

# Innovation Ecosystem Working Group

July 13, 2020  
9:30 - 10:30am

## Draft Minutes

**In attendance:** Julie Chen, Robby Bitting, Leslie Greis, Carlo Canetta, John Killiam, Venit Nijhawan, Isreal Soibelman, Laura Teicher, Megan Marszalek, Liz Reynolds, Damon Cox, Kathie Mahoney, Paul Fortier, Farhad Vazehgoo, Helena Fruscio-Altman, Scott Martin, and Meghan Abella-Bowen.

### Welcome and Introduction:

Farhad welcomed the attendees.

### Review the focus of the working group:

The group reviewed the original goals established in January and discussed how the COVID emergency and the creation of the M-ERT might impact the work of the group moving forward.

### Previous Goals

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. Guiding
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:

1. **The work of the M-ERT most overlapped with this working group's focus.**
2. **Use the M-ERT process as a case study of the effect of the ecosystem as it existed. Include input from all users.**

### Define the group's goals/outcomes

What did we learn from M-ERT?

- About 30 firms were able to pivot to change their production during COVID-19. The M-ERT provides lessons learned about what it takes for a company to pivot quickly.
- Analyze the company's inherent ability to pivot. What support systems made it feasible?
  - Access to testing, support navigating the regulatory process, etc.
- The Working Group's goals should not be anchored to the M-ERT. The M-ERT can be used as a lens to inform and develop questions around short and medium term needs.
- When we look at our previous goals, at least points 2 and 3 are about getting new products by OEMs or start-ups manufactured in the state (beyond prototyping and piloting).
- Identify M-ERT like resources for innovators to bring critical solutions to market faster.
- For new start-ups/innovators - We need to increase awareness that they can make it here and increase manufacturers willing to work with innovators.
- Lots of manufacturing databases, but what is missing from every database is each companies capabilities. How can we operationalize this data?

- I see our goal as promoting innovation in the MA manufacturing base through the innovation ecosystem in the state. There are multiple subsets to this: Lessons from MERT, technology upgrading among our manufacturers, networking and connectivity between manufacturers and R&D (OEMs, SMEs, startups) to enhance manufacturing in the state.

Next Step – Define our goals

- Give group choices about the paths forward. What are the targets?
- Are we missing actors who are not currently at the table?
- What is the right next steps for this group?
- If you have information, please share with us before the August meeting.