

**Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative
Innovation Ecosystem Working Group**
November 16, 9:00 - 10:00am
Zoom Conference

Minutes

Attendees:

Carlo Canetta, MITRE
Laura Teicher, Forge
Sean Killam, MassMEP
Joseph Kunze, S12
Leslie Greis, Kinefac
Robby Bitting, MassChallenge Boston
Vinit Nijhawan, Mass Ventures
Julie Chen, UMass Lowell

Guest:

Susan Feindt, Analog Devices

STAFF:

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

Julie Chen introduced a motion to approve the August 10, 2021 Innovation Working Group minutes, seconded by Leslie Greis, and was approved unanimously.

CAM update

Christine Nolan shared a CAM update.

- The Massachusetts Manufacturing Mash-Up event was a success. The event drew 600+ participants with over 300 companies represented. The event featured 40 speakers, 37 exhibitors, and 12 academic institutions. Secretary Kennealy, Lt. Governor Polito and good representation from the legislature were in attendance to speak and for the manufacturing caucus awards.

Meghan Abella-Bowen provided a talent and workforce development update.

MassBridge:

- Fall 2021 – The program is piloting 9 revised manufacturing technology courses across five community colleges impacting 176 students.

- High School Awareness module program continues to move forward. Two high school teachers have been recruited to develop interactive content for the program.

Advanced Manufacturing Training:

- MassTech released an Advanced Manufacturing Training grant solicitation on August 16, 2021.
- Grants to be awarded by Nov. 30, 2021.

Branding and Marketing:

- Initial work on a marketing strategy had begun. Key objectives will focus on driving:
 - awareness to the opportunities that exist in manufacturing,
 - statewide rebranding initiative,
 - Workforce to enter into manufacturing, and
 - Workforce training programs to raise skill levels for entry level and incumbent workers.

Innovation Updates:

Christine Nolan provided an update on Innovation programs.

MMAP

- The MMAP program, launched in June, 2021. The program is focused on preparing the supply chain and building the manufacturing ecosystem. The program is focused on filling the gap for our small to medium manufacturers. We received over 50 applications totaling over \$10M in requests. Thirteen applications were selected from across the state for funding and will be announced in the near future.

M2I2

- M2I2 2021 end of year update – Twenty-one applications were submitted this year and 13 were approved for funding. At this time we currently have 28 active projects. Since its inception, the M2I2 program has awarded over \$79M and created 800+ jobs in Massachusetts. The program has been expanded from the initial 4 Manufacturing USA Institutes to 12 Institutes.

Innovation Challenges and Opportunities:

Christine asked the questions:

- How do we upgrade our SMEs with investment technology?
 - How do we support startup with their manufacturing needs so they become are next SME/OEM?
 - What are our focus industries to deepen specialization?
 - We are strong on startup, relatively weak in scale up/commercialization. How do we help move IP out of our federal labs and academic institutions to have a positive impact on our economy?
- ACTION: Small group volunteered to continue the conversation: Julie Chen, Joseph Kunze, Sean Killam, Vinit Nijhawan, Leslie Greis, and Susan Feindt.

Next steps

The next meeting of the AMC board will be December 9th and the next working group meetings will be in February.

Materials and Exhibits Used at this meeting:

- Draft Minutes – August 10, 2021 Innovation Ecosystem meeting minutes
- Presentation: Innovation Ecosystem Working Group, November 16, 2021