

## ***E-News for Next Generation Manufacturing***

. . . an update on the manufacturing community and economic development in Racine County, WI and the Chicago–Milwaukee corridor.



### **The Roadmap**

Racine County Economic Development Corporation  
2320 Renaissance Blvd., Sturtevant, Racine County, Wisconsin USA  
[www.racinecountyedc.org](http://www.racinecountyedc.org)

January, 2008

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#### **Economic Trends Breakfast 2008**

**Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup>**

Italian Community Center, Milwaukee

Registration: 7:00 a.m.

Breakfast & Program: 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.

[More Information](#)

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*The RCEDC periodically provides information on economic development in Racine County and the Chicago-Milwaukee corridor. We hope you find this short publication helpful and informative.*

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### **2008 Green Manufacturing Summit**

Sponsored by the Bradley Corporation and the Business Journal of Milwaukee, the summit will offer successful strategies for reducing operating costs and competing globally. Business leaders from small and mid-sized manufacturers, architects, engineers and other green experts will share best practices and tips for getting started.

**When:** Tuesday, January 29th, 8 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

**Where:** Schlitz Audubon Nature Center  
1111 E. Brown Deer Rd. Milwaukee, WI 53217

To register, [click here](#). If you need assistance or would prefer to register over the phone, please call Jan Jewell at (262) 532-1093, or e-mail [jan.jewell@bradleycorp.com](mailto:jan.jewell@bradleycorp.com).

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### **Doyle announces Accelerate Wisconsin plan**

Governor Doyle recently announced an initiative to provide funding and tax exemptions for investors in an effort to expand angel and venture capital investing in Wisconsin. Accelerate Wisconsin builds on Wisconsin's Act 255 program which includes tax credits, grants and loans to support start-up companies, to assist business growth and to attract angel and venture capitalists to invest in Wisconsin companies. Between 2005 and 2006, investments by angel investors in early-stage start-ups and companies in Wisconsin have grown almost 55 percent.

If you're a looking for angel capital for your early-stage business, or would like further details on the program, please [click here](#).

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## **BRAVO! Entrepreneur Awards 2008** Celebrating Excellence in Southeastern Wisconsin Business

It's time again to nominate our hard-working entrepreneurs for these distinguished awards through the Small Business Times. There are three separate awards: the BRAVO! Entrepreneur Award; the Lifetime Achievement Award; and the Regional Spirit Award. For the criteria for each award and to nominate someone, or one's self, go to: <http://www.biztimes.com/site/bravo>.

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### **Minority Businesses can build momentum for growth**

The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) offers good advice to focus on growth strategies for minority business owners. Growth through innovation, strategic alliances, partnering on large contracts, or mergers and acquisitions are among the suggestions. Size becomes even more significant in the light of corporations' efforts to consolidate their supplier bases to "lean" down their own companies. And, growth creates more local jobs and potential wealth for communities, and increases your competitive advantage. Education, resources and alternative financing sources, such as private equity and angel investors to obtain the financing to grow are under-utilized and overlooked resources for many minority businesses.

If you need assistance to grow your small business, local resources to investigate include:

**Small Business Development Center (SBDC)** at (262) 898-7414  
**Community Economic Development Corporation (CEDCO)** at (262) 635-8908  
**Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation (WWBIC)** at (262) 654-1234 ext. 114

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### **Governor's Business Plan Contest**

The mission of the **Governor's Business Plan Contest** is to encourage entrepreneurs in the creation, start-up and early-growth stages of high-tech businesses in Wisconsin. Participants have the chance to win seed capital, valuable services that will help them launch their businesses and a Grand Prize worth \$50,000. Since its inception in 2004, more than 1,000 entries have been received and nearly \$650,000 in cash and in-kind prizes has been awarded. In 2007, 12 finalists won cash prizes.

Produced by the Wisconsin Technology Council and a growing list of partners, the **Governor's Business Plan Contest** engages contestants in a six-month process that includes mentoring and comments from judges on selected plans. For more information, please visit <http://www.govsbizplancontest.com/>.

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### **Doyle launches Next Generation Manufacturing Plan**

[Small Business Times](#) – Gov. Jim Doyle announced a plan this week to help propel Wisconsin manufacturers into the next generation by focusing on efficiency and lean manufacturing principles. The Next Generation Manufacturing plan is part of the next phase of Doyle's *Grow Wisconsin* agenda.

The plan will: provide \$1.2 million to support Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnerships to expand the number of Wisconsin manufacturers working to get lean; invest \$750,000 and leverage \$500,000 from the federal government to assist more than 100 small and mid-sized manufacturers across Wisconsin that have never used lean manufacturing techniques; and will create tax credits to help Wisconsin manufacturers train workers, create jobs and invest in the future. For the State's press release, [click here](#).

### **Don't miss Industry Week's 2008 Best Plants Conference**

Join hundreds of plant managers and other manufacturing decision-makers at the 6th annual IW Best Plants Conference to learn proven strategies, best practices and tools from the IW Best Plants winners and nearly 50 other continuous improvement experts.

**April 1-3, 2008  
Midwest Airline Center  
Milwaukee, WI**

**For more information, go to [www.iwbestplants.com](http://www.iwbestplants.com)**

**[Register before January 31 and save \\$100.](#)**

## ***Innovate Wisconsin – investing in R&D***

To continue to stay ahead of the competition, Wisconsin's manufacturers must invest more in research and development to improve existing products and develop new ones. Wisconsin has become a world-renowned center for research, particularly in the public sector. The next phase of *Grow Wisconsin* will do more to foster research in the private sector as well.

The *Innovate Wisconsin* plan will increase the state's focus on research and development by:

- ❖ New Innovate tax credits
- ❖ Sales tax exemption for research and development equipment; and
- ❖ Property tax exemption

For the State's News Release, [click here](#).

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*The Roadmap* is an e-newsletter of the RCEDC. For more information, please visit [www.racinecountyedc.org](http://www.racinecountyedc.org).  
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