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**Contact:**

ESD Press Office | [pressoffice@esd.ny.gov](mailto:pressoffice@esd.ny.gov) | (800) 260-7313

## **ESD BOARD APPROVES FUNDING FOR PROJECTS THAT CREATE JOBS, AND SUPPORT BUSINESS GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS ACROSS NEW YORK STATE**

Empire State Development's Board of Directors met today in New York City and approved \$8.295 million in funding for projects that will directly result in the creation of 34 new jobs and retention of more than 100 existing jobs. This funding will leverage nearly \$34 million in additional investments to support business growth and infrastructure improvements while laying the groundwork for future economic growth and the potential creation of more than 1,000 new jobs.

"ESD continues to make the right investments to create new jobs, foster competitive growth and maximize the return on investment for New Yorkers," said Empire State Development President, CEO & Commissioner Kenneth Adams. "Today we are supporting projects from Western New York to New York City, many of them through our Regional Councils, from advanced manufacturing and small businesses to key infrastructure improvements that will help revitalize our communities, increase New York business' national and global competitiveness, and grow our economy."

*The Board approved the following Empire State Economic Development Fund grant:*

**Drasgow, Inc. (Finger Lakes Region – Wyoming County) – \$125,000**

Drasgow, Inc., a manufacturer of parts for assembly, specializing in semi-hardened materials and castings, outgrew its original Sheldon, New York location in 2007 and built a new 6,570-square-foot facility in Gainesville, Wyoming County. Due to rapid growth, the company also outgrew this facility and needed to expand its operations. Drasgow applied for ESD assistance through the Governor's Regional Economic Development Council initiative, and was awarded \$125,000 through the CFA Round 2 process. The funding will assist in the completion of a 9,216-square-foot expansion and renovation of its current facility, as well as the acquisition of new equipment to keep the company on the cutting edge and competitive in the industry. The increased floor space will improve the company's ability to serve a larger market share by enabling it to produce a higher volume of parts. Additionally, it expects the renovations to result in increased employee productivity due to improved material flow. The nearly \$1 million project will spur economic development in Wyoming County, a highly distressed community, saving 16 jobs and creating 10 new jobs, four of which have already been created.

*The Board approved the following Regional Council Capital Fund grants:*

**Brooklyn Navy Yard/Macro Sea New Lab (New York City Region – Kings County) – \$3,250,000**

Macro Sea, a real estate and design firm based in New York City that has developed a diverse portfolio of projects in the past, including educational, arts, retail, and residential buildings and campuses, was

identified as a priority project in 2012 by the New York City Regional Economic Development Council (NYCREDC). Macro Sea was awarded \$1.25 million in Round II of Governor Cuomo's Regional Council Initiative for 'New Lab' – a first-of-its-kind advanced manufacturing hub that will create an ecosystem where designers, engineers, entrepreneurs and academics can take their ideas from concept to prototyping to production all under one roof. New Lab will offer a fabrication shop with state-of-the-art 3D printers and prototyping machinery as well as traditional shop equipment. Macro Sea will sublease space in New Lab to universities, design firms and small manufacturing businesses and will create co-working collaborative work space and event/gallery space. The NYCREDC priority project will anchor the Brooklyn Navy Yard's 220,000 square foot Green Manufacturing Center and is expected to lead to the creation of more than 300 new jobs by Macro Sea and its tenants.

The NYCREDC recently acted to reallocate \$2 million in funding, providing additional support to the nearly \$20 million project, which will allow New Lab to transform 50,000 square feet into over 80,000 square feet of usable workspace for this state of the art new manufacturing center in the heart of the Brooklyn Navy Yard. The additional funding for New Lab brings total State support to \$3.25 million.

#### Rising Development Yonkers, LLC (Mid-Hudson Region – Westchester County) – \$2,000,000

Created in 2006, Rising Development Yonkers, LLC is a development firm currently controlling several sites in downtown Yonkers. The company wishes to oversee the redevelopment and adaptive reuse of five of these vacant properties. The project will create approximately 32 live/work lofts that will be designed to attract creative and high-tech entrepreneurs looking for an affordable urban lifestyle as well as creating 17,000 square feet of cafes, restaurants and retail shopping space. Rising Development Yonkers, LLC was awarded \$2 million in ESD assistance through Governor Cuomo's Regional Economic Development Council initiative to assist with project costs and enable the project to move forward. The \$11.5 million project is scheduled to be completed by September 2015.

The Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council designated this as a priority project to promote two of the Regional Council's core strategies including: expanding natural resource related sectors by contributing to the daylighting of the Saw Mill River in downtown Yonkers; and revitalizing the region's infrastructure by supporting the urban center of the City of Yonkers. It also spurs investment in what is currently a distressed area, and will contribute to the economic growth of downtown Yonkers.

