

**APPROVED MINUTES**

***ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST MEETING***

of the

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

of the

**MASSACHUSETTS TECHNOLOGY PARK CORPORATION**

March 6, 2024

2 Center Plaza, Suite 200, Boston, MA

and by Zoom Videoconference

The One Hundred and Thirty First Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation (“Mass Tech Collaborative” or “Mass Tech”) was held on March 6, 2024, at 2 Center Plaza, Suite 200, Boston, MA, and by 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 Board of Directors were present and participated: Secretary of Economic Development Yvonne Hao, Julie Chen, Rupa Cornell, Scott Dellicker, Ernesto DiGiambattista, Joseph Dorant, Paige Fetzer-Borelli, Richard Lester, Pam Reeve, Jeffrey Stein, Alok Tayi, Nate Walton, and Maeghan Silverberg Welford.

The following members of the Mass Tech Collaborative staff were present: Carolyn Kirk, Michael Baldino, Keely Benson, Mark Halfman, Pat Larkin, Ben Linville-Engler, Marc Leonetti, Holly Lucas Murphy, Christine Nolan, John Petrozzelli, Jennifer Saubermann, Brianna Wehrs, John Wetzel, Joseph Downing, Farhad Vazehgoo, Sharron Wall, Dana Nolfé, James Byrnes, Lily Fitzgerald, Rachel Stachowiak, and Paula Foley.

Also present were Ian Chin, Director of Data Initiatives for the Executive Office of Economic Development, and Beth Boland, Partner at Foley & Lardner LLP.

Secretary Hao observed the presence of quorum and called the meeting of the Mass Tech Board of Directors to order at 2:34 p.m.

**Agenda Item I      Approval of Minutes**

Prior to voting on the minutes, Secretary Hao welcomed Ms. Boland to the meeting who will be joining the Mass Tech Board as a Director following her swearing in. After a period of brief discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously and without abstention VOTED by roll call vote:

**The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation, acting pursuant to section three of Chapter Forty J of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, hereby adopts the Draft Minutes of the One Hundred Thirtieth Meeting of the Board of Directors, held on December 6, 2023, at 2 Center Plaza, Suite 200, Boston, MA, as the formal Minutes thereof.**

**Agenda Item II      Report of the Mass Tech Collaborative Board Chair**

Secretary Hao discussed the status of the Economic Development Plan (“Plan”) and explained that legislation implementing the recommendations in the Plan had been filed the previous Friday. Secretary Hao noted that much of the focus of the legislation includes initiatives related to Mass Tech activities, including a Massachusetts-specific version of the federal CHIPS and Science Act Tech Hubs program, and includes investments in the Life Sciences and Climate Tech ecosystems. Secretary Hao explained that the legislation also includes provisions relating to Robotics initiatives, Advanced Manufacturing, Broadband, and the creation of an AI Hub. Secretary Hao stated that she was excited about the legislation and explained that the Commonwealth needs to make the investments described in the legislation in order to secure the state’s strong economic future.

Prior to asking Ms. Kirk for her report, Secretary Hao announced that she was changing Ms. Kirk’s title from Executive Director to Chief Executive Officer. This change, explained Secretary Hao, more accurately describes Ms. Kirk’s role at Mass Tech, and is consistent with the heads of the other quasi-public agencies under the Executive Office of Economic Development.

**Agenda Item III      Report of the Mass Tech Collaborative Chief Executive Officer**

Ms. Kirk began her report by introducing three (3) new Mass Tech employees: Rachel Stachowiak, Deputy Chief of Staff; Dana Nolf, Senior Strategic Communications Director; and Mark Halfman, Director of the NEMC Hub. Ms. Kirk then asked Mr. Halfman to provide a brief overview of his background which was followed by an update on recent NEMC Hub activities. Ms. Kirk indicated that the previous week, the NEMC Hub submitted fifteen (15) proposals to NSTXL on behalf of the NEMC Hub Coalition, which now includes more than one hundred seventy (170) member organizations. The fifteen (15) proposals, which were selected out of forty-three (43) originally proposed, represented the work of fifty-three (53) separate organizations and a combined total funding request of \$467 million. Ms. Kirk congratulated the entire NEMC team for completing this difficult and worthwhile undertaking. Mr. Linville-Engler confirmed it was a sprint to the finish to get all of the proposals completed and submitted on time, a feat not matched by some of the other Hubs.

