To enable those with ideas for physical products, to create and recognize their dreams, to help them build businesses, make things and put people to work right here in Michigan!

MARCH 2020

Brian Tell
Expert-in-Residence, Clean Tech Hardware Program
Centrepolis Accelerator

The Clean Tech Hardware Oxymoron – Accelerating for Slower-Growth

Patience Padawan!
The mission and goal of an accelerator, to state the obvious, is to help entrepreneurs and small businesses accelerate the launch or growth of their business. For hardware or product-oriented accelerators such as Centrepolis which support entrepreneurs like you who are bringing complex physical, manufactured products to market, the pathway to growth is often much longer than it is for companies in software, services, retail, and food, for example. Read more.

FEATURED CLIENT

Shawn Gayden, Founder
INTECELLS

Intecells is reinventing the lithium-ion (Li-ion) battery manufacturing process. Its technology replaces conventional electrode manufacturing processes with a solid-state, additive manufacturing production process which improves battery performance and safety, while enabling battery manufacturers to reduce their operating and capital expenses up to 70% resulting in more than 50% lower cell cost. Learn more.

FEATURED PARTNER

Jeff Wenzel, CEO/Co-founder
WOODSHED AGENCY

From the concert stage to recording studios, to finally settling on launching products using crowdfunding, the Woodshed team has innovated and pivoted over the last 10 years while producing over 300 successful campaigns using multiple platforms. Our practices are expansive, creative, engaging and useful! We throw a net across the whole process. Here’s how we do it...

- Plan & strategize your funding campaign,
INDUSTRY 4.0 ACCELERATOR

Centrepolis, in partnership with Automation Alley and Lean Rocket Lab, has recently launched an Industry 4.0 Accelerator that will globally crowd source the best in class Industry 4.0 technologies to participate and partner with Michigan based manufacturing firms. See press release below for more info. If interested,

Apply [here](#) for 4.0 Accelerator Program on Gust
Apply [here](#) for 4.0 Accelerator Program on F6S

OPPORTUNITIES & FUNDING RESOURCES

**FAST Company Innovation by Design Awards** - Honors the designers and businesses solving the problems of today and tomorrow. Entries are judged on the key ingredients of innovation: functionality, originality, beauty, sustainability, depth of user insight, cultural impact, and business impact. [Early rate application deadline: Mar. 6, 2020](#)

**Business Accelerator Fund Grant (BAF)** - For business accelerators in Michigan’s statewide SmartZone network.

**Clean Energy Trust Member Circle** - Looking to stay current on the Mid-Continent’s innovation ecosystem? Interested in tapping into Clean Energy Trust’s domain expertise in clean energy and sustainable technologies? Join our Member Circle, a new model for partnering with our stakeholders. Contact Susie Spigelman to learn more.

**Cleantech Open Accelerator** - Applications now open to early stage entrepreneurs.

**EGLE Small Manufacturers Energy Waste Reduction** - Matching grants up to $15K per applicant for energy efficiency projects.

**Elemental Excelerator** - Seeking 15-20 startups from any country in the world focused on addressing challenges in energy, mobility, agriculture, water or the circular economy.

**Invest Detroit** - Funding Michigan-based high-growth tech startups throughout the early stages of development to find product-market fit and prepare for scale.

**Invest Michigan** - The Michigan Pre-Seed Fund
A non-profit funded by the Michigan Strategic Fund. As fund manager for the Michigan Pre-Seed Fund II, investing in early-stage high tech businesses located in Michigan.

**MEDC Export & International Trade Office** - Supporting Michigan businesses that want to start or expand export activities.

**The Michigan Match Assistance Pilot Program (MMAPP)** - Provides cost share support to eligible Michigan businesses that were awarded a federal clean energy technology development grant.

**Shell GameChanger Program** - Works with start-ups who have an early-stage technology solution that tackles a challenge relevant to our business and the energy industry. In turn, seed funding, professional coaching, and access to markets is provided.

**TCNewTech**

**UM Economic Growth Institute Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms (TAAF)** - A federal program specifically designed to help American manufacturers that have been hurt by foreign competition.

FEATURED EVENTS

**Mar. 16 | 5:00p-7:00p**
**Selling Your Products Online: Best Practices Revealed by Experts!**

Attend this educational session to learn from experts that know the tricks of the trade selling physical products online.

**Apr. 28 | 5:00p-7:00p**
**How Do I Prepare My Company for Investors?**

What does the funding and investor landscape look like here in Michigan,

- What grants and supporting programs exist to support Michigan companies
- What is involved to become investment ready
Use of data analytics to optimize selling on social media...Facebook, Instagram and How to do a product launch via Crowdfunding the right way - Jeff Wenzel, Woodshed Agency

Developing compelling websites, videos and animations to drive e-commerce – Hardy Segall, Function Post

Selling your product on Amazon...tricks of the trade – Marla Bogaerts, Full Circle Wins

How to determine a company valuation
How to provide confidence for investors that they can receive a return on their investment (ROI)
What are my options for corporate structure (LLC, S-Corp, C-Corp)
How to establish equity offerings...share price, term sheets, shareholder agreements
How can I use dividends as a ROI for my investors

To register, click here.
Scale Up for Success - We can help you do the things necessary to scale your business whether that be developing growth strategies, diversifying your customer base, adopting new technologies, leaning your operations, or streamlining your product design.

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

Grow and build your business as a member of the Centrepolis Accelerator. Choose a spot in our common area, a private dedicated workspace or dedicated office. Collaborate with Accelerator product development and manufacturing experts and network with other members. Prototyping Lab memberships also available.

For more information, contact Heather Boyd or visit our website!

DISCOUNTED PARTNER SERVICES AVAILABLE TO CENTREPOLIS MEMBERS

Automation Alley Industry 4.0 Business Assessments
Helping forward-thinking, advanced manufacturing and technology companies transform their businesses by fostering an organizational culture that embraces learning, change, and technology acceptance.

Contrast Applied Engineering Solutions
An experienced computer aided design (CAD) product development firm.

Design Core Detroit
Providing connections to design and marketing partners.

DuroLabs PLM Software
Offering a free limited time use and longer-term discounted design profit software.

Function Post
Specializing in company branding and the development of websites, videos and animations to tell the story. Offering clients free consultation on marketing strategy and execution.

IndustryStar Supply Chain Mgmt Software and Services
Offering a Supply Performance System™ (SPS) providing flexible collaboration and communication for supply chain projects and teams of all types, in one application, accessible anywhere.

Munro & Associates - Design Profit Software
Leading software in mapping, calculating and understanding your design goals from both a visual and metric-based perspective.

Optimal CAE Services, Inc.
Optimal Inc. is offering discounted product simulation and engineering CAE services.

Woodshed Agency
A one stop shop--part crowdfunding agency, part production company and part digital marketing consultancy. Offering clients free consultation on crowdfunding and digital marketing strategy.

What our clients have to say...

As an early-stage manufacturing startup, Intecells has an extremely fruitful partnership with the Centrepolis Accelerator under the exceptional leadership of Dan Radomski. Dan and his team always go the extra mile in supporting Intecells with the business expertise and various resources needed to succeed. Their extensive network and tireless efforts, Intecells has partnered with several Michigan firms in the innovation ecosystem allowing us to accelerate product development.

The Centrepolis Accelerator is a dream launchpad for startups!