

Innovation Ecosystem Working Group

April 22, 9:30 - 11:00am

Zoom Conference

Draft Minutes

In attendance: Julie Chen, Robby Bitting, Leslie Greis, John Killiam, Joseph Kunze, Venit Nijhawan, Isreal Soibelman, Laura Teicher, Megan Marszalek, Dan Traficonte (for Liz Reynolds), Damon Cox, Ira Moskowitz, Farhad Vazehgoo, Helena Fruscio-Altman, and Meghan Abella-Bowen.

Welcome and Introduction:

Ira Moskowitz welcomed the attendees.

Review of the Manufacturing Emergency Response Team and Funding Program:

Ira provided an overview of the Manufacturing Emergency Response Team (M-ERT) program including the mission, stages in the process, and initial companies that have pivoted to producing PPE. Helena provided an overview of the M-ERT Funding Program that had been established.

Members shared how COVID 19 has affected their organization.

Reviewed the original agenda of the working group and discussed if COVID 19 should cause any changes in the groups mission or priorities.

Previous Goals

1. **Better Understand System:** Drill down to the next level of Innovation Ecosystem Chart
 - A. Understand I/O for each box, the nuances (e.g., sorting by MRL), value/GDP of each segment, etc.
 - B. Special attention to Life Sciences if not its own session.
 - C. Inventory all the organizations in the ecosystem.
 - D. Prioritize areas and determine actions that add more value for MA manufacturers.
2. **Industry Input:** Form three Roundtables of OEM, SME, and New Ventures. Guiding Questions:
 - A. Given R&D you do in the state, what would you need from the innovation ecosystem to manufacture in Mass?
 - B. What do you manufacture here; why or why not?
 - C. How do you make those decisions?
3. **Start-up User Experience:** Discuss start-ups in innovation phase; test and understand process of manufacturing here in MA, does this need intervention?

Suggested Pivot:

- **The work of the M-ERT most overlapped with this working group's focus.**
- **Use the M-ERT process as a case study of the effect of the ecosystem as it existed. Include input from all users:**
 - Analyze the companies that submitted into the portal (coded not ready, almost ready, ready). What were the attributes that successful manufacturers had that allowed them to pivot.
 - Examine the role of the ecosystem players in supporting manufacturers who successfully pivoted to produce PPE (MassMEP, Program Managers, M-ERT Program Office, Funding, etc.)
 - Evaluate the impact of providing regulatory and testing capabilities access to manufacturers in their ability to pivot.
 - How do we define/describe manufacturer's abilities and what impact does this have on how we connect manufacturers to innovators?