

**Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative  
Innovation Ecosystem Working Group**

August 10, 2:00 - 3:00pm

Zoom Conference

**Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Laura Teicher, Forge  
Sean Killam, MassMEP  
Israel Soibelman, Lincoln Labs  
Leslie Greis, Kinefac  
Megan Marzalek, MassTech Collaborative  
Robby Bitting, MassChallenge Boston  
Vinit Nijhawan, Mass Ventures  
Julie Chen, UMass Lowell

**STAFF:**

Helena Fruscio-Altsman, MA EOHED  
Christine Nolan MassTech Collaborative  
Meghan Abella-Bowen, MassTech Collaborative  
Farhad Vazehgoo, MassTech Collaborative

**Welcome and Introductions**

Christine Nolan welcomed attendees and a roll call was taken.

**Approval of Minutes**

Leslie Greis introduced a motion to approve the March 11, 2021 Innovation Working Group minutes, seconded by Julie Chen, and was approved unanimously.

**CAM update**

Meghan Abella-Bowen provided an update on the MassBridge project and Advanced Manufacturing Training.

**MassBridge:**

- The program is moving forward with curriculum development aligned with the institutes. Key competencies include:
  - o Data Analytics
  - o Maintenance and troubleshooting
  - o Communication skills
  - o Process control
  - o Quality control
- Initial courses to be piloted in the fall.

- Will continue to work with industry to validate we have the right competencies covered in the program.
- Assessing equipment needs and value of tying industry credentials to programming.
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#### **Advanced Manufacturing Training Grant:**

- Administration of Advanced MFG training program being moved from HED to MassTech
- MassTech will be releasing a solicitation for the training funds soon.

#### **Building the Ecosystem**

Christine Nolan provided an update to the Massachusetts Manufacturing Mash-Up, a statewide conference to showcase technology, bring together OEMs and SMEs, and to showcase resources available to manufacturers. The event is taking place on September 28, 2021 at Polar Park in Worcester.

#### **Event follow-up**

- Will we continue to build on the Mash-Up and should consider next steps. How can we track the success of the program? Are there actions we can take 4-6 month after the event to line up opportunities?
- Could we track the number of SMEs joining the supply chain?
  - o FORGE is doing this with Rapid Pitch event using Bitly and QR codes.
  - o Being done M2I2 tracks via the # of jobs, # of collaborations.

#### **Innovation Working Group Update:**

Farhad Vazehgoo presented an update on M2I2 and the LEAPS

#### **M2I2 update**

- M2I2 project overview:
  - o Over \$72M invested to date.
  - o 5 new grants totaling over \$4.8 M approved last month.
  - o As of July 30<sup>th</sup> we have over \$8M in FY'22 pipeline.

#### **AIM Photonics LEAP Investment**

- Total investment on AIM projects = \$19.8M, LEAP = \$11.2M
- Focus on standardized access (equipment/resources)
- Creation of a portal system to access the centers.
- Focus on industry engagement (use of the centers)
- **ACTION** – Goal is to expand the portal model to the other programs (Fabric Centers, etc.)

## **MMAP**

Christine Nolan presented an overview of the new MMAP program. The MMAP program, launched in June, 2021, was successfully launched with good participation. Currently applications in review with the plan to announce in early October

## **Semiconductor Funding**

- **ACTION** – As the allocation progresses – we should think about briefing the MA delegation about our plans (Appropriations on the House Side)

## **Next steps**

The next meeting of the AMC board will be September 8<sup>th</sup> and the next working group meetings will be mid-November.

## **Materials and Exhibits Used at this meeting:**

- Draft Minutes – March 11, 2021 Innovation Ecosystem meeting minutes
- Presentation: Innovation Ecosystem Working Group, August 10, 2021