

# MINUTES

## *TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTY EIGHTH MEETING*

of the

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

of the

## **MASSACHUSETTS TECHNOLOGY PARK CORPORATION**

November 16, 2022  
Zoom Videoconference

The Two Hundred and Seventy Eighth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation (“Mass Tech Collaborative” or “MassTech”) was held on November 16, 2022, via Zoom videoconference pursuant to notice duly given to the Directors and publicly posted on the Mass Tech Collaborative website with corresponding notice provided to the Office of the Secretary of State and the Executive Office for Administration and Finance.

The following members of the Mass Tech Collaborative Executive Committee were present and participated: Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Mike Kennealy (represented by Mark Fuller of the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development), Christina Royal, Julie Chen, Paige Fetzer-Borelli, and Bogdan Vernescu.

The following members of the Mass Tech Collaborative staff were present: Ben Linville-Engler, Brian Noyes, Brianna Wehrs, Carolyn Kirk, Holly Lucas Murphy, James Byrnes, Jason Hoch, Jennifer Saubermann, Kelly Kleanthous, Lisa Erlandson, Keely Benson, Megan Marszalek, and Michelle Sweet.

Also in attendance were Patrick Lynch and Tye Brady.

Mr. Fuller conducted a roll call attendance for the Mass Tech Executive Committee, observed the presence of quorum of the Executive Committee, and called the meeting of the Mass Tech Executive Committee to order at 2:32 p.m.

### **Approval of Minutes**

After a period of discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously and without abstention VOTED by a roll call vote:

**The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation, acting on behalf of the full Board pursuant to section**

**three of Chapter Forty J of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, hereby adopts the Draft Minutes of the Two Hundred and Seventy Seventh Meeting of the Executive Committee, held on August 24, 2022, via Zoom teleconference, as the formal Minutes thereof.**

**Agenda Item I          Report of the Chairperson**

Mr. Fuller stated that Governor Baker signed the \$3.76B economic development bill, which included money for housing production and economic development dollars for a variety of different sectors, including \$75M for broadband infrastructure, and the bill codifies the Center for Advanced Manufacturing (“CAM”) and the MassCyberCenter in state statute. Unfortunately, there were not bonding dollars included in the bill, which included matching dollars for federal projects for MassTech. There is therefore more work to come in the next session.

**Agenda Item II          Report of the Executive Director**

Ms. Kirk stated how happy she was to see that the economic development bill was signed. She went on to report that MassTech continues to fire on all cylinders across all five of its divisions. In addition to the codification of CAM and the MassCyberCenter, the bill included a \$5M reserve for the robotics industry to flow through MassTech. We are pleased that the legislature responded to the expressed needs of industry for dedicated funding and programming for the robotics industry. Pat Larkin and the team at the Innovation Institute will be putting forth their recommendations in conjunction with the Robotics Industry Steering Committee on how best to utilize these new funds for highest impact on the growth of the robotics cluster in Massachusetts.

Ms. Kirk went on to state that we have unprecedented dollars flowing through Mass Tech. She then highlighted five areas where there will be upcoming activity in the next few months:

1. MassTech has material changes to our Fiscal Year 2023 budget (“FY23”), and those changes will need approval from the board. The changes include the new CAM line item for \$1.2M, and we received a \$600,000 grant for the development and implementation of the New England Regional Defense Industry Collaboration (“NERDIC”) Regional Workforce Bridge, a workforce training model for advanced manufacturing technicians that is based on the existing MassBridge Program. MassTech will act as the workforce voice for NERDIC introducing its program to the five other New England states participating in the NERDIC and will provide technical support and tools to implement the program. We also have changes in personnel counts that we need to incorporate, as we need to ramp up faster than our original FY23 budget plan indicated.
2. In addition, we are taking over the contracting for the M2I2 program from the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, which means grants from that program will now come before this Board for approval.
3. Broadband constitutes the largest flow of dollars for MassTech, and we will be coming to the Board soon to seek approval for a number of expenditures. We would like to get about \$20M under contract by the end of this year or early next year. A brief discussion ensued regarding the high-level structure of the broadband programming including planning grants,

partnership programs, and infrastructure. The speed at which funds must be deployed was also discussed.

