



Regional Growth Partnership
BUILDING A HIGH-TECH, HIGH PERFORMANCE ECONOMY



NEWS

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Rocket Ventures Makes \$150,000 Investment

Toledo, OH – Continuing its momentum in the acceleration of technology-based businesses, Rocket Ventures recently invested **\$150,000** in three Northwest Ohio companies through its Ignite! grant fund. Ignite! grants are used to help companies develop and use technology to create new products or improve processes that have an impact on revenues -- and ultimately jobs within the Rocket Ventures footprint.

“Each of these companies represents the world-class innovation that is coming out of Northwest Ohio. Rocket Ventures feels privileged to be able to invest in three diverse companies whose cutting edge ideas hold tremendous promise and provide another reason for investors to take notice of the opportunities within our region,” said Greg Knudson, director of Rocket Ventures.

Red Lion Bio-Energy, LLC has developed an integrated *thermolysis* process that produces a bio-fuel dependable portable energy technology that utilizes non-food feedstocks. Red Lion’s unique model is based on pollution prevention, rather than pollution control and through the integration of several processes, allows for internal recycling of compounds that not only improves efficiency, but also produces a very clean gas.

“We are delighted to be working with Rocket Ventures to move our technology forward. The Ignite! Grant will prepare us for the next generation of thermolysis units and document valuable intellectual property developed during our recent trial run,” said Alex Johnson, president of Red Lion.

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InSitu Foods, Inc. is creating small scale, automated food processing systems to produce grain-based foods from scratch at the point of purchase. Systems will include bread, cereals, snack foods, cookies and pasta. InSitu's systems will dramatically reduce supply chain costs while providing fresh, healthy and flexible food offerings to consumers. Prototype development is nearing completion for bread with other systems to follow.

"InSitu Foods is passionate about changing the paradigm in food production from the economies of scale model developed 150 years ago in the industrial revolution to micro-scale conversion at the point of sale. We are grateful for the Rocket Ventures grant, as it will help support our efforts," said Rick Anderson, InSitu Foods president and CEO.

Building-integrated photovoltaics (BIPV) is the new frontier for solar technologies, and with that in mind, **ShadePlex, LLC.** is developing solar-electric building fabrics called PV-Rite. PV-Rite™ is an innovative combination of the latest in solar and membrane technologies used in flexible structures. ShadePlex's proprietary technology supports the combination of PV-Rite modules for small, single-use applications including parking canopies or large structures and installations with high energy use requirements such as sports stadiums.

"ShadePlex is very excited to be working with Rocket Ventures and the RGP. Their support will enable ShadePlex to accelerate commercial demonstration of our solar-electric building fabrics for shade structures and engineered fabric buildings, and to position the company as an attractive target for larger investment. Already, RV and RGP have been instrumental in connecting us to high value partners within the world class thin-film solar industry that has taken root in Toledo," said Brian Tell, ShadePlex president.

About Rocket Ventures

Rocket Ventures, a division of the Regional Growth Partnership, is a pre-seed, early stage venture fund for technology-based entities/companies operating within the state of Ohio. It consists of \$15 million in state funding and \$7.5 million in private sector investment.

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About The Regional Growth Partnership

The Regional Growth Partnership is a private nonprofit development corporation dedicated to fostering local, national, and international economic growth opportunities for Northwest Ohio. The Regional Growth Partnership acknowledges the contribution of the state of Ohio, Department of Development and Thomas Edison Program, which provide funding in support of the Launch program.

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