

# **Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative**

October 21, 2020, 10:30am - 12:30pm, Zoom Meeting  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:** Mike Kennealy, Mike Tamasi, Rosalin Acosta, Eric Lesser, Jeffery Roy, Mark Fuller, Steve Pike, Carla Reimold, Damon Cox, Megan Marszalek, Venit Nijhawan, John Regan, Carolyn Kirk, David Cruise, John Killam, Lauren Liss, Elisabeth Reynolds, Israel Soibelman, Jim Heppelmann, Emily Reichert, Leslie Greis, Julie Chen, Stephen Boyd, Robby Bitting, Joseph Kunze, Julie Chen, Allan Brown, Ken Warnock, Carlo Canetta,.

**Staff/Guests:** Farhad Vazehgoo, Meghan Abella-Bowen, Helena Fruscio-Altsman, Scott Martin, Robert LePage, Jennifer James, Marina Zhavoronkova, Alex Stolyanov, Lionel Kimerling, Alex Melnikow, Peter Goetz, Stephanie Swanson, Elizabeth Storm, David Heckman Julie Diop, James Oliveira, Donna Ramos, Annie Walsh, Brianna Wehrs, and Brian Norris.

## **Welcome & Introduction**

**10:30-10:35am**

Helena Fruscio Altsman welcomed attendees, conducted a roll call, and approved the June 23, 2020 Minutes.

## **Welcome Remarks by Co-Chair – Michael Tamasi**

**10:35-10:40am**

Mike Tamasi welcomed attendees and thanked the AMC for their continued work to support the manufacturing ecosystem in Massachusetts.

## **Welcome Remarks by Co-Chair - Secretary Kennealy**

**10:40-10:55am**

Secretary Kennealy welcomed AMC members and guest to the quarterly meeting. He acknowledged the continued work of the AMC and MERT over the past quarter to support and grow manufacturing in Massachusetts. He noted the work of the AMC over the past 6 months:

- Thirteen new MERT grants totaling \$6.5M were awarded bringing the total MERT funding to \$16.2M,
- The work of the MERT was featured in a documentary on manufacturing during the pandemic,
- The M2I2 program has awarded a \$2.6M grant for a LEAP center focused on integrated photonics in western MA.
- Announced the launch of the Center for Advanced Manufacturing (CAM). The Center's role is to bring the AMC Vision and Strategic Plan to life and coordinate all advanced manufacturing investments.

## **MassBridge Grant Presentation – Farhad Vazehgoo**

**10:55-11:25am**

Farhad Vazehgoo provided an overview of the MassBridge program. The objective of the MassBridge Program is to develop and test a well-connected, state-based training and career pathway model - a "Bridge" for technicians that meets the talent needs of the Manufacturing USA Institutes and can be deployed nation-wide.

- Guest Speakers:
  - Alexander Stolyanov, Chief Executive Officer of Advanced Functional Fabrics of America (AFFOA) highlighted how the MassBridge program will support the development of an integrated training system. The program will support the creation of new advanced manufacturing curriculum focused on preparing the next generation of advanced manufacturing technicians in Massachusetts.
  - Dr. Lionel C. Kimerling, Director of the Microphotonics Center at MIT discussed how MassBridge will guide development of curriculum in the state. By collaborating with the Manufacturing USA Institutes and industry the MassBridge program will work to sustain and grow the technical workforce that can meet the need for technicians in the future.

**Manufacturing Community Updates** **11:25-11:35am**

**AMC Working Group Update – Farhad Vazehgoo** **11:35-12:25pm**

### **Innovation Ecosystem**

Farhad Vazehgoo provided an overview of the mapping approach being applied by the working group. Utilizing a heatmap process, each community of the ecosystem (Start-ups, SMEs, and Large OEMs) will map its strengths, challenges, and opportunities by stakeholder. Initial work has focused on the Start-ups and SME communities. Members of the working group will continue to work through the process over the next quarter and will provide an update on takeaways at the January AMC meeting.

Carolyn Kirk provided a MERT update:

- The MERT team was awarded a \$500,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant. Project RESPOND – Rapid Execution for Scaling Production of Needed Designs, will help Massachusetts manufacturers pivot their operations to address emerging crises.
- Intrapreneurship Challenge Update – The Intrapreneurship Challenge is a business accelerator program that connects and focuses Massachusetts companies as they pivot from production capabilities to meet the emerging demands of the COVID -19 pandemic. Two challenges have been completed, and the third challenge will culminate on October 30<sup>th</sup> with teams providing their “Final Pitch” to judges. Winners receive a \$25,000 cash prize.

### **Business Environment**

Farhad Vazehgoo reviewed existing ecosystem reports on the Massachusetts Manufacturing Business Environment. The existing reports are dated and are written from the point of view of the author, not the impact on MA. The working group wants to understand what other factors are critical to the manufacturing business ecosystem. To address this need the group is exploring options to commission a study to identify critical elements that make manufacturing in Massachusetts competitive.

### **Talent and Branding**

Farhad Vazehgoo discussed how the efforts of the Talent and Branding working group align with activities being developed through the MassBridge grant. Both groups are focused on developing a state-wide communication strategy that reimagine manufacturing from “Dark, Dirty, & Dangerous” to “Safe, Smart, &

Sustainable. The goal is to develop a marketing strategy that promotes the opportunities in advanced manufacturing, is compelling to young people looking for careers with a sense of purpose, and highlights the emerging technologies and innovation in the industry.

- Manufacturing Challenge Competition – February 2021
  - Promote and celebrate manufacturing in MA during Engineering Week. Pilot a high school student competition where students are challenged to create a short video promoting careers, educational programs, or technologies in advanced manufacturing.

**One Stop – Update**

- The CAM website will integrate all of the advanced manufacturing websites together & will bring all the necessary resources together in one place.

**Next Steps**

**12:25-12:30pm**

**2021 Full AMC Meeting Schedule:**

- Wednesday, January 13, at 12:00pm
- Thursday, May 13, at 12:30pm
- Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm
- Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm

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

1. Draft Minutes – June 23, 2020 Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative meeting minutes
2. Presentation – Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative, October 21, 2020