

**MEGA TAX CREDIT AGREEMENT: Standard Credit**

**Merit Technologies Worldwide, LLC**

This Agreement is between the Michigan Economic Growth Authority (MEGA) and Merit Technologies Worldwide, LLC, a Michigan limited liability company. As used in this Agreement, the Michigan Economic Growth Authority and Merit Technologies Worldwide, LLC are sometimes referred to individually as a "Party" and collectively as "Parties".

The Michigan Economic Growth Authority Act, 1995 PA 24, as amended, created the MEGA with the power to provide tax credits to businesses involved in manufacturing, mining, research and development, wholesale and trade, office operations, qualified high-technology business, film and digital media production, or certain tourism attractions;

The Michigan Legislature determined that it is in the public interest to promote economic growth and to encourage private investment, job creation and job upgrading for Michigan residents;

The MEGA determined that providing tax credits to the Company for job creation will promote and serve the intended purposes of and conform with the Act; and

The MEGA and the Company desire to set forth the terms and conditions of the tax credits that the MEGA authorized for the Company by Resolution dated February 15, 2011.

The Parties, therefore, agree as follows:

**1.0 DEFINITIONS**

(a) "Act" means the Michigan Economic Growth Authority Act, 1995 PA 24, as amended as of the Effective Date.

(b) "Agreement" means this written agreement.

(c) "Application" means any information submitted to the MEGA in support of the Company's request for the MEGA Tax Credit.

(d) "Average Weekly Wage" means the total Salaries and Wages paid during the applicable year to each employee performing a Qualified New Job whose Salaries and Wages count in any quarter toward the Tax Credit, divided by the number of weeks worked by that employee, and the sum of the individual quotients is then divided by the number of those Qualified New Jobs.

(e) "Base Employment Level" means the minimum number of Full-time Jobs to be maintained by the Company, and related entity of GNS America, Co. with the federal employer identification number [REDACTED] in Michigan, as specified in Schedule A of this Agreement.

(f) "Business" means a proprietorship, joint venture, partnership, limited liability partnership, trust, business trust, syndicate, association, joint stock company, corporation, cooperative, limited liability company, or any other organization.

(g) "Certificate Application" means the written information submitted each year in support of the Company's request for a Tax Credit Certificate that complies with Section 7.0 of this Agreement.

(h) "Company" means Merit Technologies Worldwide, LLC, with the federal employer identification number [REDACTED]. As of the Effective Date, Company is an authorized business under the Act.

(i) "Effective Date" means Feb. 17, 2011.

(j) "Employer-paid Health Care Benefits" means all costs paid by the employer for a self-funded health care benefit plan or for an expense-incurred hospital, vision, medical or surgical policy or certificate, nonprofit health care corporation certificate, or health maintenance organization contract. "Employer-paid Health Care Benefits" do not include accident-only, credit, dental, or disability income insurance; long-term care insurance; coverage issued as a supplement to liability insurance; coverage only for a specified disease or illness; worker's compensation or similar insurance; employee paid pre-tax benefit plans; health savings accounts; or automobile medical payment insurance.

(k) "Facility" means the Company's location in Michigan identified in Section 2.0(b)(5) at which the Company will create Qualified New Jobs.

(l) "Full-time Job" means a job performed by an individual who is employed for consideration for at least 35 hours of work each week based in Michigan and for whom the Company, related entity GNS America, Co. with the federal employer identification number 27-0618728 for base purposes only, an employee leasing company or a professional employer organization on behalf of the Company or other entity authorized under the Act, withholds income and United States social security taxes.

(m) "MEGA" means the Michigan Economic Growth Authority created by the Act.

(n) "MEGA Tax Credit" means a credit against the Michigan Business Tax authorized by Section 431 of Public Act 36 of 2007, as amended.

(o) "Person" means an individual or business.

(p) "Project" means the project described in Section 2.0(b)(5) of this Agreement.

