

Pays for prototypes or concept development

Small and medium-size companies can get matching funds—one dollar for every two dollars of their own—for prototype and concept development activities that can be protected in the marketplace. The new Demonstration Fund awards up to \$150,000 to commercialize innovations.

Eligible are high growth companies in advanced manufacturing, information technology or biosciences industries. The company must be connected with one of Iowa's business accelerators or an entrepreneurial program recognized by the Iowa Department of Economic Development.

To date, five companies have been awarded the funds by the Economic Development Board.

Advanced Analytical Technologies of Ames – \$150,000 awarded to commercialize a prototype that can break down DNA into smaller fragments for accurately identify bacterial types. The project is a partnership between Advanced Analytical Technologies and the Cleveland Clinic.

EmTech of Ames – \$50,000 awarded to provide commercialization assistance for new technology that remove minerals from water used in production of ethanol, increasing the output of ethanol created.

Reference LLC of Ames – \$150,000 awarded to develop innovative and affordable sensor technology. Based on their projections, they will be able to produce a product for \$600 in a market in which products have an average cost of \$6,000.

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Bringing 500 jobs to Newton

TPI Composites has announced plans to build a 316,000 sq. ft. plant in Newton to help GE Energy meet the growing demand for wind turbines. TPI, a leading supplier of wind turbine blades, will create 500 jobs in Newton producing blades for GE.

The Iowa Department of Economic Development has awarded \$2 million in forgivable loans and tax credits from the from High Quality Job Creation (HQJC) program to the project.

"We applaud TPI and GE for bringing these new jobs to Newton," said Governor Chet Culver. As Governor, my goal is to take full

advantage of Iowa's natural resources, along with our incredible manufacturing base and workforce, to make Iowa the renewable energy capital of the nation. With this announcement, we will build upon Iowa's leadership in wind energy, remain a critical player in the race to produce clean, renewable electricity, and help ensure the future success of this vibrant Iowa community."

The new plant will expand TPI's capacity to produce blades for GE's 1.5 MW wind turbines, which are among the most widely used wind turbines in the world, with more than 6,500 installed.

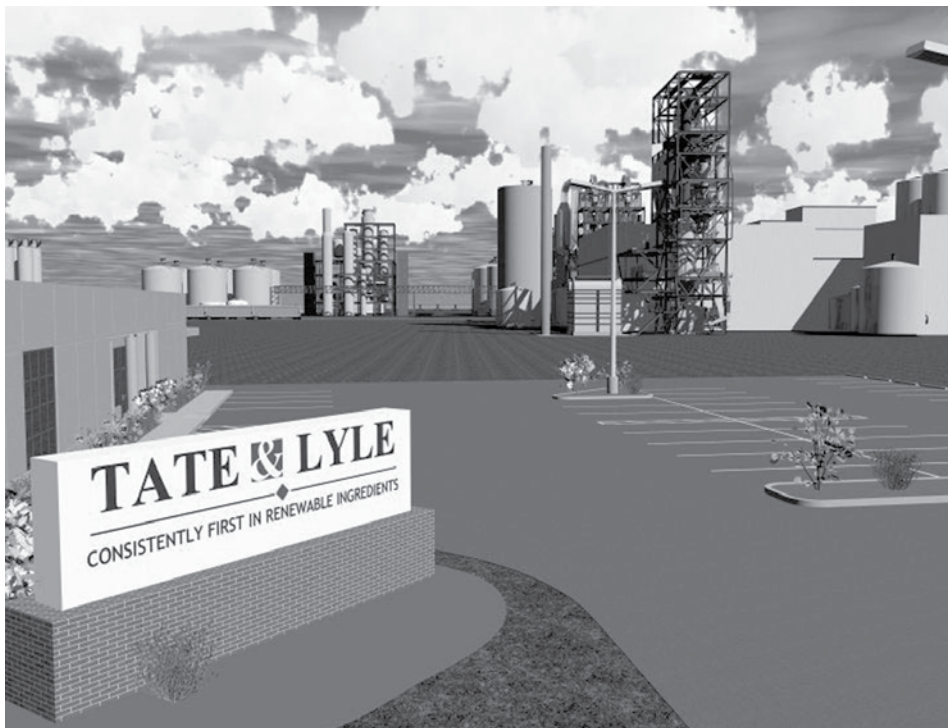
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"We applaud TPI and GE for bringing these new jobs to Newton," said Governor Chet Culver, with an architect's rendering of the new \$56 million plant in the background as he made the announcement.