Ms. Kirk then asked Mr. Larkin to present the next agenda item.

**Agenda Item IV      Innovation Institute – Tech and Innovation Ecosystem Grant Program – Lever – Mass Founders Network (motion item)**

Mr. Larkin explained that the Massachusetts Founders Network (“MFN”) is a statewide initiative and digital technology platform operated by Lever, Inc. that offers startups access to business acceleration services and this proposal represents an effort to scale the MFN. Mr. Larkin

then asked Ms. Sharron Wall to provide an overview of the proposal. Ms. Wall explained that the Innovation Institute is proposing to provide \$400,022 (representing two (2) years of capital funding) to add ten (10) new Founder Resource Channels to the digital MFN platform in order to increase memberships and connections within the entrepreneur ecosystem. These additional channels, explained Ms. Wall, will include pro-bono legal services, AI tools, a B2B Advisory, and a Start-up Job Board among others. Mr. Larkin concluded by indicating that the proposal will facilitate a new marketplace of services for start-ups at no cost with a focused regional impact in the area surrounding North Adams.

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 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 \$400,022, to Lever, Inc. to add Founder Resource Channels on the Massachusetts Founders Network, 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) - Irradiant (motion item)**

Ms. Nolan started the discussion of this agenda item by introducing Ms. Lily Fitzgerald who presented the proposal on behalf of the Center for Advanced Manufacturing (“CAM”). Ms. Fitzgerald explained that CAM was proposing a \$750,000 grant to Irradiant Technologies (through a contract with Activate) to support a capital build-out of an ultrafast 3D nanofabrication facility enabling next generation 3D photonic device architectures used in biomedical devices, solar photovoltaic systems, semiconductors, and telecommunications. With this investment, explained Ms. Fitzgerald, Irradiant will build a full-scale manufacturing line at its Waltham facility and expects to add twenty-two (22) technician-level jobs, with an additional eighty-eight (88) jobs over the next two (2) years. Ms. Fitzgerald stated that Irradiant identifies a potential market opportunity for this technology in excess of \$70 billion.

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

**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 Activate in an amount not to exceed \$750,000 support the capital build-out of an ultrafast 3D nanofabrication facility enabling next-generation 3D photonic device architectures at Irradiant Technologies, as presented. This grant is to be funded through the**

**Massachusetts Manufacturing Innovation Initiative (“M2I2”) through a contract with the Executive Office of Economic Development to disburse funds from item 7002-8047 of Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023. The grant award 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 VI Strategic Discussion – Key Metrics**

Ms. Kirk began the strategic discussion by distributing a document listing the Current FY24 Metrics for Mass Tech (as developed by the Office of Performance Management and Oversight (“OPMO”)) side by side with the Metrics included in the 2023 Economic Development Plan. Ms. Kirk opined that the OPMO Metrics serve to measure the effect of the investments that Mass Tech makes and not necessarily the effects that Mass Tech has on the economy, and that Mass Tech’s impact goes far beyond what is captured in the OPMO Metrics.

Secretary Hao then opened the discussion for input from the Board on how the two (2) sets of metrics align and if they measure what Board members consider should be measured. Discussion ensued on the challenges inherent in measuring the effects produced by an agency in a catalyst role, such as Mass Tech, and whether a third set of measures that are higher than the programmatic level measured by the OPMO Metrics, but not at the economic level measured by the Plan Metrics would serve as a useful bridge between the two.

Secretary Hao brought the discussion to a close by requesting that Board members provide examples to Ms. Kirk of suggested useful measures to track Mass Tech’s true impact and that further discussion on this topic would take place at future Board meetings.

There being no other business to discuss, Secretary Hao adjourned the meeting at 3:39 p.m.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST: (Secretary)

DATE:

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

1. Draft Minutes for the December 6, 2023, Meeting of the Mass Tech Board of Directors
2. Innovation Institute – Tech and Innovation Ecosystem Grant Program – Lever – Mass Founders Network (motion item)
3. Center for Advanced Manufacturing – Massachusetts Manufacturing Innovation Initiative (M2I2) - Irradiant (motion item)
4. Strategic Discussion – Key Metrics (presentation)