

News Release

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Deepak Ravindra, Ph.D., Chief Technical Officer, Micro-Laser Assisted Machining Technologies, LLC, 269.276.3461, deepak.ravindra@micro-lam.com

Karl Dehn, President and CEO, Battle Creek Unlimited, 269.962.7526, dehn@bcunlimited.org

Dave Walters, Mayor, City of Battle Creek, 269.209.0626, davewalters4bc@aol.com

New technology firm contributes to advanced technology upswing in Battle Creek

July 9, 2014 – Battle Creek, Michigan - Originally instructor and student, John Patten, Ph.D. and Deepak Ravindra, Ph.D. became sole co-founders of Micro-LAM Technologies, LLC after nearly a decade of matching Patten's experience with invention with Ravindra's research and development capabilities. Observing that the ceramics and semiconductor part manufacturing industry struggled with challenges in machining extremely hard and brittle advanced engineered materials, the two partners developed a product to give industry the competitive edge it needed.

After establishing a shop with machines, office and lab space in Battle Creek's Customs Cargo Center on West Dickman Road, Patten and Ravindra praised the passion of Battle Creek Unlimited for its support of advanced manufacturing start-ups. The advanced manufacturing industry in the U.S. is on the upswing, according to Ravindra. "BCU maintains the pride and history of advanced manufacturing, instead of the emerging focus toward life sciences. We plan to play a key role in this new manufacturing era by providing next generation manufacturing solutions, right here in Battle Creek, Michigan," said Ravindra.

Micro-LAM went into business in July 2012 after receiving a National Science Foundation SBIR Phase I grant and State of Michigan funding to bring their newly developed product from concept to market. Since 2012, Micro-LAM grew to seven employees. The company now aims to commercialize its technology by the end of 2014.

"Micro-LAM raises the bar for start-up preparedness and professionalism," said Karl Dehn, President and CEO of Battle Creek Unlimited. "Their reputation among emerging advanced technology firms is

stellar. We look forward to assisting them in their next steps toward production, and watching them grow for many years to come.”

Watching other small companies succeed and grow into large corporations in Battle Creek’s Fort Custer Industrial Park, Patten and Ravindra consider those firms their role models. They plan to take Micro-LAM to a \$20 million company by 2017, hiring local, skilled workers.

Ravindra’s expertise in ductile mode machining of brittle materials which are not typically machinable made him a well-recognized Michigan entrepreneur. Patten, his former academic advisor, is a professor of engineering at Western Michigan University and a pioneer in ductile regime machining of brittle materials. With Ravindra and Patten at the helm, Micro-LAM promises a technology allowing manufacturers to increase productivity and profitability with higher quality materials.

“It’s exciting to see this locally-grown firm get off the ground, and to imagine where it may be in the years to come,” said Battle Creek Mayor Dave Walters. “We are proud to have them start and continue their innovative journey in Battle Creek.”

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Battle Creek Unlimited is a private, non-profit corporation which serves as the economic development organization for the City of Battle Creek. Battle Creek Unlimited facilitates regional wealth creation through human, economic, and community development activities.