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# Press Release

## BIOTECHNOLOGY R&D MAKING A DIFFERENCE

### Dart Development Spotlights Draths Corporation

**Lansing, Michigan, May 3, 2010** – Throughout history, science has and continues to make a difference in how we live - adapting our environment to meet our needs and utilizing our resources in new and exciting ways. Enter Draths Corporation, a growing biotechnology research and development company busily developing novel, renewable routes to existing chemicals commonly used in manufacturing. Draths is *Making a Difference* in how companies will create their own products, with earth friendly bio-based chemicals, and in Michigan's local economy, planning to expand its operations and aggressively hire more employees over the next few months. Draths is May's *Dart Development Difference-Maker* of the *Dart Development Difference* Campaign, which seeks and recognizes those businesses that are driving economic development in our state and local communities.

Founded in 2005, Draths Corporation is a high-tech start up company, spun out of the Michigan State University laboratory of Dr. John Frost. With the receipt of over \$27 million of investment capital, Draths is developing new manufacturing routes to chemicals currently used to make a wide array of products – from plastic bottles to carpet fibers. “Blending microbiology, fermentation, engineering, organic chemistry, and process development, researchers design and create ‘chemical factories’ where microorganisms consume sugar and produce an intermediate material – which is then converted into various other chemicals used in the world today. We call these chemicals ‘drop-ins’ because Draths’ customers will be able to substitute a sugar-derived chemical for a petroleum-derived chemical to create the same material they are accustomed to producing, with all of the same beneficial properties and qualities, and a renewable starting material,” explains Karen Frost, Vice President of Biology of Draths Corporation.

This summer, Draths’ researchers will be designing and creating their innovative products in a brand new 30,000 sf facility located in Oakwood Executive Park of Delhi Township. Dart Development Group is customizing the space to house all of Draths’ research and development, administrative functions, and a pilot plant. “We are excited to provide a new facility for Draths’ growing research and development. Draths epitomizes the spirit of the *Dart Development Difference* with every new discovery and every new staff member. They will *Make a Difference* in today’s business and the future,” said Marsha Zimmerman, Marketing Manager of Dart Development Group.

Each *Difference-Maker* is featured in a live radio interview on the Michael Patrick Shiels Show, broadcast on MI Talk Network, locally at 1240am, and on Fox-47 TV. Dart Development Group values the Difference that sets successful businesses apart from the rest. The Difference at Dart Development means greater flexibility in working with business partners and tenants, proven experience in developing and leasing quality business space, and successful delivery of custom space that fits the needs of today’s businesses. Nominations for future *Dart Development Difference-Makers* are welcome and may be submitted at [www.dartdevelopment.com](http://www.dartdevelopment.com).

#### Dart Development Group

Dart Development owns and manages business parks in Michigan, California, and Florida. The parks offer office and warehouse options as well as build to suit to lease options. Michigan’s Wixom Business Center and Oakwood Executive Park are State Certified Business Parks conveniently located near major highways and centrally located in the Midwest business corridor. For details on park features and land available for development visit: [www.dartdevelopment.com](http://www.dartdevelopment.com)