(q) "Qualified New Job" means a Full-time Job at the Facility held by a Michigan resident and that:

- (1) pays at least 150 percent of the federal minimum wage;
- (2) is in excess of the Base Employment Level; and
- (3) is created by the Company on or after the Effective Date.

"Qualified New Job" does not include any job transferred to the Facility from: (i) a Michigan location of a Business that is listed on the Application; or (ii) a Michigan location of a Business that, on or after the date of the Application, acquires or otherwise gains control of the Company, is acquired or controlled by the Company, or comes under common control with the Company.

(r) "Relocation" means the transfer of 51 percent or more of the Qualified New Jobs out of the State of Michigan.

(s) "Salaries and Wages" means wages, tips, and other compensation, including, but not limited to, severance pay and stock options, reported in Box 1 of an employee's W-2 form.

(t) "Tax Credit Certificate" means the certificate required to be issued by 2007 PA 36, as amended, which states that the Company is an authorized business, the amount of the MEGA Tax Credit authorized for a year, and the Company's federal employer identification number or Michigan Treasury number.

(u) "Tax Year" means the calendar year, or the fiscal year ending during the calendar year, upon the basis of which the MEGA credit is computed. Multiple Michigan Business Tax filings in a calendar year do not count as multiple Tax Years.

(v) "Term" means the time period beginning with the Effective Date and ending on the last day of the last Tax Year in which the Company is eligible to receive a MEGA Tax Credit under this Agreement.

## 2.0 REPRESENTATIONS

(a) Representations by the MEGA. The MEGA makes the following representations and warranties as of the Effective Date:

(1) *Existence and Power.* The MEGA is a public body established and acting pursuant to the Act.

(2) *Authority.* The MEGA has the necessary authority under the Act to grant MEGA Tax Credits and has taken all actions necessary to authorize, execute and deliver this Agreement.

(3) *Tax Credit Certificate.* The MEGA will issue the Company's initial Tax Credit Certificate, in the form attached to this Agreement, upon execution of this Agreement.

(4) *Administrative Services.* The Michigan Economic Development Corporation provides administrative services to the MEGA.

(b) Representations by the Company. The Company makes the following representations and warranties as of the Effective Date:

(1) *Existence and Power.* The Company validly exists and is in good standing under the laws of the State of Michigan and is qualified to transact business in Michigan.

(2) *Corporate Authority.* The Company's execution, delivery and performance of this Agreement is authorized by all necessary corporate action and will not violate any provisions of law or of the Company's articles of incorporation or bylaws.

(3) *Full Disclosure.* Neither this Agreement nor the Application contain any untrue statement of or omit a material fact.

(4) *Eligibility.* The Company will create Qualified New Jobs in Michigan as generally classified under NAICS code 336370.

(5) *Project Description.* The Company will open a new hot stamping facility, primarily to support the automotive industry, and create jobs in Canton Charter Township, Wayne County. The Company believes that the Project is economically sound and affirms that the investment capital or financing needed to complete the Project is now committed or soon will be available to the Company. As of February 15, 2011, the Project had not begun.

(6) *Job Creation.* The Project will result in the creation of at least 50 Qualified New Jobs, as required under the Act. The Qualified New Jobs shall pay an Average Weekly Wage of at least \$815 and at no time will the wages paid for each of these Qualified New Jobs be less than 150 percent of the federal minimum wage in effect during the year in which the MEGA Tax Credit is sought.

(7) *Need for MEGA Tax Credits.* The MEGA Tax Credits authorized by the MEGA address the competitive disadvantages of locating in Michigan instead of a site outside of Michigan.

(8) *Certification.* The Company made the certifications required by Section 8(3)(f) of the Act, which are attached to the Agreement as Schedule B.

### **3.0 MEGA TAX CREDIT**

The MEGA authorized the MEGA Tax Credit described in this Agreement for the Company, subject to the conditions specified in Section 4.0 of this Agreement and the Company's compliance with this Agreement.

