

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

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## University Corporate Research Park Phase II Breaks Ground

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LANSING, MI – The University Corporate Research Park, located southwest of the MSU campus along Collins Road, breaks ground today on Phase II – a new street and utilities expansion project linking the north and south ends of the 115-acre Park.

The investment made today in the Phase II project will ensure that facilities are in place when the economy emerges from the present recession and technological development begins to accelerate. MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon points to the expansion as a step on the road to greater public-private collaboration.

"We are fostering a culture of collaboration, connecting technological breakthroughs driven by public university research with the private sector entrepreneurial activity," Simon says. "The University Corporate Research Park is an important venue for bringing the two sectors together."

Current Park tenants encompass a range of technologies, all pointing to the future economy, including materials, information technology, business logistics and biotechnology. They represent the educational community, government, and private industry, among them:

- **MSU's Composite Vehicle Research Center (CVRC)**  
Primarily comprised of researchers from mechanical engineering, chemical engineering and materials science, this group designs and tests lightweight, impact-resistant structural materials, which enhance both safety and energy-efficiency. The highly flexible research and testing space within the Park has afforded them the ability to quickly transfer useful research to automotive, aerospace, and other applications.
- **MBI International (MBI)**  
A highly innovative non-profit corporation, MBI works with Michigan State University and industrial partners to de-risk technologies and get them to market. Growing interest in MBI, MSU BioCollaborate and MSU's Office of Biobased Technologies, already being observed, will fuel expansion within the Park over the next several years.

This expansion is a direct result of a joint effort between the MSU Foundation and the City of Lansing to secure project funding from the U. S. Economic Development Administration, as part of its 2008 grants program for the expansion of technology infrastructure. Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero cited the importance of the project and collaboration to Lansing's Regional SmartZone.

"Building out the infrastructure for our SmartZone is an exciting milestone on the path toward diversifying our local economy, fostering innovation and creating new jobs in the fast-growing sectors of the emerging economy," Bernero says. "Thanks to the great partnership and support of President Simon, the MSU Foundation, the Lansing Economic Development Corporation and the City of Lansing, we continue to make bold strides forward as a community and as a region that will pay dividends for decades to come."

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## **University Corporate Research Park Phase II Project Details**

- Cost: \$3.6 million
- Description: New street and utilities expansion that will link the north and south ends of the 115-acre University Corporate Research Park
- Location: Southwest of the MSU campus; along Collins Road, between Forest Road and Dunckel Road
- Duration: Estimated completion is Fall 2009
- Funding: Paid in part by a 2008 grant from the U. S. Economic Development Administration for the expansion of technology infrastructure. The grant is \$1.8 million, is fully designated for specific pre-approved portions of the road and utilities project, and ends September 2010.

## **Background on the MSU Foundation**

Established in 1973 as an independent non-profit corporation, the Michigan State University Foundation serves as a flexible and ongoing resource, responsive to the University's strategic needs. At its core is an extensive program supporting research, teaching, and commercialization of technologies.

Areas of focus include:

- Granting funds to advance research and the University's scholarly infrastructure of teaching and dissemination of new knowledge,
- Underwriting MSU's work in technology commercialization,
- Developing, scaling and de-risking bio-based technologies through MBI International, a wholly-owned Foundation subsidiary, and
- Providing facilities and building sites at the University Corporate Research Park for technology enterprises, University technology-development initiatives, and University/industry collaborations.

In addition, the Foundation has a longstanding role as fiduciary and trustee for charitable annuities, trusts, and gifts of property on behalf of the University.

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