

For Immediate Release
November 2, 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.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.

GreenSand Advances to Accelerate Michigan Competition Finals

LAKE LINDEN, Michigan (November 2, 2011) – GreenSand Corporation is a semi-finalist in the Accelerate Michigan Innovation Competition. The competition will take place November 16 – 17, 2011, in Ypsilanti. GreenSand is in contention to win the grand prize of \$500,000.

Accelerate Michigan Innovation Competition is a business plan competition designed to highlight Michigan as a great state for innovation-based business growth. GreenSand will compete in the Advanced Materials sector with a five-minute elevator pitch before over 50 investor-judges. Five levels of prizes range from people's choice of \$10,000 to the grand prize of \$500,000. "Winning the competition would accelerate our group with the financial means to produce, transport, complete corporate negotiations and engineer the production facility to be commissioned by July 2012," states Domenic Popko, owner, GreenSand Corporation.

GreenSand possesses a technology to recycle copper-laden mining stamp sand located in Gay, Michigan, to produce roofing shingles. Copper is a desirable construction additive for its prevention of algae and mold growth. Additionally, the GreenSand shingle repels water, accepts color and is durable. The company has the mineral rights to an estimated 25 to 90 million tons of stamp sand along the Lake Superior shoreline. The use of stockpiled stamp sand to produce shingles will have positive effects on the fishing industry, the aesthetic appearance of the lake and beach, and the local economy.



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GreenSand was developed by Michigan Technological University Alumnus Domenic Popko and with Michigan Tech scientists Drs. Jim Hwang and Bowen Li. The collaboration is part of Michigan Tech's effort to transfer University research into the marketplace. Jim Baker, Executive Director of Innovation and Industry Engagement, Professor Ralph Hodek, and Jon Leinonen of MTEC SmartZone have all worked closely with GreenSand Corporation since 2007. "Through Jon Leinonen's guidance we were compelled to submit to the Accelerate Michigan Competition and we're very pleased we did," says Popko.

GreenSand Corporation will compete in the Accelerate Michigan Innovation Competition pitching their idea for roofing shingles made with stamp sand left over from Upper Michigan's copper mining era.

