



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **Grand River Aseptic Manufacturing Closes \$9.8 Million Fundraising Effort**

*Proceeds utilized for facility expansion and job growth in fulfillment of new contracts*

**Grand Rapids, Mich., June 10, 2014** —West Michigan's life science community has just been significantly bolstered by a multi-million dollar capital infusion into Grand River Aseptic Manufacturing (GRAM). Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS) of Michigan led the \$9.8 million investment round, supported by other Michigan and Indiana based investors. Investment banking services for this debt and equity fundraising effort were provided by principals of The Charter Group, acting as registered securities agents of M&A Securities Group.

GRAM is a state-of-the-art contract manufacturer that provides manufacturing services for the aseptic filling of vials and syringes for the pharmaceutical market. "We are delighted with the strong investor response, especially by MERS," said Tom Ross, GRAM President. "Their considerable support, in combination with the backing from many private investors in our community, is a strong indicator that we're headed in the right direction. This funding enables us to expand our capabilities, improve our facility, and advance our customer reach, all while creating more highly technical, high-paying jobs in West Michigan. We have a great company, fantastic employees, and a bright future."

MERS of Michigan is one of the 200 largest pension funds in the U.S., with a nearly \$9 billion investment program. "We are proud to be investing in Michigan's renaissance," said Jeb Burns, MERS Chief Investment Officer. "By having a large, diversified portfolio, we have the ability to seek superior risk-adjusted returns among numerous global investment options. GRAM represents a unique opportunity right here at home – world class talent, a blue chip roster of customers, and advanced manufacturing that will lead our state's economy. We're excited to grow alongside this Michigan company."

Dale Grogan, Vice President at The Charter Group, added, "We first started working with GRAM when they opened the doors in 2011. We have been thrilled to grow with them over the past few years and are excited about this new funding and what it will bring as GRAM moves to the next level. GRAM continues to prove itself as a growing, high-value member of West Michigan's biotech community, and we're pleased to be a part of it."

### **About GRAM**

GRAM is a leading contract manufacturer of sterile injectable drugs, approved by the FDA for aseptic manufacturing with and without terminal sterilization. The company specializes in aseptic vial filling and finishing for clinical trial materials and commercially manufactured products. With a state-of-the-art cleanroom and highly trained staff, GRAM offers services including sterile product development and manufacture, lyophilization, terminal sterilization, vial and syringe filling, as well as analytical and microbiological services. *For more information about GRAM, visit [grandriverasepticmfg.com](http://grandriverasepticmfg.com).*

### **About MERS of Michigan**

MERS of Michigan is a nonprofit organization, independent from the State, which has helped provide retirement plans for municipal employees for more than 65 years. MERS delivers one-stop access to shared professional retirement services (plan governance, administration, portfolio management, investment options, participant education, customer service, legal counsel, actuarial services, and plan compliance, including tax qualification. MERS administers more than 2,000 plans represented by 800

Michigan municipal members and more than 100,000 participants, with total assets of nearly \$9 billion. *For more information about MERS of Michigan, visit [mersofmich.com](http://mersofmich.com).*

### **About The Charter Group**

Founded in 1989, The Charter Group is recognized as one of the Midwest's premier investment banking firms, with offices in Michigan and Indiana. The firm is uniquely positioned to successfully guide clients through buy, sell and capital raise transactions for companies ranging from \$10 million to \$250 million in enterprise value.

Unlike many M&A advisors, Charter professionals have attained key securities registrations with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), including the Series 7, 62, 63, 65, 79 and 82 licensures. Charter team members have also achieved the Certified Valuation Analyst (CVA) designation from the National Association of Certified Valuators and Analysts, which requires rigorous standards of professionalism, expertise, objectivity, and integrity in the field of business valuation. These licensures and certifications reflect the firm's commitment to providing high quality and professional M&A advisory services, and demonstrate its commitment to clients in terms of reporting responsibilities and regulatory compliance. *For more information about The Charter Group, visit [charter-group.com](http://charter-group.com).*

Securities transactions conducted through M&A Securities Group, Inc. Member FINRA/SiPC, a separate entity from The Charter Group.

###

### **For more information, please contact:**

Abby Brant  
Lambert, Edwards & Associates  
(616) 258-5772 or (616) 233-0500  
[abrant@lambert-edwards.com](mailto:abrant@lambert-edwards.com)