



REGIONAL GROWTH PARTNERSHIP
Building a High-Performance Economy

NEWS

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

John Gibney
Regional Growth Partnership
Phone: 419/252-2700

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Launch Client SuGanit Systems Receives Third Frontier Grant

TOLEDO, Ohio – Through the aggressive efforts of the Regional Growth Partnership’s Launch program, and in conjunction with the University of Toledo, the State of Ohio’s Third Frontier Commission has awarded a \$250,000 grant to the region.

SuGanit Systems, a Launch client, and the University of Toledo received a state grant for their proposal, “A Novel Cellulostic Biomass Fermentation Process for Ethanol Production.” Launch took a lead role in identifying and writing the grant proposal, working alongside UT.

The Third Frontier Advanced Energy Program provides funding for commercializing new products (such as fuels), manufacturing processes, or production system improvements for delivering advanced energy technologies to the market.

“This grant will allow us to do experiments on a larger scale, and this is extremely important in making the technology commercially viable” said Praveen Paripati, president of SuGanit Systems. “As a new company, the type of advice and assistance that Launch provides is very critical.”

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SuGanit Systems, Inc., based in Virginia, was formed in 2006 to create a platform of sustainable products from biorenewables, including biofuels. The company obtained exclusive licenses to two University of Toledo technologies for producing ethanol from cellulosic biomass, and has sponsored continued research and development of these technologies by the UT College of Engineering.

Successfully proven at bench scale, these technologies hold promise for making cellulosic ethanol production highly economical, and for diversifying northwest Ohio's alternative energy portfolio. Because of the strong collaboration between UT and SuGanit Systems, the company has relocated its research and development activities from Virginia to the University of Toledo Clean & Alternative Energy Incubator.

This grant award to UT and SuGanit Systems will fund the scale up of a patented cellulosic ethanol fermentation process up to a 100 L level from its current bench scale of less than a liter.

“We are proud that Launch was able to provide value in making this grant proposal a reality,” said Steve Weathers, president and CEO of the RGP. “This grant will ultimately help our community to continue developing an innovative economy.”

Cellulosic ethanol is emerging as a preferred form of fuel due to its abundance, a favorable regulatory environment, the high cost and scarcity of corn, and the cost efficiencies that can be achieved with advanced technologies that make cellulosic ethanol economically viable. Coupled with other advanced energy technologies and projects in solar and wind, the introduction of cellulosic ethanol research and development laboratories in northwest Ohio strengthens the emergence of this region as a leader in alternative energies.

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Launch is a tech-based business incubation program of the Regional Growth Partnership. Launch provides comprehensive business assistance for entrepreneurs and start-up companies that are commercializing revolutionary, world-class technologies, to accelerate company growth and time to market entry.

The Regional Growth Partnership is a private nonprofit development corporation dedicated to fostering local, national and international economic growth opportunities for Northwest Ohio.

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