF) ground mobility vehicles," according to a US Special Operations Command news release.

Given the security surrounding the work, much of the details are not for public consumption, but GS Engineering says it will be doing design and analysis of light military structures, and the terms of the contract are a bit different.

You can read more details about the GS contract at

<http://www.mtu.edu/news/stories/2009/september/story19318.html>

