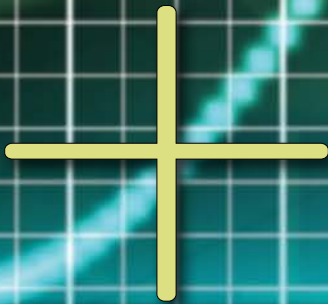


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MiSN Working to Reinvent Michigan

BY LESLIE A. TOUMA

Michigan's new Governor Rick Snyder has emphasized the need for Michigan to reinvent itself, to begin a new era of innovation in order to give our businesses and industry the support they need to be nimble and respond to new economic realities and opportunities.

The Michigan Security Network (MiSN) could not agree more. MiSN, a nonprofit organization that serves as a platform to accelerate technology development, investment and job growth for the state in the fast-growing homeland security sector. MiSN is working to connect Michigan-based companies, research universities, and research and design facilities with state and federal government entities charged with homeland defense. The \$113-billion global homeland security market is a solid, growth market, with \$60 billion expected to be spent among private industry, and Michigan is best positioned to become the nation's homeland security leader.

We believe the best way to revitalize Michigan and foster a globally diverse economy is to build on our strengths and assets. And Michigan's strengths are abundant: 700 miles of shared Canadian border space, the longest border in the world; the nation's principal gateway for international trade with Canada; the largest commercial border crossing in the country; our technical talent pool; research corridors; strategic assets and capacity, such as major international borders, bridges, and tunnels; and diverse climate and terrain and innovation expertise all give Michigan a tremendous advantage over all other states in providing an ideal testing location for the homeland security market.

To that end, MiSN is creating dynamic public/private partnerships between federal, state, and local governments and leading technology companies and industry through the establishment of a Northern Border Security Test Bed (NBSTB). Last summer, after conducting comprehensive market research, MiSN is in discussion with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Department of Defense to establish an NBSTB in Michigan. As the point organization for the NBSTB, MiSN is currently working with many world-class corporations on specific dual-use technology projects that are being researched, tested, and analyzed in real-world conditions on our border. The possibilities of additional border-testing opportunities are endless.

Cyber security is another area of the homeland security market in which MiSN determined that Michigan possesses major competitive advantages.

Based on national and international events, especially in the latter part of 2010, efforts to dramatically improve cyber security could not come at a better time. In what some viewed as a major pinnacle in the government's heightened seriousness regarding cyber security, the director of U.S. National Intelligence, in his 2010 annual assessment of security threats facing the country, for the first time identified the danger of cyber attacks on the United States as the single greatest security threat facing the country.

Ahead of the curve, MiSN recognized the cyber threat as real and growing and that local, regional, and state efforts were needed to build upon existing federal-state partnerships to improve and expand cyber capabilities in Michigan. MiSN is currently working with the U.S. Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security, the Michigan National Guard, and national cyber experts on bringing large cyber security training centers to Michigan. These efforts will result in defensive cyber operations training, increased numbers of skilled cyber security professionals, and improving regional, state, and local governments' ability to coordinate with the federal government to prevent and mitigate cyber attacks.



Cyber security is an area of the market in which Michigan possesses major competitive advantages.



Leslie A. Touma is CEO and founder of the Michigan Security Network, which was established in May 2008 to promote homeland security business, investment, and job creation in Michigan. Prior to that, Ms. Touma was an executive in the automotive industry and served as a nuclear defense analyst at the U.S. Department of Defense. Ms. Touma

holds a BA from Kalamazoo College and an MA from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C.