



AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION

Between

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation, acting on behalf of the
NextEnergy Initiative and Center

And

Stuttgart Region Economic Development Corporation

WHEREAS, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (“MEDC”) is a partnership between the State of Michigan and its communities, which consolidates into the MEDC all of Michigan’s economic development programs; and

WHEREAS, the MEDC has been charged with the development and implementation of the NextEnergy Initiative; and

WHEREAS, the MEDC is in the process of enacting the various components of the NextEnergy Initiative, and

WHEREAS, the NextEnergy Initiative contemplates, amongst other things, the creation of the NextEnergy Center, which, once established, will serve as a clearinghouse and convergence center for accelerating the development of alternative energy technologies; and

WHEREAS, the NextEnergy Center may provide educational, technical, research, testing and other industry support services; and

WHEREAS, the NextEnergy Center may build on and compliment existing initiatives and programs designed to accelerate the development of alternative energy technologies; and

WHEREAS, the NextEnergy Center may establish strong partnerships with leading alternative energy associations, government organizations and industry trade groups to achieve its objectives; and

WHEREAS, the Stuttgart Region Economic Development Corporation is one of the world’s most prominent alternative energy partnership organizations; and

WHEREAS, the MEDC and Stuttgart Region Economic Development Corporation on July 17, 2002, have engaged, through their respective representatives, in productive discussions, regarding the opportunities presented by the NextEnergy Initiative and Center; and

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MEDC, on behalf of the NextEnergy Initiative and Center, and Stuttgart Region Economic Development Corporation (collectively called “the Parties”) wish to memorialize their July 17, 2002, discussions and execute this Agreement of Cooperation to further their mutually shared goals and objectives.

1. The Parties agree to each identify one representatives of their respective organizations to act as liaison on all matters related to this Agreement.
2. The Parties encourage each other to promote their cooperative efforts in the media and in their respective publications and facilities, including, but not limited to, publishing articles on their NextEnergy joint initiatives in their respective publications.
3. The Parties agree to use their best efforts develop a **web page** within their own web sites focusing on their cooperative efforts and activities, and to maintain the timeliness of the information contained therein.
4. The Parties agree to use their best efforts to develop a **web-based marketplace exchange** service (the “Exchange”), if feasible. The Exchange would include a list of companies within each of their respective domains that have an interest in establishing joint ventures, direct sales, and/or networking partnerships with the other domain. This list would be maintained on their respective web pages with information including, but not limited to, the name of the company/organization, address and contact information, the company/organization’s products or services, and the company/organization’s specific NextEnergy interests. Furthermore, the Parties recognize that it is in their best interest to promote company/organization participation in the Exchange. If necessary, the Parties will develop a joint marketing plan to accomplish the objectives of the Exchange.
5. The Parties agree to inform each other about all planned activities within the partner region and resign from acquisitions of residential companies, research facilities and skilled personnel in the partner region without prior notice.
6. The Parties agree to explore the feasibility of jointly hosting an **annual conference** inviting business, industry, education, and/or government leaders from their respective domains to the conference. In such event, each party may also have responsibility for inviting participants from outside their domain, to the conference. The location of the annual conference, if any, will alternate annually amongst any formal partners willing to host the conference.
7. The Parties agree to use their best efforts to develop **educational programs, which would** allow students from both domains to participate. If necessary, the Parties will develop a joint marketing plan to promote these educational programs.
8. The Parties agree to use their best efforts to develop **training programs** for organizations and/or businesses, which would allow executives and professionals from both domains to participate. If necessary, the Parties will develop a joint marketing plan to promote these training programs.



9. The Parties agree to meet at least annually, using electronic communication equipment, if necessary, to evaluate the success of this Agreement and develop action plans for correcting deficiencies or expanding this Agreement to new areas of collaboration.

This AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION is effective July 17, 2002 and remains in effect until terminated by either party.

MICHIGAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

(acting on behalf of the NextEnergy Initiative and Center)

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DATE: OCTOBER 15, 2002

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BY: Wally Wells

ITS: General Manager

DATE: 15.10.2002