

**APPROVED MINUTES**

***TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTY NINTH MEETING***

of the

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

of the

**MASSACHUSETTS TECHNOLOGY PARK CORPORATION**

December 7, 2022  
Zoom Videoconference

The Two Hundred Seventy Ninth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation (“Mass Tech Collaborative”) was held on December 7, 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), Julie Chen, Rupa Cornell, and Bogdan Vernescu. The following members of the Mass Tech Board of Directors were present and participated: Joseph Dorant and Michael Greeley.

The following members of the Mass Tech Collaborative staff were present: Carolyn Kirk, Holly Lucas Murphy, Lisa Erlandson, Jennifer Saubermann, Ben Linville-Engler, Brianna Wehrs, Brian Noyes, Ben Stevens, Pat Larkin, Michael Baldino, Keely Benson, Kelly Kleanthous, Jason Hoch, James Byrnes, Max Fathy, Sharron Wall, Fatimah Baeshen, and Megan Abella-Bowen.

Mr. Fuller conducted a roll call attendance, observed the presence of quorum of the Mass Tech Executive Committee, and called the meeting of the Mass Tech Executive Committee to order at 2:38 p.m.

**Agenda Item I      Approval of Minutes**

After a period of discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously and without abstention VOTED by 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 Eighth Meeting of the Executive Committee, held on November 16, 2022, via Zoom teleconference, as the formal Minutes thereof.**

**Agenda Item II Report of the Chairperson**

Mr. Fuller stated that the next few weeks would be focused on transition, with Governor Baker intent on a smooth handoff to the new administration in January. He then handed the floor to Ms. Kirk.

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

Ms. Kirk indicated Mass Tech had an event in Ashfield, convening the community to celebrate the “last inch” of the Last Mile. She also stated she will be serving on Governor Healey’s transition team over the next few months. Finally, Ms. Kirk stated that the format of the Board presentations has changed, and now the format is standardized for all presenters. She then turned the floor back to Mr. Fuller, who asked Mr. Larkin to present.

**Agenda Item IV Innovation Institute – Tech and Innovation Ecosystem Grant Program – Western New England University (“WNE”) FinTech Incubator Initiative (“FTI”) (motion item)**

Mr. Larkin stated that the approval item before the Executive Committee is to authorize funding from the Scientific and Technology Research and Development Matching Grant Fund, under which two programs are run: the Collaborative Research Matching Grant Program and the Tech and Innovation Ecosystem Support Program. This particular award would be under the Ecosystem Support Program, the third proposal the Board has considered under that program. He indicated this is a new and novel opportunity WNE is building, and there is a great deal of excitement around it. The opportunity is to fund the building of a state-of-the-art FinTech incubator that will be supported by a talented group of professionals at WNE. The incubator will help small businesses in Pioneer Valley, as well as serving as a technical resource for local FinTech start-ups and a platform for research collaboration with local enterprises. WNE is engaging a coalition of partners, and the local Chambers of Commerce, who will provide a pipeline of businesses seeking advice and will serve as a feeder system for the incubator. Mr. Larkin stated the expectation is that the incubator will deal with up to 100 projects over the three year period, built on the strengths of the students at the business school. Funding will also support the development of on premise computing infrastructure, which will enable the development of FinTech products at a cost that is up to 25% lower than other options. Funds will also support the build out of offices and collaboration space. He then reminded the Board that the proposal was vetted through an intensive external review process.

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 under the Technology and Innovation Ecosystem Awards Program (RFP 2022-JAII-03), in an amount not to exceed \$1,370,000, to Western New England University for its FinTech Incubator Initiative, as presented. The grant award is to be funded through the Scientific and Technology Research and Development Matching Grant Fund (M.G.L. Chpt. 40J, Sec. 4G), and 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 – Massachusetts Manufacturing Innovation Initiative (M2I2) – UMass Lowell and RaGE Systems LLC (motion item)**

Mr. Linville-Engler presented the next approval item on behalf of the Center for Advanced Manufacturing. He indicated that RaGE Systems, and UMass Lowell as their academic partner, are developing an Advanced Radio Frequency (RF) Product Manufacturing Line. This project will result in the development of a state-of-the-art manufacturing and test line for the RaGE Systems’ RF products, including 5G base stations and millimeter-wave sensors. Currently a percentage of RaGE Systems’ products are built outside of the United States and bringing this capability in-house will significantly improve product quality, time to market, and costs. He indicated they are looking to add ten new hires for the project, and they have a comprehensive workforce training strategy. Mr. Linville-Engler stated that the funding is capital dollars, going primarily to manufacturing and test equipment, and RaGE Systems will match the funding Mass Tech provides. The project duration is approximately 18 months.

