



FUTURE INC.

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SFI UPDATE

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**Saginaw
Future
Awarded
SBC Grant**



Saginaw Future was awarded an SBC Excelerator grant to improve communication and allow access to information at anytime in any location.

SBC formally presented a check to the Saginaw Future Board of Directors earlier this month.

A majority of economic development work occurs in the field, whether on a potential project site or when meeting at a client's office.

The ability to access a wide range of information, such as economic data, company information, e-mails, client database, and state and federal regulations, is essential for effective service to the business sector.

The SBC grant, for \$12,500, will be used to develop an integrated information network for Saginaw Future that will use the latest Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) technology, which is essentially a handheld computer.

The PDAs, with Windows based operating systems, will feature wireless data sharing that allows the user to access the aforementioned information. The SBC grant will also allow SFI to integrate all staff e-mail, calendars and client database into one shared system.

All of the data, as well as marketing material, will be available wirelessly from any location with the ability to instantly update that information.

New Law Expands MEGA Flexibility



Legislation signed by Governor Jennifer Granholm amends the Michigan Economic Growth Authority (MEGA) Act to allow companies to count multiple job locations in consideration for the tax credit. The amendment will allow more flexibility in one of the state's most effective business incentive programs.

Administered through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), the MEGA program has the authority to award Single Business Tax Credits as incentives to companies choosing Michigan over competing states and countries. Over the past eight years, the program has been instrumental in attracting 196 major new economic development projects and more than 100,000 new jobs to Michigan.

Until this amendment the MEGA statute required a company to retain a minimum of 500 jobs at a single Michigan location to be eligible for the credit. As a result, companies with a total of more than 500 workers spread across more than one Michigan location, but not at any single site, were not eligible. Key changes expected to benefit Michigan companies that maintain multiple locations in the state include:

- Jobs at multiple sites of a business or its subsidiaries may now be included in the job count.
- The minimum number of jobs retained at a single site is lowered to 150 from 500, with at least 1,000 total jobs at multiple Michigan locations.
- An exemption is allowed from the current requirement for the host community to provide a contribution, usually in the form of a tax abatement. This enables companies with multiple sites to receive a local contribution at some but not all of its sites to help lighten the burden of foregone taxes on the host communities.

New Environmental Standards



The Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center has created a half-day training session to help its members comply with new International Organization for Standardization requirements for environmental management.

Michigan's One-Stop Resource for Manufacturers

ISO 14001 is a structured management tool, used to find and reduce waste, resulting in delivering consistent bottom-line results. It provides companies with a broadly accepted standard for managing environmental compliance issues. By implementing an ISO 14001-based system, a company can reduce risks, lower costs, and minimize waste.

ISO published revised versions of its ISO 14001 and ISO 14004 environmental management standards on November 15, 2004 replacing standards first published in 1996. Companies currently compliant with the 1996 standard will be given an 18-month window to upgrade to the new revision. Based in Plymouth, the MMTC also has five affiliate offices in Saginaw, Flint, Grand Rapids, Traverse City and Marquette. More information is available at www.mmtc.org or call the local SVSU affiliate at 989-964-4047.