#### 3Gi CNYIP (Central New York Region – Onondaga County) – \$420,000

A partnership between Mohawk Global Logistics, Synapse Partners, LLC and Brang Commercial Real Estate Companies, 3Gi was formed in 2012 to oversee the development of the Central New York Inland Port project (CNYIP). Once developed, CNYIP will be an 115-acre cargo logistics park supporting import, export and distribution to the United States and international markets. 3Gi was awarded \$420,000 in ESD assistance through the Governor's Regional Economic Development Council initiative to complete the first phase of the project – the purchase of 90 acres of land next to the CSX Dewitt rail yard. Identified as a priority project by the Central New York Regional Economic Development Council (CNYREDC), the project is consistent with the CNYREDC Strategic Plan to improve competitiveness in, and connections to, the regional, national and global economies by improving the region's physical infrastructure, including air service, port access, road and rail infrastructure, and broadband connectivity, in order to get regional goods to national and global markets. The project is slated for completion in May 2014.

#### DANC Broadband ( North Country Region – St. Lawrence County) – \$250,000

Formed in 1985, the Development Authority of the North Country (DANC) provides management, services and financing assistance for North Country regional economic development. DANC was awarded \$250,000 in ESD assistance as part of the Governor's Regional Economic Development initiative to help finance its broadband installation project in underserved areas of the North Country. The company will design and install six miles of internet fiber cable in Canton and the Village of Rensselaer Falls in St. Lawrence County. This project will increase the internet bandwidth to the region, and allow for expanded broadband connectivity locally and in the entire North Country Region.

U.S. Optical (Central New York Region – Onondaga County) – \$225,000

U.S. Optical is a wholesale optical lab that manufactures eyeglass lens prescriptions with a process known as freeform or digital manufacturing. The company had been steadily growing since its creation in 2007 and has sought to expand its operations in Onondaga County. The expansion would enable U.S. Optical to export products nationally and give them a new foothold in the global marketplace. The company was awarded \$225,000 in ESD assistance through Governor Cuomo's Regional Economic Development Council initiative to ensure the project would be able to move forward. The \$2.39 million expansion will result in the retention of 80 existing jobs and the creation of 16 new jobs – U.S. Optical has already created 7 jobs.

*The Board approved the following Economic Development Purposes Fund grant:*

Western New York Science, Technology and Advanced Manufacturing Park (Finger Lakes Region - Genesee County) – \$1,725,001 (loan) & \$300,000 (grant)

A joint venture of the Genesee County Economic Development Center (GCEDC) and the Genesee Gateway Local Development Corporation (GGLDC), the Western New York Science, Technology and Advanced Manufacturing Park (STAMP)) will ultimately be a mega site of at least 1,000 acres which will attract large-scale advanced manufacturing projects. Aimed for a site in the Town of Alabama, the two Genesee County organizations have spent several million dollars since 2008 towards preliminary studies. STAMP has been designated a priority project by the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council and unanimously endorsed by its Advanced Manufacturing work group as a top priority. The project is consistent with the Regional Plan in that it supports advanced technology and manufacturing, and is identified as key to the region in the Industrial Development and Infrastructure category.

As a result of the Governor's Regional Economic Development Council initiative, GCEDC and GGLDC were originally awarded \$500,000 through the CFA process. ESD has offered an additional \$1.1 million in the form of loan, and recently increased its offer by another \$1,725,001 in loans and \$300,000 in grants towards the purchase of the site. Additionally, next week the Upstate ESD Board will consider an additional \$1 million loan, bringing the total net increase in loans to \$2.7 million. The project has the potential to create up to 1,200 jobs at the STAMP site in the next three years and over 9,300 projected jobs at full build-out in 2032; and position Western New York as a hub for advanced technology manufacturing and spur significant regional economic growth.

The next meeting of the ESD Board of Directors will be held in September.

Empire State Development (ESD) is New York's chief economic development agency ([www.esd.ny.gov](http://www.esd.ny.gov)). The mission of ESD is to promote a vigorous and growing economy, encourage the creation of new job and economic opportunities, increase revenues to the State and its municipalities, and achieve stable and diversified local economies. Through the use of loans, grants, tax credits and other forms of financial assistance, ESD strives to enhance private business investment and growth to spur job creation and

support prosperous communities across New York State. ESD is also the primary administrative agency overseeing Governor Cuomo's Regional Economic Development Councils and the marketing of "I Love NY," the State's iconic tourism brand. For more information on Regional Councils and Empire State Development, visit [www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov](http://www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov) and [www.esd.ny.gov](http://www.esd.ny.gov).

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