After a period of discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by roll call vote, with Ms. Chen abstaining:

**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 University of Massachusetts at Lowell in an amount not to exceed \$496,503.36, for RaGE Systems, LLC, to establish an Advanced Radio Frequency (RF) Product Manufacturing Line, as presented. This grant is to be funded through the Massachusetts Manufacturing Innovation Initiative (“M2I2”) 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.**

**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.**

**Agenda Item VI      Center for Advanced Manufacturing – Advanced Manufacturing Training Grants (motion item)**

Ms. Abella-Bowen next presented for the Center for Advanced Manufacturing, stating that the Advanced Manufacturing Training Program supports the development of a fully coordinated manufacturing training system that helps meet the employment needs of manufacturers across the state. She indicated that the program is funded through an annual state appropriation. Ms. Abella-Bowen indicated that the focus of this project would be to provide training and support services to unemployed and underemployed individuals, including veterans, women, and minorities. She explained that for the FY23 Advanced Manufacturing Training Grant Program solicitation, MassTech will fund four collaborating consortia hubs. One grant will be awarded per consortia hub and the lead applicant must be a MassHire Workforce Board. Among the many benefits participating regions would see would be those such as development of strategies to support job search, job placement, and post placement case management, and development of an Advanced Manufacturing Training Strategic Plan for their region. Ms. Abella-Bowen stated that it is expected that through these grants, 37 training programs will be offered, 425 participants are expected to be enrolled in training, with 298 participants expected to be placed in employment upon completion of training. She then explained a breakout of expectations and funding by each region.

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 (“MassTech Collaborative”), acting pursuant to the authority delegated under Chapter 40J of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, does hereby authorize the following grant awards under the Advanced Manufacturing Training Program (RFP No. 2023-CAM-02), to be funded from Line Item 7002-0020 of the Commonwealth’s Fiscal Year 2023 budget:**

- **To the MassHire North Central Workforce Board in an amount not to exceed \$525,000;**
- **To the MassHire Metro North Workforce Board in an amount not to exceed \$525,000;**
- **To the MassHire Greater New Bedford Workforce Board in an amount not to exceed \$475,000; and**
- **To the MassHire Hampden County Workforce Board in an amount not to exceed \$495,000.**

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

**Agenda Item VII      Center for Advanced Manufacturing – New England Regional Defense Industry Collaboration (“NERDIC”) Project – MIT Office of Open Learning (motion item)**

Ms. Abella-Bowen next presented on the New England Regional Defense Industry Collaboration (“NERDIC”) Phase 2 grant. She stated that funding for this program comes from

the Department of Defense Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (“OLDCC”), and the Vermont Department of Economic Development, the lead entity on the project, provided a sub award to Mass Tech Collaborative. She stated that NERDIC is comprised of the six New England states, brought together to coordinate the growth of defense-related businesses across these states. NERDIC focuses on an approach built around collaboration and multidisciplinary solutions to address the challenges identified by the New England defense manufacturing sector. NERDIC has established a collaboration to assist New England defense manufacturers in developing the capabilities that are required to meet the needs of our regional defense supply chain. Ms. Abella-Bowen indicated that through its pre-pandemic Phase I work, NERDIC focused on Cybersecurity Training, and Industry 4.0 technology. They are now focused on two key questions: 1) how do we meet supply chain demands to increase efficiency utilizing Industry 4.0 technology, and 2) how do we address the lack of a skilled workforce that is ready to meet these demands? This sub award focuses on these questions in Phase II, where they have asked Mass Tech to focus on the talent pipeline. Building on the work we did with the MIT Office of Open Learning through the MassBridge project, MassTech is seeking to subcontract with our partners at the MIT Office of Open Learning to meet our requirements under the sub award.