(a) *MEGA Tax Credit.* The MEGA Tax Credit shall be equal to 75 percent of the Michigan personal income tax rate, as it exists at the beginning of the Company's Tax Year for which the credit is sought, multiplied by the total Salaries and Wages and Employer-paid Health Care Benefits, of employees performing Qualified New Jobs. If the number of employees earning wages is below the maximum number of Qualified New Jobs allowed, all Salaries and Wages in the quarter count toward the Tax Credit. If the number of employees earning wages is more than the maximum number of Qualified New Jobs allowed, only the top Salaries and Wages up to the maximum number of Qualified New Jobs allowed will count toward the Tax Credit for the quarter. The MEGA Tax Credit is authorized for five consecutive years beginning with the Company's Tax Year ending December 31, 2013 and ending no later than December 31, 2017, except as provided under Section 3.0(b).

(1) No more than 89 Qualified New Jobs may be used in calculating the MEGA Tax Credit, as provided in Section 431 of 2007 PA 36; and

(2) The maximum amount of total Salaries and Wages, including Employer-paid Health Care Benefits, which may be used in a single year in calculating the MEGA Tax Credit for any one Qualified New Job is \$250,000.

(b) *Advancing the Scheduled Years of the Credit.* The Company may elect to begin the MEGA Tax Credit described in Section 3.0(a) in its Tax Year ending December 31, 2012. If the Company elects to advance the MEGA Tax Credit as provided in this Section, the last Tax Year in which the Company may receive the MEGA Tax Credit will be December 31, 2016.

### **4.0 CONDITIONS OF THE MEGA TAX CREDIT**

(a) *Eligibility.* The Company shall not be eligible for the MEGA Tax Credit described in Section 3.0 of this Agreement unless:

(1) The Company creates at least 50 Qualified New Jobs, as required under the Act;

(2) The Average Weekly Wage paid to employees performing Qualified New Jobs is at least \$815;

(3) The Company maintained the minimum Base Employment Level;

- (4) The Company pays the administrative fee described in Section 4.0(b);
- (5) The Company obtains a Tax Credit Certificate, as provided in Section 5.0;
- (6) Canton Charter Township approves a tax abatement for new property related to the project; and
- (7) The Company participates in a MEGA technical assistance meeting with representatives of the MEDC, at a mutually agreed upon time, unless waived by the MEDC.

(b) *Administrative Fee.* The Company shall pay a one-time administrative fee of \$2,211 upon submission of its first Certificate Application.

#### 5.0 TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE

To obtain a Tax Credit Certificate in connection with the MEGA Tax Credit described in this Agreement, the Company shall, for the applicable year:

(a) Achieve and maintain the minimum number of Qualified New Jobs, as required by Schedule A of this Agreement;

To compute the number of Qualified New Jobs in any year, except the first year of the credit, as determined by Section 3.0 and Schedule A, the Company shall determine the number of Qualified New Jobs as of the last operational day, as determined by MEGA, of each of the four quarters of the applicable year, total the results for the four quarters, and divide the sum by four. The employee shall be in the Qualified New Job on the last operational day of the quarter to count toward the headcount for that quarter.

To compute the number of Qualified New Jobs for the first year of the credit, as determined by Section 3.0 and Schedule A, the Company shall determine the number of Qualified New Jobs as of the last operational day, as determined by MEGA, of each quarter of that year and, beginning with the first quarter in which there are at least 50 Qualified New Jobs, compute the average number of Qualified New Jobs over the remaining quarters for the year. The employee shall be in the Qualified New Job on the last operational day of the quarter to count toward the headcount for that quarter.

