



Media Advisory



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TARDEC Programs, Partnerships Pay Off as Michigan Receives Record Investment for Next Generation Batteries

DETROIT ARSENAL, WARREN, MI — Last week, U.S. Vice President Joe Biden was in Detroit to announce more than \$1 billion in grants to Michigan-based companies and universities in an historic investment in advanced battery technology. The grants further accelerate the manufacturing and deployment of electric vehicles, batteries and components in America.

The investment, which falls under the *American Recovery and Investment Act*, was of particular interest to those at the U.S. Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC), because many of TARDEC'S partners are receiving funding for technologies initially developed together.

“Everyone at TARDEC is gratified and proud to see projects that began as ‘seeds of ideas’ grow into this groundbreaking initiative,” said TARDEC Director Dr. Grace M. Bochenek. “This is an example of how new partnerships are coming together and building technology expertise for the future.”

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the total \$2.4 billion investment, coupled with another \$2.4 billion in cost share from award winners, will result directly in the creation of tens of thousands of manufacturing jobs in the U.S. battery and auto industries.

“This grant is another exciting step in the effort to create an American battery infrastructure,” said Maria Thompson, general manager of A123Systems Government Solutions Group, which received a \$249 million grant. “To get this done, a variety of publics had to be educated on the importance of a domestic battery industry for national security. Key to that were initiatives like TARDEC’s initial white paper and battery summit. Now we’re seeing the fruits of those efforts.”

According to Doug Parks, senior vice president of Business Development & Attraction for the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Michigan-based companies are poised to take advantage this funding for some time. “In Michigan, we’re on the cutting edge of many technologies, including some of the most important in terms of supporting fuel efficiencies and energy security,” explained Parks.

TARDEC will continue to play a key role in helping develop those fuel-efficiency and energy-security solutions as it will soon be home to the Department of Defense’s Ground



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Systems Power and Energy Laboratory (GSPEL). Once complete, the 8-labs-in-1 complex will have one-of-a-kind research and testing capabilities. The GSPEL will serve as the cornerstone for the Army's next generation of power and energy initiatives.

An official groundbreaking ceremony for the GSPEL will be held at TARDEC on Aug. 17.

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TARDEC is the Nation's Ground Systems Enterprise to ensure U.S. Soldiers continue to be the best-equipped and most lethal, survivable and sustainable fighting force on Earth. For additional information or to schedule an interview, please contact Bill Dowell at (586) 574-5144, william.dowell2@us.army.mil or wdowell@brtrc.com.

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