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 Mass Tech Collaborative’s Executive Director to expend an amount not to exceed \$172,000 for work to be performed by MIT’s Office of Open Learning as part of the New England Regional Defense Industry Collaboration (NERDIC): Phase II project, as presented. The funding for this project is to come from an award to the Mass Tech Collaborative from the Vermont Department of Economic Development, and is subject to the execution of a contract in a form and with terms approved by Mass Tech Collaborative’s Executive Director.**

**Agenda Item VIII    MassCyberCenter – Cybersecurity Range Grant – Mass Bay Community College (motion item)**

Next Mr. Fathy presented for the MassCyberCenter. He stated that the grant being proposed today is an important part of the efforts at the MassCyberCenter to create opportunity across Massachusetts for access to cyber ranges and security operations center services. As discussed at other meetings, MassCyberCenter is attempting to establish an interconnected network of cyber ranges and security operations centers under the governance of a non-profit called CyberTrust Massachusetts. Mr. Fathy indicated that this grant would fund Mass Bay Community College, which is creating a cyber range on its main campus in Wellesley, Massachusetts to serve students in its cybersecurity associates degree program and related academic programs. The cyber range will also serve higher education partners, high schools, and Greater Boston employers. The award will support capital expenses to convert a Physics Lab into the cyber range, buildout meeting and office space, and make renovations for relocated lab and staff office space. Mass Bay plans to

construct the facility in summer 2023 and then begin dedicated range operations in the facility in the fall. The cyber range will focus on training students, including those from underrepresented populations, to enter the cybersecurity workforce and upskill workers at local businesses, municipalities, and other organizations. They are estimating they will be able to put 250 students and workers through the cyber range each year.

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 (“MassTech Collaborative”), acting pursuant to the authority delegated under Chapter 40J of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, does hereby authorize a grant award under the Request for Responses for Entities Interested in Establishing Cybersecurity Centers of Excellence (RFR No. 2022-Cyber-02) to MassBay Community College to be funded from line item 1599-2039 of Chapter 102 of the Acts 2021, An Act Relative To Immediate Covid-19 Recovery Needs, in an amount not to exceed \$498,162.45 for capital expenditures related to the construction of a Cyber Range at MassBay Community College.**

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

**Agenda Item IX      Mass Broadband Institute (“MBI”) – Additional Funding for  
Broadband Mapping – Applied Geographics (motion item)**

Mr. Baldino next presented for MBI. He stated that MBI launched the public beta version of the state broadband mapping portal on December 1, 2022, further elaborating that MBI has been leading the effort to provide statewide broadband coverage maps beginning earlier this year, funded through a federal EDA planning grant awarded to EOHEd with funds flowing to Mass Tech. Applied Geographics (“AppGeo”), with subcontractor Connected Nation, supported the development of the Massachusetts Broadband Map. Mr. Baldino explained that the FCC is required to produce broadband coverage maps at the address level. In addition, the FCC is required to have a challenge process whereby anyone can submit a challenge to addresses on their coverage map. Additional funding is now needed to support MBI’s work with the consulting team and the ability to submit the second round of challenges related to broadband availability data in the FCC’s new maps. This is critically important because the final amount of broadband infrastructure funding allocated to Massachusetts under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will be based on the next version of the FCC’s maps. Mr. Baldino also stated that in the event that MBI does not use all of the funds approved for Applied Geographics for the FCC challenge process, funds would be used for the mapping portal.

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 Mass Tech Collaborative’s Executive Director to expend an amount not to exceed \$245,805 for additional work to be performed by Applied Geographics for the broadband mapping project, as presented. The funding for this project is to come from amounts allocated to the Mass Tech Collaborative from the 2020 Coronavirus Economic Recovery Plan, and is subject to the execution of a contract amendment in a form and with terms approved by Mass Tech Collaborative’s Executive Director.**

Having determined that there was no other business to discuss, Mr. Fuller adjourned the meeting at 3:54 p.m.

A TRUE COPY

ATTEST: (Secretary)

DATE:

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

1. Draft Minutes for the November 16, 2022 Mass Tech Collaborative Executive Committee Meeting
2. Innovation Institute – Tech and Innovation Ecosystem Grant Program – Western New England University FinTech Incubator Initiative (motion item)
3. Center for Advanced Manufacturing – Massachusetts Manufacturing Innovation Initiative (M2I2) – UMass Lowell and RaGE Systems LLC (motion item)
4. Center for Advanced Manufacturing – Advanced Manufacturing Training Grants (motion item)
5. Center for Advanced Manufacturing – New England Regional Defense Industry Collaboration (NERDIC) Project – MIT Office of Open Learning (motion item)
6. MassCyberCenter – Cybersecurity Range Grant – Mass Bay Community College (motion item)
7. Mass Broadband Institute – Additional Funding for Broadband Mapping – Applied Geographics (motion item)