

Innovation Ecosystem Working Group

August 17, 2020

2:30 - 3:30pm

Minutes

In attendance: Julie Chen, Robby Bitting, Leslie Greis, Carlo Canetta, Venit Nijhawan, Isreal Soibelman, Laura Teicher, Megan Marszalek, Joseph Kunze, Carolyn Kirk, , Farhad Vazehgoo, Helena Fruscio-Altman, Scott Martin, and Meghan Abella-Bowen.

Welcome and Introduction:

Helena welcomed the attendees.

Approval of minutes:

April and July Innovation Ecosystem meeting minutes approved unanimously.

MERT Update:

Farhad provided a MERT update, highlighting the revised mission of the MERT and organizational structure within the Innovation Ecosystem Working Group.

NSF Grant Update:

Julie provided an overview of the NSF Future Manufacturing Networks Proposal. The goal of the project is to capture and institutionalize lessons learned from the MERT.

MERT Grant Update:

Helena provided an update on the grant program. Since its inception, the program has received eighty-eight (88) application, twenty eight (28) have been approved to contract totaling \$13.6 million in awards.

Ecosystem Assessment Discussion:

Farhad reviewed the previous goals identified by the group in the spring 2020:

1. **Better Understand System:** Drill down to the next level of Innovation Ecosystem Chart.
2. **Industry Input:** Form three Roundtables of OEM, SME, and New Ventures.
3. **Start-up User Experience:** Discuss start-ups in innovation phase; test and understand process of manufacturing here in MA, does this need intervention?

To better understand the Manufacturing Ecosystem and how the working group should focus its energies a strawman manufacturing ecosystem proposal was presented for discussion. The strawman ecosystem focuses on how existing communities (e.g. Start-ups, SMEs, and Large OEMs) interact with stakeholders within the system.

Conversation focused on the need to clearly define the stakeholders (who they are and why/how they are involved) and how elements associated with stakeholders contribute to the

system. A heat map will be created for each community (Start-up, SMEs, and Large OEMs). Working group members are asked to provide input on the heat maps for each community; identifying key stakeholders and elements within each community. These heat maps will then be analyzed to identify overlaps and gaps within the system.

Next Steps:

- Heat map templates for Start-ups, SWMs, and Large OEMs will be shared with the group for input.
- Feedback will be incorporated into a Manufacturing Ecosystem model and heat maps to share at the Sept. 15th AMC meeting.

Intrapreneur Challenge:

Farhad provided an update on the Intrapreneur Challenge program. Challenge 1 has been completed and Speakeasy Travel Supply was selected as the winner for its general use face mask. Challenge 2 is currently in progress and is focused on Innovations to support reopening. Applications for Challenge 3 are currently being accepted. The challenge will focus on Innovations to slow the spread of COVID 19.