



Facility Successfully marketed by EDA to SMW

EDA helps local company expand

SMW Automotive in cooperation with the Economic Development Alliance of St. Clair County and the City of Port Huron will open a 4th facility in the Port Huron Industrial Park. Last evening the Port Huron City Council approved a \$950,000 sale negotiated by the EDA for SMW to purchase a 52,000 sq. ft. city owned industrial building at 2347 Dove Road. SMW will invest approximately \$ 3 million in new machinery and equipment and create approximately 75 new jobs over the next 24 months. SMW Corporation is specialized in precision machining and will begin to implement several new contracts for various programs related to General Motors and Chrysler for 2011 model year vehicles. The facility being acquired from the City of Port Huron will house these new programs.

Since recruiting SMW to the Port Huron Industrial Park nearly 10 years ago, EDA has worked closely with the company to promote its expansion in our area. In 2004 EDA assisted SMW in their site selection process that ultimately resulted in a second SMW manufacturing facility in Port Huron through the company's purchase of the 60,000 sq. ft. City of Port Huron industrial speculative building #11 located at 3150 Dove Road. In 2006 when SMW was ready to grow again, EDA negotiated sale of the City owned industrial building located at 2223 Dove Road to the company. This facility is now home to the company's subsidiary called Chassis Corporation.

Major OEM customers of SMW include GM, Ford, Nissan, Volkswagen and Renault as well as Tier I suppliers TRW and Magna.

In support of today's announcement, EDA provided detailed information and arranged to tour several industrial buildings in the Port Huron area with the company. The willingness of the City of Port Huron to grant a six year/50 % personal property tax abatement and EDA assistance with project financing through the USRDA federal loan program were important factors in the final selection of this site over other locations considered near the company's headquarters in Troy, Michigan.

Mr. Pierre Dubeauclard, President of SMW Automotive said: "we are very pleased with the support the Economic Development Alliance of St. Clair County and the City of Port Huron City

provided over the years to develop our business during good and bad times. While we still have a long way to go, new awarded programs and a slight uptick of activity are prompting us to find additional space for our operations."

Doug Alexander, Executive Director of the Economic Development Alliance said, "EDA has developed a very close working relationship with SMW over the past 10 years and are very pleased to assist in the continued expansion of their operations in the Port Huron Industrial Park. They are a strong and growing company that is an asset to our community

EDA continues to aggressively pursue several other major projects for our community including the much publicized lithium ion battery manufacturing plant that will be constructed by LG Chem for which the City of St. Clair has been named one of three remaining communities in competition for this nearly \$400 million dollar project.