Update on Grow Iowa Values project



Tate & Lyle PLC reported to stockholders that "construction of the first phase of our new corn wet mill in Fort Dodge, Iowa, remains on track for completion by March 2009." Shown in this architect's sketch, the \$260 million facility is the first of its kind to be erected in the United States in over a decade. The Grow Iowa Values Fund is part of an extensive economic development package that attracted the project to Iowa. More than 50 Iowa businesses have contracts totaling over \$50 million connected with the construction.

SYNGENTA DOUBLES LONE TREE

Tax benefits from the High Quality Jobs Creation (HQJC) program were awarded by the Iowa Department of Economic Development to Syngenta Seeds for expansion of its plant on Highway 22 near Lone Tree.

Syngenta is making a \$34 million capital investment that will add six new full-time positions, a new 200,000 sq. ft. facility for husk and sort activities, cob and chopped materials load out, a building for shelling and pre-cleaning and two 30,000 bushel dryers.

The Lone Tree facility produces 2 million to 2.5 million acres of corn annually for seed companies such as NK (formerly Northrup King), Golden Harvest, Garst and others.

Syngenta has 11 Iowa facilities that employ 335 full-time and nearly 140 part-time employees.

Iowa City Area Development Group, Johnson County and the Iowa Department of Economic Development worked to assist the Syngenta Seeds expansion project.

NEW PRODUCTS CREATE JOBS IN NORTHWEST IOWA

Diversified Technologies Inc. was awarded \$100,000 from the Economic Development Set-Aside (EDSA) program to create jobs and add new grain handling equipment to its manufacturing operations in George.

The Iowa Department of Economic Development award will assist the creation of 29 jobs in the northwest Iowa community. Remodeling of 2,000 sq.-ft. into production space and construction of 7,600 sq.-ft. of new plant in 2008 will allow Diversified Technologies to produce the newly designed equipment. Among new grain handling products are conveyors, a portable auger and grain loading vehicle.

Diversified Technologies manufactures a wide variety of products in George under three different divisions. **Sudenga Industries** produces the grain and feed handling equipment. **Ranger All Season** builds three and four wheel electric scooters for personal mobility. And **Dur-A-Lift** manufactures personal and material handling lifts.

Pays for college interns

To connect students acquiring skills in advanced manufacturing, information technology or the biosciences with future employers, IDED has rolled out the Iowa Student Internship Program. Small and medium size companies with fewer than 500 employees and classified as one of the targeted industries are encouraged to use this program to connect with students in community colleges, state universities and private colleges. Businesses receive financial assistance of one dollar for every two dollars paid to the intern. Funds are available for summer 2008 internships. For more information contact Alana Anderson at alana.anderson@iowalifechanging.com or 515.242.4874.

Largest biodiesel plant



Directors and guests at the ribbon-cutting ceremony officially open East Fork Biodiesel, the largest biodiesel plant in Iowa with a production capacity of 60 million gallons per year. "Renewable fuels are the future," said Ken Clark, East Fork chairman of the board. "This facility in Algona will help strengthen Iowa's place as a national leader in the industry while producing clean burning, renewable biodiesel." More than 1,500 Iowans are investor-owners of the plant, which received start-up assistance from the Iowa Department of Economic Development.

HARVEST INTERNATIONAL GETS GRAIN MOVING

Entrepreneurs Byron Friesen and Jeff Sivinski have started Harvest International, a new manufacturing operation, to produce high-capacity grain augers that will help farmers move their grain from field to end use more efficiently.

Harvest manufactures 10-inch and 13-inch auger models in lengths up to 82 feet. The augers, which can move 5,000 to 10,000 bushels of corn, soybeans or wheat every hour, are made in its 44,000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art facility in Cherokee.

The company currently employs 13 but Friesen expects that to double within the year.

The company's start-up and move into its manufacturing facility were facilitated by Enterprise Zone tax credits awarded by the Iowa Department of Economic Development.

Friesen believes on-farm storage will continue to grow, as will the need for auger systems that move grain from field to storage.

"The 2007 growing season will see more than 13 billion bushels of corn and 2.6 billion bushels of soybeans produced," says Friesen. "That's a lot of grain that needs to be transported.

