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Wind startup lands \$1.9M

By [Tom Henderson](#)

Jennifer Baird, whose reputation for raising seed and angel capital grew while she was CEO at **Accuri Cytometers Inc.**, is to announce today she has closed on an angel round of \$1.9 million for her new Ann Arbor company, **Accio Energy Inc.**

Though considered an angel round, it will include \$125,000 from one of Ann Arbor's newest venture capital firms, **Resonant Venture Partners LLC**, which was formed last year to provide early-stage funding to tech startups.

The round includes \$1.4 million in new financing to go with previously announced financing from the **First Step Fund** in Detroit, **Automation Alley** in Troy, the **University of Michigan's Frankel Commercialization Fund**, a seed and angel fund run by students at UM's **Ross School of Business**, and local angel investors.

Accio has developed prototypes of a device that creates electricity from wind without the need for wind turbines and their giant, extremely expensive blades. Water is pumped through recycled aluminum tubes as the wind blows. The flow of water creates a charge, in theory akin to the charge created in thunderheads as water droplets rise and fall.

Instead of forming bolts of electricity, Accio's device is intended to feed electricity back into the grid.

"We are pleased investors continue to appreciate the truly innovative nature of our aerovoltaic wind energy system," Baird told *Crain's*.

Accio also announced that Robert Buckler, retired president and COO of **Detroit Edison**, had joined its board, as had Thomas Kinnear, an active angel investor and executive director of UM's **Zell Lurie Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies**.

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