

January 27, 2011

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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.mtectsz.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.

Learn How to Leverage Federal Funds for Your Small Business

HOUGHTON, MI - MTEC SmartZone is providing assistance to local technology companies who want to discuss funding opportunities at the national Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) conference on April 10, 2011, in Madison, Wisconsin.

According to agencies involved with the federal SBIR program, 13 Houghton County companies have received over 70 contracts totaling more than \$18 million. MTEC SmartZone program manager Jonathan Leinonen states, "Many of these grants were provided to businesses with only two or three employees. The contracts helped the companies become established. Most have secured numerous grants and grown to suit. The SBIR program has potential to help many other businesses follow in their footsteps."

MTEC SmartZone is organizing a group to attend the 2011 annual SBIR conference where companies can learn about federal opportunities and how to submit competitive research proposals, and meet with agency representatives directly. MTEC SmartZone will cover the costs of transportation, lodging and conference fees up to \$1,000 per person, for up to eight participants. Leinonen explains, "We have a very supportive local network. One company leader suggested that we organize the trip to help other technology companies make the connections necessary to bring even more contracts back to the U.P."

All technology-based companies are encouraged to contact MTEC SmartZone to learn more about the SBIR conference and group trip. Applications for financial assistance will be accepted until February 15, 2011.

You may direct questions about the program to Jonathan Leinonen at MTEC SmartZone, (906) 487-7004.

