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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
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## **Granholt, MEDC Announce Support for Alternative Energy Project in Manistee County**

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm and Michigan Economic Development Corporation James C. Epolito today announced a \$400,000 grant to Manistee County to support a potential alternative energy project involving Michigan-based MasTech and Nevada-based Mariah Power. The project, pending approval by the companies, is estimated to create up to 141 new jobs and generate \$1.8 million in new capital investment. Epolito presented a ceremonial check to county officials today.

“We will continue to go anywhere and do anything to diversify Michigan’s economy and grow the alternative energy industry,” Granholm said. “Our outstanding workforce and competitive business climate make Michigan a great location for projects like this that will boost our leadership in green energy technologies that will help end our nation’s dependence on and foreign oil.”

The grant is being made available by the MEDC with funds provided by the federal Community Development Block Grant program.

The MEDC administers the state’s Community Development Block Grant funds received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. These funds are used to provide grants and loans to eligible counties, cities, villages and townships—typically those with populations less than 50,000—for economic development, community development and housing projects. Larger communities receive block grant funds directly from the federal government.

“We are very excited about the potential of bringing jobs to Manistee County,” said John Holcomb of MasTech Manufacturing. “We are working with local and state agencies to make this venture a reality.”

Based in Reno, Nevada, Mariah Power provides low-cost, low-noise, attractive wind power appliances for use with residential, business, and commercial buildings. The company’s patented technology maximizes energy conversion from wind into the electric power, regardless of changing wind speed and direction. For more information, visit [www.mariahpower.com](http://www.mariahpower.com).

MasTech Manufacturing was formed in 2004 as the manufacturing arm of Troy based MasTech Inc. MasTech Manufacturing provides in house, engineering, fabrication, machining, assembly, testing, and installation of all types of equipment. With over 100 years of combined manufacturing experience the MasTech team supplies modern, innovative solutions to even the most complex manufacturing problems.

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“I want to thank Manistee County and the Alliance for Economic Success for working with us to make a strong business case for this project,” Epolito said. “We will continue to do everything in our power to move this project forward.”

“Manufacturing is alive, well and getting stronger in Manistee County,” Manistee-based Alliance for Economic Success Executive Director Renee Ihlenfeldt said. “Today’s news is a positive development for everyone involved. We look forward to solidifying this project and leveraging this opportunity to bring additional business and jobs to our area.”

There are 1,655 local governments within the state eligible to apply for CDBG funds administered by the MEDC. Projects are approved contingent upon compliance with state and federal requirements.

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation, a partnership between the state and local communities, promotes smart economic growth by developing strategies and providing services to create and retain good jobs and a high quality of life. For more information on MEDC initiatives and programs, visit the Web site at [www.TheMEDC.org](http://www.TheMEDC.org).

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