4. MassTech's other divisions are also planning to present a number of awards to the Board for approval in the coming months. There will be several awards coming in December from the MassCyberCenter, the Innovation Institute, and CAM. The unprecedented funding is translating into a higher volume of awards, so MassTech will be aggressive in pushing out awards during the fiscal year.
5. We plan to provide an update and recommendation on the Middle Mile procurement in the near future. Staff are reviewing responses and are engaging in post-submission rounds of questions and interviews.

Ms. Kirk then sought feedback from Board members on how best to present key information about the awards coming forth. A discussion was had regarding format for presenting award information. Ms. Kirk closed by noting that MassTech is fulfilling the vision she has for the organization, which is to be relevant and indispensable to the work of advancing the tech and innovation economy of Massachusetts. She thanked Secretary Kennealy, our Chairman Mark Fuller and the Board members for their support.

### **Agenda Item III Innovation Institute – Tech & Innovation Ecosystem Grant Program (motion item)**

Mr. Byrnes stated that the Innovation Institute is seeking approval of a total of \$2,052,767 from the Tech & Innovation Ecosystems Awards Fund Program and \$150,000 from the Regional Priority Grant Program to support a \$4,367,985 two-year project in the BlueTech sector that will create BlueTech OCEAN at MITRE. Mr. Byrnes noted that this project will accelerate the growth of the BlueTech sector by expanding access to marine data, as well as remote modeling and simulation capabilities; opening access to MITRE's connected and collaborative BlueTech testing environment; and accelerating BlueTech workforce development. He went on to explain that the project will create BlueNERVE – a dedicated and networked BlueTech architecture will enable connectivity between regional institutions, connecting physical lab spaces and organizations together. MITRE will also build out the BlueTech Lab's test tank by enabling the acceleration of commercial growth opportunities in undersea sensing, communications, and autonomy. The additional capabilities tied to the tank will also generate data for BlueNERVE and improve the testing of commercial products. Finally, MITRE will work with universities to organize Blue Data challenges, launch projects to enable students in underrepresented communities to build underwater Remotely Operated Vehicles and host projects and experiments in the MITRE BlueTech lab. Mr. Byrnes explained that the Innovation Institute plans to stay connected with MITRE around the business development activity. Questions related to project partners, the workforce development component, and financial commitment by MITRE were asked and answered.

After a period of discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously VOTED by roll call vote:

**The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation (“Mass Tech Collaborative”), acting pursuant to the authority**

**delegated under Chapter 40J of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, does hereby authorize the following grant award under the Technology & Innovation Ecosystem Awards Program (RFP 2022-JAII-03) to MITRE to support the BlueTechOpen Collaborative Experimentation and Acceleration Network, as presented, and expend not more than:**

- **\$2,052,767 to be funded through the Scientific and Technology Research and Development Matching Grant Fund (M.G.L. Chpt. 40J, Sec. 4G); and**
- **\$150,000 to be funded through the John Adams Innovation Institute Fund (M.G.L. Chpt. 40J, Sec. 6A) for operational costs.**

**The grant award to MTIRE is subject to the execution of a grant agreement in a form and with terms approved by Mass Tech Collaborative’s Executive Director.**

#### **Agenda Item IV Innovation Institute Grant – Center for Women & Enterprise (motion item)**

Ms. Marszalek then presented an opportunity to award \$180,000 over 3 years to the Center for Women & Enterprise (“CWE”). She noted that this proposed award is the result of a study conducted by the Massachusetts Competitive Partnership, the Boston Mayor’s Office of Women’s Advancement, and Deloitte Consulting LLP to better understand the entrepreneurial landscape for women in Massachusetts. She then explained that there are significant systemic gaps that prevent women from reaching their full entrepreneurial and economic potential. Ms. Marszalek outlined several common challenges that emerged from the study. To address these challenges a coalition of Massachusetts economic development agencies – the Innovation Institute, MassDevelopment and Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation – will utilize a combined investment of \$750,000 over 3 years to enhance and scale services across Massachusetts while creating a connected community for female founders and business owners. MassTech’s investment will enable CWE to: (1) increase access to women-owned business certifications by expanding its relationships with Entrepreneur Support Organizations across the state and developing a pipeline and referral network for WBENC (Women’s Business Enterprise National Council) certification; expand services to Western MA and reach women business owners in all regions of the Commonwealth; and build an online hub (website) to connect female entrepreneurs with mentors, resources, and peer support.

After some discussion with the board members, Ms. Marszalek noted that this grant intersects with other Innovation Institute programs and grantees, including a grant the Innovation Institute made to The Capital Network, which is helping female founders. We have made the connection between the two groups, and will continue to make other connections as appropriate.

