

11 Ann Arbor firms among 17 winners of \$30M in 21st Century Jobs funding

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The Ann Arbor area cleaned up big with 11 companies included in a list of 17 recipients that will split nearly \$30 million in funding this year from the Michigan 21st Century Jobs Fund.

The recipients were selected by the Michigan Economic Development Corp.'s Strategic Economic and Investment Commercialization board today in Lansing and are to be formally announced later. The entrepreneurial companies were whittled from a list of 109 applicants for the latest round of funding.

The 11 Ann Arbor companies comprised more than \$19 million of the total \$29.67 million in funds approved. By contrast, just two companies from Kalamazoo were approved for funding totaling about \$4.5 million, while the remaining recipients are located in Midland, Farmington Hills, Williamston and Deerfield.

Life science firms accounted for 11 of the total winners, while homeland security and defense companies took three awards. Advanced automotive and advanced manufacturing had two firms represented, while alternative energy had just one funding recipient.

The big winner was [Hybra-Drive Systems LLC](#), a Deerfield-based developer of hydraulic hybrid transmission systems for commercial and military vehicles that won \$3.35 million.

The remaining recipients, scored in descending order by the Ann Arbor-based National Center for Manufacturing Sciences, are as follow:

- [Accuri Cytometers Inc.](#), an Ann Arbor medical device maker, topped applicants with a score of 94 and \$1.95 million in funding;
- Midland-based [Fulcrum Composites Inc.](#), a spin-off of Dow Chemical Co. [developing technology for solar panels](#), 89 points, \$425,000;
- Williamston-based [AI Medical Devices Inc.](#), 87 points, \$400,000;
- Health care technology firm [Critical Signal Technologies Inc.](#) in Farmington Hills, 87 points, \$2 million;
- Defense software developer [Solidica Inc.](#) of Ann Arbor, 86 points, \$900,000;
- Life sciences software firm [NeuroNexus Technologies Inc.](#) of Ann Arbor, 84 points, \$999,709;
- Ann Arbor-based life sciences IT company [Compendia Bioscience Inc.](#), 84 points, \$1.75 million;
- Hybra-Drive, mentioned above, scored 83 points;
- [Nephron Inc.](#) of Ann Arbor, a medical device company, 83 points, \$2 million;
- Software-as-a-service firm [Cielo MedSolutions LLC](#) of Ann Arbor, 83 points, \$2 million;
- [Tolera Therapeutics Inc.](#) of Kalamazoo, 83 points, \$2 million;
- [Metabolic Solutions Development Co.](#), also of Kalamazoo, 82 points, \$2.45 million;
- [Meditrina Pharmaceuticals Inc.](#) of Ann Arbor, 81 points, \$2.63 million;
- Ann Arbor life sciences firm [Avidimer Therapeutics Inc.](#), 80 points, \$2.45 million;
- [Arbor Photonics](#), an Ann Arbor laser technology company, 79 points, \$1.5 million;
- [Nanocerox](#), a University of Michigan spinoff developing nanotechnology for defense applications, 78 points, \$1.05 million;
- And [Pixel Velocity Inc.](#), an Ann Arbor-based defense surveillance technology firm, 78 points, \$1.8 million.

The 21st Century Jobs Fund is a 10-year economic development initiative funded through proceeds from the federal tobacco settlement.

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