(b) Pay at least the Average Weekly Wage provided in Section 4.0(a)(2) to employees in Qualified New Jobs;

(c) Pay each employee working in Qualified New Jobs a wage, including Employer-paid Health Care Benefits, equal to or greater than 150 percent of the federal minimum wage in effect for the applicable year;

(d) Maintain the Base Employment Level stated on Schedule A. To compute the Base Employment Level in any year, the Company shall determine the Base Employment Level as of the last operational day of each of the four quarters of the applicable year, total the results for the four quarters, and divide the sum by four, unless the Agreement was executed during the first year that the Tax Credit is claimed, then the sum is divided by the actual number of quarters remaining in the first year of the Tax Credit. If the Base Employment Level is not met, an employee performing a Qualified New Job may fill the Base Employment Level, however that employee may not be counted as a Qualified New Job for the remainder of the Tax Year, nor will that employee's Salaries and Wages be counted toward the Tax Credit;

- (e) Include all Salaries and Wages paid to Qualified New Jobs in that Tax Year; and
- (f) Provide a Certificate Application to the MEGA that satisfies the requirements of Section 7.0 of this Agreement.

The MEGA will not issue a Tax Credit Certificate if the MEGA or the Office of the Chief Compliance Officer determines that the Company is not in compliance with the Act, or other laws applicable to the Tax Certificate.

Provided that the Company satisfied the requirements of Section 4.0, the Company's failure to satisfy the requirements of this Section in any given year does not preclude the Company from qualifying for and obtaining a MEGA Tax Credit in any other year during the Term.

#### **6.0 AUDIT AND VERIFICATION**

The information provided by the Company in connection with the MEGA Tax Credit is subject to audit and verification by the MEGA or its designee both prior to and after receiving a Tax Credit Certificate. Upon reasonable advance notice to the Company by the MEGA or the Office of the Chief Compliance Officer, the Company shall permit the MEGA, the Office of the Chief Compliance Officer, or their designee, at the MEGA's sole expense and during normal business hours, to inspect the Company's files solely for the purpose of verifying eligibility for the MEGA Tax Credits authorized for the Company. The files subject to inspection include, but are not limited to, those relevant to wage and hour records, Employer-paid Health Care Benefits records, job classification, job assignments and employment histories. To the extent permitted under Section 5(3) of the Act, the Company may request confidential treatment of its financial or proprietary information retained by the MEGA in the course of its inspection.

#### **7.0 ANNUAL CERTIFICATE APPLICATION**

(a) For each year in which the Company seeks a MEGA Tax Credit under this Agreement, the Company shall complete a Certificate Application.

(b) The Company shall file the Certificate Application with the MEGA at least 90 days prior to the day the Company's Michigan Business Tax return is due to the Michigan Department of Treasury. If the Michigan Department of Treasury grants the Company an extension of the deadline to file its Michigan Business Tax Return for the applicable year, the Company shall notify the MEGA of the extension and the Certificate Application must be filed with the MEGA at least 90 days prior to the extended deadline.

(c) The form of the Certificate Application shall be as specified by the MEGA. The Certificate Application must contain the following information:

(1) The number of employees in the Base Employment Level as of the end of each of the four quarters, as calculated by MEGA, in the applicable year;

(2) The number of Qualified New Jobs as of the end of each of the four quarters, as calculated by MEGA, in the applicable year;

(3) The total Salaries and Wages paid to and Employer-paid Health Care Benefits provided to employees who performed Qualified New Jobs during the applicable year by quarter;

(4) A certification by an authorized officer of the Company that the information provided in the Certificate Application is accurate;

(5) The total capital investment related to the Project for the applicable year;

(6) The annual hours and weeks worked for employees counted in the Base Employment Level or as a Qualified New Job; and

(7) Any other information reasonably related to determining the MEGA Tax Credit.

(d) The MEGA and the Office of the Chief Compliance Officer shall determine whether the requirements of this Agreement and the Act have been met and if so, will calculate the amount of the MEGA Tax Credit and issue a Tax Credit Certificate to the Company.

(e) For each year during the Term, the Company must submit a completed Certificate Application even if the requirements described in Section 5.0 are not satisfied for that year. If the Company does not satisfy the requirements in Section 5.0 for a particular year, the MEGA will not issue a Tax Credit Certificate for that year and one year of the MEGA Tax Credit is forfeited. The Company, however, will continue to be eligible for the MEGA Tax Credit in any remaining years of the Term in which the requirements of Section 5.0 are met subject to Section 8.0(a).

