

Michigan NextEnergy Program

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Brief Synopsis of Presentation:

Michael Finney (MEDC): Michigan's NextEnergy Program

The Governor of Michigan recently announced the NextEnergy program, intended to develop a state of the art, full service fuel cell and alternative energy industry positioned to capture a portion of the future alternative energy technology market. In addition to the obvious link with the transportation industry (about 97% of R&D that is done for the transportation sector occurs in Michigan, according to Mr. Finney), Michigan wants to become a center of development for all fuel cell applications. The program is administered by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), which manages about \$200 million worth of programs. Next energy has a 3-year budget of \$52 million. The state is offering many attractive tax and other benefits to relevant companies willing to locate in Michigan.

The need for a Federal research facility has been the most consistently mentioned one identified in surveys undertaken by MEDC. Such a Federal facility would act as an "underwriters laboratory" to develop industry standards, house a collaborative testing facility, serve as a national clearinghouse and provide other functions. Communications are underway to site such a facility in the state.