A growth stage Accelerator that offers grants, investments, and services to support product development and scaling of Cleantech, Climatech, and Circular Economy technologies.
Our Mission

To support growth stage cleantech, climatech, and circular economy businesses and drive adoption of their technology in Michigan. This includes supporting the development and manufacturing of these products to achieve significant economic multiplier effect and sustain Michigan’s global competitiveness.

- Enticing the best-in-class cleantech, climatech, circular economy technologies companies from around the world to invest and deploy their products in Michigan.
- Nurturing the development of products that advance sustainable renewable electricity, energy efficiency, grid resiliency, mobility/vehicle technologies, recycling, and other clean tech innovations.
- Ensuring the inclusion and success of product entrepreneurs by continually identifying and recruiting promising underserved entrepreneurs (women, people of color, veterans, etc.).

What We Offer

Funding: Grants and investments to support business and technical milestones.

Pilot and Demonstration Project Cost-Share: Offset the cost of deploying technologies with customers (e.g., utilities, transmission companies, manufacturers, commercial building owners).

Connections: Customers, strategic partners, suppliers, universities, and National Labs Services.

Fundraising: Expert guidance and introductions to investors.

Experts-in-Residence: One-on-one support from our experts in business, market, and IP/patent strategy, product design, engineering, prototyping, testing, material selection, tooling design, and manufacturing, serving as adjunct team members to our clients and providing continuous and reliable support and guidance.

Product Design, Engineering & Prototyping: CAD design, FEA/CAE engineering, prototyping, testing, and validation.

Training: Workshops and one-on-one support, including individual meetings with DOE SBIR/STTR staff.

Michigan Match Assistance Pilot Program: Cost-sharing for cleantech research projects and national lab partnerships, as well as pilots and demonstrations with customers.

Partnerships with:

- Munro & Associates: Conduct DFMA on client products to reduce complexity and drive out costs.
- IndustryStar: Supply Chain Partner Program to help reduce the time and effort of supply chain development and management.

The personalized approach offered by the C³ Accelerator is singularly unique, with proven results for emerging companies.
Eligibility

The program benefits are open globally to both growth stage start-ups and established firms with unique C³ technology and/or business models. They include:

- Applicants from outside the state. However, to qualify for funding, including Centrepolis managed EGLE grants, entity must show they have Michigan operations, customers, or strategic partners in state.
- Those who demonstrate their technology to support the challenges and needs of Michigan partners, specifically State/County/City Departments, utilities, transmission firms, manufacturing companies, commercial building operators, or the like.
- Those that create hardware (e.g., physical products) technologies including intelligent connected devices, advanced materials processes, or with scalable and validated technology companies at Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 5-9.
- Technologies that can demonstrate a positive impact to energy efficiency, generate renewable energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase recycling/upcycling and circular economy.
- Show strong market potential and defensible intellectual property with issued patents or pending patents filed.
- Companies led by women, minorities, veterans, and other underrepresented backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

This program is not open to inventors and academic entities not incorporated

Company Acceptance Criteria

- Evidence of customer traction and interest.
- Understanding of the competitive landscape and market forces.
- Established management team.
- Funding sources; including founder, outside investment, and customer revenue.
- Existing financial runway in place to support technology development and scaling.
- Dedication to developing and implementing their business or manufacturing their product in Michigan directly or through supply chain partners in the state.
- Companies previously funded through other programs (e.g., Accelerators, Federal and State funding, etc.).
Qualifying Technologies

**Cleantech**
- Provide renewable energy/fuels or improve energy efficiency
- Support electrification and non-fossil, cleaner fuels
- Have organic or natural materials that displace non-sustainable materials in products or processes
- Provide, create, or preserve clean water
- Industry 4.0 technologies that allow energy utilities, co-ops, and transmission firms to operate more efficiently

**Climatech**
- Reduce carbon dioxide, methane, and other harmful emissions
- Sequester CO2 into value-added products
- Provide adaptation solutions to existing and expected impacts of climate change

**Circular Economy**
- Utilize waste streams to convert into value-added products via recycling, upcycling, or reprocessing with other materials
- Improve recycling system efficiencies in Material Recovery Facilities or other areas of the value chain
- Improve the percentage of biodegradable, recycled, or upcycled materials in product designs
- Reduce the amount of materials that typically end up in landfills

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Services & Resources

- Comprehensive support services to advance business and technical milestones for 6-12 months.
- Unique and dedicated product development services, including product design (CAD), engineering (FEA), prototyping, testing, Design for Manufacture and Assembly (DFMA), Design for Failure Mode Effects Analysis (DFMEA), as well as manufacturing readiness services including product specifications Process Failure Mode Effects Analysis (PFMEA), quality process management, and supplier identification.
- Use of Commercial Readiness Level (CRL)/Technology Readiness Level (TRL)/Manufacturing Readiness Level (MRL) assessment and milestone planning tools, which helps to de-risk companies and accelerate commercialization and growth. Centrepolis and partners will support business strategy, go-to-market planning, fundraising strategy, and provide customized services aligned with the company’s unique position and products.
- Access to Accelerator resources on the campus of Lawrence Technological University, including opportunities for research, proof of concept, and product testing.
- Free or discounted access to resource software including: Munro & Associates (Cost Estimating), Solidworks (CAD), DuroLab (PLM), IndustryStar (Supply Chain Management).
- Access to one-on-one and virtual workshops, including product road mapping, prototyping, fundraising, state/federal opportunities, and more.
- The C³ Pitch Event (August 26, 2021) will provide the opportunity to present to investors, customers and strategic partners.
- Dedicated participation and funding to support underserved entrepreneurs led by women, minorities, veterans, and individuals with disabilities.

*Tactical Level Support: Five (5) underserved companies will receive $1K grants in services to support product development.*
How It Works

$275,000 Funding Pool
$5K-$10K average grant size per company and $15K investments per company.
- The funding will support key business and technical milestones and will be flexibly structured to support individual company needs.
- Eligible use of funding includes product development, pilots and demonstrations, testing and validation, and scaling efforts.

Investment Structure
Equity-free, zero-interest $15K average investment per company. Client pay back is $15K after 24 months in addition to a success fee.

Success Fee
Paid to Centrepolis for helping clients achieve growth in annual sales revenue for fiscal year 2021-2025, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gross Revenue</th>
<th>Achieving</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1%</td>
<td>$0-$49,999</td>
<td>Annually (due to need for cash flow for client)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2%</td>
<td>$40K-$99,999</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3%</td>
<td>$100K-$149,999</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4%</td>
<td>$150K-$199,999</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>$200K+</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Max Ceiling Payment of $20K Annually
Max Aggregate Payment over 5-yr term is $50K

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How to Apply

We have made the application process for the C³ Accelerator as streamlined as the advantages we offer. We want you to be as excited about joining our community as we are providing the resources to those who need it; the products, people, and companies who are focused on changing the world.

//2021 PROGRAM TIMELINE

March 1
Program announcement & application portals open

March 16
Program webinar

May 31
Application deadline

June 1-June 30
Application reviews

July 1-2
Selected companies notified by email

July 5-August 25
Company interviews

August 26
Pitch Event featuring selected companies

//WHERE TO APPLY

Submit an online application via the link below:

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Funding Partners

Supporting Partners

Service Partners