(f) The Company shall not use Social Security Numbers for documentation purposes at any time. Documents containing Social Security Numbers may not be used to satisfy any of the reporting requirements contained in this Agreement and the MEDC will destroy any documents provided by the Company that contain Social Security Numbers.

#### **8.0 ADJUSTMENT, REDUCTION OR TERMINATION OF CREDITS**

(a) If the Company does not initially satisfy the conditions described in Section 4.0 by December 31, 2015, this Agreement is void, the Company no longer qualifies as an authorized business, and no MEGA Tax Credits are, or will be, authorized under this Agreement.

(b) The Company's failure to comply with any provision of this Agreement, other than as a result of a clerical or technical error which is corrected upon its discovery, may result in revocation of the Company's designation as an authorized business or in the reduction or loss of any MEGA Tax Credits for which a Tax Credit Certificate has not been issued, and may have a percentage of the credit amount previously claimed added back to the tax liability of the Company.

(c) A MEGA Tax Credit is subject to adjustment in any year following the year in which a Tax Credit Certificate is issued if the MEGA finds that the information on which the Tax Credit Certificate was based was incorrect or cannot be verified.

(d) If the MEGA determines that the Company misrepresented information in order to qualify for, or increase the amount of, a MEGA Tax Credit, the MEGA may revoke the Company's designation as an authorized business and shall notify the Michigan Department of Treasury of the revocation. The State of Michigan may require repayment of any MEGA Tax Credits received by the Company, plus a ten percent penalty, as a result of a misrepresentation.

(e) If the MEGA determines that the Company is not in compliance with any Department of the State of Michigan including, but not limited to, the Department of Energy, Labor, and Economic Growth, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, or the Department of Treasury, the MEGA may

withhold the Tax Credit Certificate until the issue is resolved or until the MEGA is satisfied that the Company has taken the appropriate steps to resolve the issue.

(f) Prior to taking any adverse action against the Company under this Section, the MEGA shall provide the Company with written notice of its intended action and the basis for that action. The Company shall have a reasonable opportunity to respond, including the right to appear before the MEGA Board, as identified in the notice.

#### **9.0 REPAYMENT PROVISIONS**

Should a Relocation occur, the following shall apply:

(a) If the Relocation occurs on or before the end of the fourth year from the year in which the Company first receives a MEGA Tax Credit under Section 3.0 and Schedule A of this Agreement, the Company shall repay 100 percent of the total amount of the MEGA Tax Credit received; and

(b) If the Relocation occurs after the end of the fourth year and within 24 months after the end of the fifth year from the year in which the Company first receives a MEGA Tax Credit under Section 3.0 and Schedule A of this Agreement, the Company shall repay up to 50 percent, as determined by MEGA, of the total amount of the MEGA Tax Credit received.

This Section shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

#### **10.0 MISCELLANEOUS**

(a) *Reporting.* The Company shall provide the MEGA with information regarding its MEGA Tax Credit as the MEGA may reasonably require. The Company shall meet annually, at a mutually agreed upon time and location, with a Michigan Economic Development Corporation representative.

(b) *Employment Information.* The Company, for reporting purposes, shall provide the number of Full-time Jobs at all of the Company's locations in Michigan, excluding the Qualified New Jobs for which the Company is seeking the MEGA Tax Credit, as of the end of each of the four quarters in the applicable year.

(c) *Assignment of MEGA Tax Credit.* The MEGA Tax Credit described in this Agreement shall not be transferred or assigned provided, however, that in the event of a merger, a Person acquires all or substantially all of the assets or stock of the Company in Michigan after the Effective Date, the MEGA shall authorize the transfer of the Company's rights under this Agreement to that Person if:

(1) The Person agrees in writing to assume all of the duties and responsibilities of the Company under this Agreement; and

(2) The MEGA determines that the transfer is consistent with and will serve the purposes of the Act.

