



WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY PARK

# TECHTOWN

WHERE MINDS AND MEANS CONNECT

## FAST FACTS

TechTown, Detroit's only research and technology park, was established in 2000 when Wayne State University, General Motors and the Henry Ford Health System convened to create an engine of economic growth with both local and statewide impact. TechTown stimulates job growth and small-business creation by supporting entrepreneurship and developing companies in emerging high-technology industries including advanced engineering, life sciences and alternative energy.

TechTown is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and is the Woodward Technology Corridor SmartZone.

- Within TechTown's business incubator, there are more than 120 businesses. TechTown has doubled its number of tenants in 12 months. It is **one of the fastest-growing incubators in the country**. When the research park is complete, it will have about 500,000 square feet of business incubator space, which is six times larger than the average business incubator in America.
- TechOne currently houses **more than 120 businesses** in the following areas:
  - Public Health
  - Biobanking
  - Life Sciences
  - Alternative Energy
  - Nonprofit and Educational Companies
  - Advanced Manufacturing
  - Great Lakes Environment
- TechTown's first and largest tenant, Asterand, is the leading supplier of high quality human tissue and tissue-based services. The company is publicly traded on the London Stock Exchange; this is the first life sciences company in Detroit to go public. **Asterand's stocks rose by 150 percent last year**; the company was voted "Best Performing Share 2008" by the Financial Times.
- **NextEnergy** works to facilitate alternative energy technology development and commercialization with entrepreneurs throughout the state. Many new energy products undergo testing at NextEnergy's \$15 million, 45,000-square-foot facility in TechTown.
- TechOne's fourth floor houses a biorepository for Wayne State University. **The National Institutes of Health** awarded the University's School of Medicine a 10-year, multimillion-dollar contract to house and support a project of its Perinatology Research Branch. The floor also houses the **Henry Ford Health System's** cytogenetics, DNA, drug discovery and AXT labs.
- **The Wayne County Land Bank** awarded TechTown a \$750,000 grant for construction of TechOne, its first business incubator facility. TechTown also received a \$1.5 million grant in December 2007 from the **Kresge Foundation** for ongoing renovations and working capital.
- **TechTown will soon be home to the first stem cell commercialization lab in Michigan**. The Wayne County Stem Cell Commercialization Center will be an 15,000 square-foot lab for the commercialization of stem cell research being developed at Wayne State University.
- Wayne State University, Michigan's only urban research university, secured a \$2 million grant, provided \$10.5 million in loan guarantees, and persuaded the state government to make the 12-block TechTown community a **SmartZone** area eligible for significant tax discounts. It continues to provide TechTown with a broad range of vital resources.
- TechTown has developed a facility of exceptional quality, TechOne, which provides amenities and services that no other Detroit facility can offer in a single building:
  - On-site business and technical resources
  - Affordable office, wet lab and dry lab space
  - Custom-designed work environments
  - Conference facilities with audio/visual equipment
  - Free networking events and educational business seminars that regularly attract hundreds of entrepreneurs to TechTown every month
  - Proximity to university faculty and researchers at three major research institutions only blocks away