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## Lansing companies Niowave, Technova get \$3 million boost

### Federal grants have firms looking to continue growth

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MELISSA DOMSIC • MDOMSIC@LSJ.COM • AUGUST 10, 2010 • FROM LANSING STATE JOURNAL

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Two Lansing firms are cashing in on a federal program that doles out millions of dollars for [research and development](#) at small, high-tech businesses.

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Niowave Inc. and Technova Corp., both located in Lansing, recently received a combined \$3 million in grants from the U.S. [Department of Energy's](#) Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs.

#### 'A Real Catalyst'

The grants are nothing new to Niowave or Technova - both have received them in the past - but they provide [funding](#) necessary to continue growing and hiring employees.

"They're really crucial for fast growing companies that have a potential to create a lot of jobs," said Michael Rogers, spokesman for the Small Business Association of Michigan. "There's a lot of evidence from across Michigan, across the nation, that this is the thing that can be a real catalyst for propelling a company to the next level of job growth."

Niowave received \$300,000 in phase one grants for three projects involving superconducting particle accelerators and their components.

The company also received \$1.75 million in phase two grants for two more projects.

Niowave is working with Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va on three of its projects.

"Things are continuing to go great," said Jerry Hollister, the company's chief operating officer. "We continue to hire. We're still looking at an expansion facility here in mid-Michigan."

Niowave employs about 50 and expects to grow to 100 employees in the next two years. Hollister said he hopes to find an additional manufacturing facility next year.

#### 'An Exciting Project'

The grants also mean more jobs at Technova.

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The company employs about 11 and should add a few more workers due to the \$954,510 grant it received, said Jue Lu, a research scientist for Technova.

The firm is technically based in Okemos but has its offices and lab in [Lansing](#).

It works in materials science and will use the grant to develop sustainable building [construction](#) products through nanotechnology.

"I think it's really an exciting project," Lu said.

Researchers will work with phase-changing materials that absorb energy during the day and release heat at night to keep buildings warm, she said.

They'll work with the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee and the Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems in Massachusetts.

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