After a period of discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously VOTED by roll call vote:

**The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation (“Mass Tech Collaborative”), acting pursuant to the authority delegated under Chapter 40J of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, does hereby authorize a grant award to the Center for Women & Enterprise (“CWE”) to enhance and scale programming for female entrepreneurs and business owners, as presented,**

**and to expend not more than \$180,000 over three years, to be funded from the John Adams Innovation Institute Fund (M.G.L. Chpt. 40J, Sec. 6A).**

**The grant award to CWE is subject to the execution of a grant agreement in a form and with terms approved by Mass Tech Collaborative's Executive Director.**

**Agenda Item V Center for Advanced Manufacturing – Mass Manufacturing Innovation Initiative (M2I2) – MIT Digital Manufacturing of Advanced Aerospace, Defense, and Medical Components (motion item)**

Mr. Linville-Engler provided an overview of the M2I2 program, indicating that we have the first award for approval by the Board now that MassTech has taken over contracting from EOHED. He discussed the Manufacturing USA Institutes, indicating that we have worked extensively with many of them. Through the M2I2 program, the state has awarded over \$83M to date, which has leveraged in excess of \$320M from other sources. MassTech's budget for the program for FY23 is \$6.3M. Mr. Linville-Engler explained that the structure of the program is similar to our Collaborative Research & Development Matching Grant Program in that it is a rolling solicitation and requires some level of matching dollars. Projects are evaluated based upon their potential economic development impact and must be appropriately aligned with the Commonwealth's economic development strategy.

There was a discussion regarding the various Manufacturing USA Institutes, including those that relate to clean energy and the life sciences industry, and the role that other quasi-public agencies play in this program. It was discussed that MassTech will make appropriate referrals when a project touches other areas of expertise such as clean energy (to the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center) and life sciences (to the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center), but we can offer our expertise to those agencies.

Mr. Linville-Engler then presented the proposed award to MIT for its Digital Manufacturing of Advanced Aerospace, Defense and Medical Components (DMAC) project. He indicated that at the May 2022 MassTech Board Meeting, a \$2,000,000 Innovation Institute Collaborative Research & Development Matching Grant was approved for a portion of this project. As mentioned at that meeting, it was anticipated that a second \$2,000,000 award from the M2I2 grant program would be coupled with the R&D Grant Program Funding for this project. Mr. Linville-Engler then provided a brief overview of the project, as it had previously been discussed with the Board in May. This award will support an R&D and prototyping program for integrated and digitally seamless manufacturing methodologies at MIT. This program will combine additive manufacturing methods with complementary machining and metrology techniques and augmented and virtual reality technologies to establish end-to-end R&D capability for digital production of advanced metal and polymer components. The two grants from MassTech along with a \$4M matching investment from MIT and its partners will result in the establishment of two lab spaces at MIT.

After a period of discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously VOTED by roll call vote:

**The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation ("Mass Tech Collaborative"), acting pursuant to the authority**

**delegated under Chapter 40J of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, does hereby authorize the following grant award under the Massachusetts Manufacturing Innovation Initiative (“M2I2”) to be funded through a contract with the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development to disburse funds from item 7002-8007 of Chapter 228 of the Acts of 2018:**

- **to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000, to establish two laboratory facilities for the Digital Manufacturing of Advanced Aerospace, Defense, and Medical Components, as presented.**

**The grant award is subject to the execution of a grant agreement in a form and with terms approved by MassTech Collaborative’s Executive Director.**

Having determined that there was no other business to discuss, Mr. Fuller adjourned the meeting at 3:27 p.m.

A TRUE COPY

ATTEST: (Secretary)

DATE:

**Materials and Exhibits Used at this Meeting:**

1. Draft Minutes for the August 24, 2022, Mass Tech Collaborative Executive Committee Meeting
2. Presentation- Innovation Institute – Tech and Innovation Ecosystem Grant Program – MITRE Blue Tech Open Collaborative Experimentation and Acceleration Network (OCEAN) (motion item)
3. Presentation- Innovation Institute Grant – Center for Women and Enterprise (motion items)
4. Center for Advanced Manufacturing – Massachusetts Manufacturing Innovation Initiative (M2I2) – MIT Digital Manufacturing of Advanced Aerospace, Defense, and Medical Components (motion item)