

## ***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)

March, 2008

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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.*

#### **Wisconsin investment climate may be warming**

The [Wisconsin Technology Network](#) outlines the current situation with venture capital and angel investors in the State. Wisconsin currently has 18 formal angel networks, 17 of which are members of the [Wisconsin Angel Network](#), an umbrella group organized three years ago through the [Wisconsin Technology Council](#) and state government. This group provides an automated "deal-flow pipeline" and related services. The rise in angel investing across Wisconsin has been accompanied by more activity by other private equity investors, as well.

Local success story, [Comic Wonder](#), which attracted angel investors through the Wisconsin Early Stage Symposium in November is cited as saying, "There has been a sea change in terms of receptivity among [Wisconsin] angels. We've done a really good job as a state of cultivating that community, and helping to put good deals in front of them."

#### **'Lean' is a journey without end**

[SBT's Milwaukee Biz Blog](#), by Linda Kiedrowski – "Today's manufacturers know that they need to practice Lean Principles and develop an ongoing continuous improvement program to compete." Kiedrowski offers tips that ". . . will help develop a Lean Culture that is successfully implemented throughout the entire company with sustaining results."

#### **Upcoming Events:**

##### **March 12<sup>th</sup> Hispanic Business Alliance evening of NETWORKING**

The Kenosha and Racine Hispanic Business Communities will have an opportunity to meet and share ideas while having some wonderful Hors d'oeuvres.

**Location:** Cortese Italian Restaurant, Kenosha

RSVP to Marie at 262-637-4520 or email [info@hispanicbiz.net](mailto:info@hispanicbiz.net).

##### **March 12<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> Renewable Energy Summit**

The Fifth Annual Wisconsin Renewable Energy Summit - Tours of renewable energy facilities in the Milwaukee area will be a part of the summit that will span 3 days and cover topics such as renewable energy, including wind power, solar energy, geothermal, green buildings and bio-energy technologies.

**Location:** Midwest Airlines Center in Milwaukee

For more information or to register, [click here](#).

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## Wisconsin's international exports are soaring

Wisconsin's exports increased by 11.8 percent to a record \$19.2 billion in 2007, and Wisconsin now ranks as the 19th-largest exporting state in the nation, an improvement from its 21st ranking in 2006 according to [biztimes.com](http://biztimes.com). Exports to Canada, Wisconsin's largest international market, grew by 7.3 percent to \$5.8 billion. Mexico continued as Wisconsin's second-largest export market, as exports grew 2 percent to \$1.9 billion. China took third place with a 35.4 percent increase to \$1.2 billion, topping \$1 billion for the first time ever. The United Kingdom took fourth place with a 6 percent increase to \$722.8 million. Germany ranked fifth with a 13.4 percent increase to \$660.8 billion.

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## State grant will help redevelop brownfield site in Sturtevant

RKB Enterprises LLC in Sturtevant has been awarded a Blight Elimination and Brownfield Redevelopment (BEBR) grant of \$325,000 from the [Wisconsin Department of Commerce](http://Wisconsin Department of Commerce) to help remediate the 13-acre vacant Internet site on 90<sup>th</sup> Street, Sturtevant and create 25 new full-time jobs. For the full story, please go to [biztimes.com](http://biztimes.com).

Racine County Economic Development Corporation was instrumental in assisting RKB Enterprises in the site selection and application processes for this project. For more information on RCEDC services, please contact Jenny Trick at [jtrick@racinecountyedc.org](mailto:jtrick@racinecountyedc.org), or call (262) 898-7424.

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## \$120M in venture deals tracked by Angel Network

The Wisconsin Angel Network (WAN) has reportedly tracked \$120M in venture deals in 2007 according to an article from the [Wisconsin Technology Network](http://Wisconsin Technology Network). WAN maintains that many deals go unreported and that this number, \$120M, does not reflect the total deals that happened within the state.

### Congratulations, Analogix, Inc., Burlington!



#### Winner of the 2008 IQ Award for Innovation in Business

By the *Small Business Times*

Given annually to southeastern Wisconsin companies that are creating innovative products, services or processes in business

Winners will receive awards at the **IQ Awards Luncheon** on **Wednesday, April 30, at the BizTech Expo**

Ten winners in all – The winning companies and their innovations will be profiled in an upcoming edition of *Small Business Times*.

Pre-registration to attend the BizTech Expo is free at [www.biztimes.com/expo](http://www.biztimes.com/expo).

To pre-register for the IQ Luncheon, go to <http://expo.biztimes.com/expo/events.cfm?id=6>.

For the full article and list of winners, [click here](#).

March 19<sup>th</sup>

### Hispanic Business Professionals Quarterly Membership / Networking Meeting

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Grab a handful of your business cards and come mingle with our members and guests...develop new business contacts. For details, call (262) 308-3543.

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April 9<sup>th</sup>

### How to Market and Sell to the Federal Government

Anyone interested in having a customer (U.S. Government) that purchases more than \$340 billion in products and services each year.

Presented by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Small Business Development Center.

To register, contact the SBDC at (262) 898-7442 or email [mwagner@thecat.com](mailto:mwagner@thecat.com).

To view the brochure, [click here](#).

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April 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>

### Central Europe Trade Mission, Milwaukee World Trade Association

The [Milwaukee World Trade Association](http://Milwaukee World Trade Association) will be conducting a trade mission to Prague, Czech Republic. This opportunity, sponsored by Reinhart Boemer Van Deuren, seeks to open doors for companies that want to establish or expand business contacts in Prague and elsewhere in Eastern Europe.

For an online brochure of the trade mission, [click here](#).

To view the travel itinerary, [click here](#).

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April 23

### WMEP Manufacturing Matters! Conference

Becoming a Next Generation Manufacturer – **Keynote Speakers: Daniel Burrus and Doug Hall**. This year's conference will place a strong emphasis on teaching manufacturers how to reinvent themselves as "next-gen" companies – providing leading-edge knowledge and tools.

**Location:** Midwest Airline Center, Milwaukee

For more information and to register, [click here](#).

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## Local News:

[Modine to ramp up production in China](#)

[Vinyl product maker taps consumer market for growth](#)

[Modine lands new engine cooling contracts](#)

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