(d) *Severability.* If any clause, provision, or section of this Agreement is held invalid by any court, the invalidity of that clause, provision, or section shall not affect the remaining clauses, provisions, or sections of this Agreement and this Agreement shall be construed and enforced as if such invalid clause, provision, or section had not been contained in this Agreement.



(e) *Notices.* All notices or other communications provided in connection with this Agreement shall be deemed received when delivered, if delivered by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, or by messenger or professional courier service, addressed as follows:

**TO MEGA:** Michigan Economic Development Corporation  
Michigan Economic Growth Authority  
300 North Washington Square  
Lansing, Michigan 48913  
ATTN: MEGA Board Secretary  
E-mail address: [mega-admin@michigan.org](mailto:mega-admin@michigan.org)

**TO Company:** Merit Technologies Worldwide, LLC  
13341 Quincy Street  
Holland, MI 49424  
ATTN: Jack Caudill, Treasurer  
E-mail address: [jcaudill@gnsauto.com](mailto:jcaudill@gnsauto.com)

(f) *Entire Agreement and Amendment.* Subject to the Act, this Agreement, including the attached Schedules, is the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter described herein and supersedes any previous agreements. This Agreement may not be amended without the written consent of the Parties.


(g) *Captions.* The captions in this Agreement are for convenience only and in no way define, limit or describe the scope or intent of any provisions or sections of this Agreement.

(h) *Interpretation.* This Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan.

**MICHIGAN ECONOMIC GROWTH AUTHORITY**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Karla K. Campbell, Secretary

**MERIT TECHNOLOGIES WORLDWIDE, LLC**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas Palumbo, President

**Merit Technologies Worldwide, LLC**  
**Schedule A**  
**Minimum Employment and Wage Levels to Qualify for the MEGA Tax Credits**

Year of Credit	Company's Tax Year Ending December 31	Minimum # of Qualified New Jobs Created/Maintained	Minimum Average Weekly Wage	Minimum Base Employment Level
1	2013*	50	\$815	49
2	2014	50	\$815	49
3	2015	50	\$815	49
4	2016	50	\$815	49
5	2017	50	\$815	49

\*Should the Company elect to advance the scheduled years of the MEGA Tax Credit, as permitted under Section 3.0(b) of the Agreement, the Company's Tax Year Ending years listed on this table shall be considered advanced, accordingly.

Merit Technologies Worldwide, LLC  
Schedule B

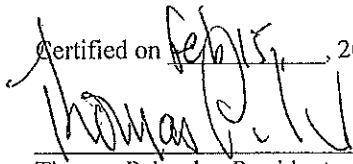
Merit Technologies Worldwide, LLC certifies that:

(1) It will follow a competitive bid process, open to all Michigan residents and firms, for the construction, rehabilitation, development or renovation of the Facility, and that it will not discriminate against any contractor on the basis of its affiliation or non-affiliation with any collective bargaining organization.

(2) It will make a good faith effort to employ, if qualified, Michigan residents at the Facility.

(3) It will make a good faith effort to employ or contract with Michigan residents and firms to construct, rehabilitate, develop or renovate the Facility.

(4) It is encouraged to make a good faith effort to utilize Michigan-based suppliers and vendors when purchasing goods and services.

Certified on Feb 15, 2011  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas Palumbo, President

Certificate Number  
00-742-11

*Initial Tax Credit Certificate  
Merit Technologies Worldwide, LLC*

Issued this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2011, by the  
*Michigan Economic Growth Authority*

To Merit Technologies Worldwide, LLC, Employer Identification Number [REDACTED] an Authorized Business pursuant to Public Act 24 of 1995, as amended.

The MEGA Authorizes to Merit Technologies Worldwide, LLC a MEGA Tax Credit of 75 percent for five consecutive years, beginning with the Company's Tax Year ending on December 31, 2013, under Section 431 of Public Act 36 of 2007.

The Michigan Legislature encourages recipients of MEGA Tax Credits to make a good faith effort to use Michigan-based suppliers and vendors when purchasing goods and services.

By: Karla K. Campbell  
Karla K. Campbell  
Secretary of the MEGA Board