"When you focus on one product, you better be good at it. We feel we've developed and refined the finest grain augers on the market. We're excited about the future."

Major expansion at Unverferth

A farm equipment manufacturer in Shell Rock plans a \$7 million expansion that is expected to create 60 jobs. Awarded \$200,000 from the Community Economic Betterment Account (CEBA) and tax benefits from the High Quality Jobs Creation (HQJC) program, Unverferth Manufacturing Co. plans to construct a 55,250 sq. ft. plant in Shell Rock, which is in Butler County, and equip it with advanced manufacturing equipment to meet increased customer demand.

LAUNCHING A NEW BRITT EMPLOYER

Primera Foods Corporation is investing \$11 million to purchase and remodel the vacant 86,000 sq. ft. ConAgra plant in Britt for food ingredient manufacturing. The Iowa Department of Economic Development awarded the company \$150,000 from the Community Economic Betterment Account (CEBA) and tax benefits from the High Quality Jobs Creation (HQJC) program to locate manufacturing in Britt. Planned to open in 2009, Primera Foods expects to create 48 jobs in the Hancock County community. Primera ingredients are sold to other food manufacturers for use in ready-to-eat and ready-to-prepare foods. Headquartered in Cameron, Wisconsin, Primera Foods has existing plants in Wisconsin, Illinois and Minnesota.

Iowa schools among the nation's best

Because of the impact that education has on the future workforce, Expansion Management magazine issues an annual metro public schools ranking. The comparison shows how good America's schools are. Ranking in the top 20 percent of the nation for 2007 are the Ames, Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, Dubuque and Iowa City metros. Ranking in the next quintile (or 20 percent) are the Omaha-Council Bluffs and Waterloo-Cedar Falls metros.

CALENDAR

REGULATORY ASSISTANCE WORKSHOPS

Statewide workshops for the Construction and Demolition Industry and Building Code Officials offer resources and tools to assist with regulatory compliance. Registration is available online at www.iowalifechanging.com/register

IDED co-sponsored Workshops are scheduled:

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| Jan. 29 | Council Bluffs, Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites/Ameristar Casino |
| Feb. 5 | Ames, ISU Scheman Building |
| Feb. 12 | Storm Lake, King's Point Resort |
| Feb. 19 | Cedar Falls, Holiday Inn University Plaza |
| Feb. 26 | Ottumwa, Bridge View Center |
| Feb. 28 | Davenport, Best Western Steeplegate Inn |

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Vida Diagnostic of Iowa City – \$50,000 awarded to prototype and launch a workflow application. Preliminary tests of their “VIDA On-Demand” product have proven successful in tests for four pre-clinical interventional emphysema device clients.

Positech of Laurens – \$75,000 awarded to commercialize technology related to workplace ergonomics. The Ergo 4 Industry evaluates ergonomic correctness of work tasks and proposes work cell layout and equipment solutions.

For more information on the Demonstration Fund, contact: Doug Lewis at entrepreneurialassistance@iowalifechanging.com or 515.281.0142.

Bringing 500 jobs to Newton

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“As the wind industry continues to grow, we face an ever-increasing demand for reliable and efficient wind turbines,” said Victor Abate, Vice President-Renewables for GE Energy. “Our commercial relationships with valued suppliers such as TPI are critical to the continuing growth and success of our business.” “These are exciting times in the wind industry, and we are very pleased to work with GE to meet the challenges that lie ahead,” said Steven C. Lockard, President and CEO of TPI.

“The Newton facility will significantly enhance our capacity to support the requirements of GE’s wind business.” “Wind is now one of the largest sources adding new electricity generation in the country,” said Executive Director Randall Swisher of the American Wind Energy Association. “As today’s announcement demonstrates, wind power is also a large source of investment, creating good jobs and building economic opportunity here in Iowa and across the country.”

Iowa currently ranks third in wind energy production, with more than 1000 wind turbines capable of producing nearly 1000 MW of electricity annually. In addition to TPI, Iowa is home to some of the biggest names in wind energy production, including Acciona Energia in West Branch, Clipper Wind Power in Cedar Rapids, and Siemens Wind in Fort Madison.

Over the past two years, GE Energy has supplied wind turbines representing more than 50 percent of the new wind capacity across the U.S. TPI Composites is a leading manufacturer of large-scale composite structures for the wind energy, transportation and military vehicle markets.