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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

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Granholm Announces Renewable Energy Partnership with Government of Navarra, Spain

LANSING – Governor Jennifer M. Granholm today announced that the state of Michigan has formed a partnership with the government of Navarra, Spain, a European center of the renewable-energy sector, to work collaboratively with leading industry experts, including the Michigan-based wind-turbine manufacturer Energetx Composites, to develop green technology.

“This partnership will further our efforts to make Michigan the North American hub of alternative-energy innovation,” Granholm said. “We are taking bold and decisive steps to ensure we are the state that develops the technologies, manufactures the products, and creates the green jobs that will help end our nation’s dependence on foreign oil.”

The Memorandum of Understanding with the government of Navarra was finalized today in Dallas, Texas. The agreement consists of joint activities – including policy sharing, technology transfer, value-chain mapping and trade missions -- in the targeted sectors of wind technology, biomass, solar energy, smart-grid technology and bio-climactic research.

Last month, the Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF) board approved a Centers Of Energy Excellence designation and \$3.5 million in funding for Energetx Composites, the spin-off of S2 Yachts located in Holland, which will collaborate with Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and the Dow Chemical Company to manufacture wind turbine blades with advanced materials. Dow and ORNL will deliver innovative materials and technical expertise to Energetx, and the University of Michigan and Kettering University will contribute workforce training. The project will receive \$3.5 million in matching funds from the U.S. Department of Energy. CENER, the national renewable energy centre located in the Navarra region, will work with Energetx to test wind-turbine blades at a test laboratory in Sanguesa, Spain.

“Navarra shares a similar industrial background with Michigan, as it was a center of manufacturing focused on transportation and heavy engines. Early last decade, Navarra identified the need to diversify and chose to focus on clean energy. CENER has played a significant role in the development in renewable energy, both in Navarra and Spain”, said Begoña Urien, Director of Enterprise of Government of Navarra.

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Over the past eight years, CENER has grown to become a leader in renewable-energy technology. Navarra, pioneer of renewable energy sources, currently produces approximately 65 percent of its electricity from renewable-energy sources, ranking it ahead of the United Kingdom, Sweden and France.

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