

# **APPROVED MINUTES**

## ***TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHTY FIFTH MEETING***

of the

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

of the

## **MASSACHUSETTS TECHNOLOGY PARK CORPORATION**

January 17, 2024

Zoom Videoconference

The Two Hundred and Eighty Fifth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation (“Mass Tech Collaborative” or “Mass Tech”) was held on January 17, 2024, 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 Economic Development Yvonne Hao, Pamela Reeve, Julie Chen, Rupa Cornell, Joe Dorant, Paige Fetzer-Borelli, and Bogdan Vernescu. The following members of the Mass Tech Board of Directors were present and participated: Jeffrey Stein.

The following members of the Mass Tech Collaborative staff were present: Carolyn Kirk, Holly Lucas Murphy, Christine Nolan, Lisa Erlandson, Jennifer Saubermann, Ben Linville-Engler, Brianna Wehrs, Michael Baldino, Keely Benson, Lily Fitzgerald, Joseph Downing, James Byrnes, and Paula Foley.

Ms. Saubermann observed the presence of quorum and Secretary Hao called the meeting of the Mass Tech Executive Committee to order at 2:04 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 a 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 Eighty Fourth Meeting of the Executive Committee, held on October 26, 2023, by Zoom videoconference, as the formal Minutes thereof.**

Ms. Chen and Ms. Fetzner-Borelli joined the meeting following the approval of the minutes.

## **Agenda Item II Report of the Board Chair**

Secretary Hao began her first report of calendar year 2024 by thanking Ms. Kirk and the entire MassTech team for all the hard work undertaken in 2023. She noted that MassTech enjoyed huge wins on the federal front and described 2023 as a “transformational year” for the agency. Secretary Hao observed that today was the one year anniversary of her swearing-in as Secretary of Economic Development for the Commonwealth and expressed gratitude to the entire Executive Committee for their involvement and participation during this time. She noted that Governor Healey also appreciates the work that the MassTech team has done and is expected to mention MassTech’s significant federal awards during her State of the Commonwealth address this evening. Secretary Hao concluded by emphasizing the continued work ahead in 2024 to implement the recommendations and findings in the Economic Development Plan. She then turned to Ms. Kirk for her report.

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

Ms. Kirk began by discussing the recent full Board meeting held in December 2023, and thanked Board members for the valuable discussion at that meeting regarding MassTech’s go-forward mission, strategy, and organizational alignment. Ms. Kirk noted the important role that Board members play to advance MassTech’s mission and impact on businesses and residents in the Commonwealth. To emphasize this, Ms. Kirk then asked each Board member present to indicate and discuss one word that would professionally guide them in 2024. Each Board member then took turns explaining the significance of their chosen words. Ms. Kirk explained that this was an exercise she is doing with all of the Divisions and Departments of Mass Tech to kick off the year, and that having the members participate would mean a lot to the Mass Tech teams. Ms. Kirk concluded her report by emphasizing optimism for the upcoming year and the exciting challenges ahead in 2024.

Ms. Kirk then asked Ms. Nolan to present the next agenda item.

## **Agenda Item IV Center for Advanced Manufacturing – MA Manufacturing Accelerate Program (MMAP) – MassMEP (motion item)**

Ms. Nolan explained that the Center for Advanced Manufacturing (“CAM”) was requesting Board approval of a MMAP grant in the amount of \$2,744,982.48 to the Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership (“MassMEP”). MassMEP will distribute this grant to fifteen (15) small to medium sized manufacturers in the Commonwealth to help them prepare their businesses to manufacture new technologies and innovations that align with key industries. Through these investments (all of which are subject to a 1:1 cost share match), explained Ms. Nolan, the manufacturers will have access to new supply chain connections and new opportunities for growth. Under the MMAP, Ms. Nolan indicated, manufacturers are required to partner with non-profit organizations, institutions of higher education, or quasi-public agencies to help scale and effectively use the funds. Discussion then ensued on the important work MMAP does and the effectiveness of the program on supporting the growth of local manufacturers, as well as increasing employee wages and employability.

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 Massachusetts Manufacturing Accelerate Program (“MMAP”) (RFP No. 2024-CAM-01), to be funded from item 7002-8043 of Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 to the Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership (“MassMEP”) in an amount not to exceed \$2,744,982.48. 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.**

Ms. Nolan then introduced Ms. Fitzgerald and asked her to present the next two agenda items.

**Agenda Item V            Center for Advanced Manufacturing – MA Manufacturing Innovation Institute (M2I2) – AM Batteries, Inc. (motion item)**

Ms. Fitzgerald explained that the proposed grant to AM Batteries, Inc. (“AM Batteries”) in the amount of \$2,272,500 – through a contract with Worcester Polytechnic Institute (“WPI”) –will allow AM Batteries to build a pilot scale production line of its novel solvent-free, dry electrode manufacturing technology. This new technology, explained Ms. Fitzgerald, is both environmentally friendly and cost competitive. Unlike conventional slurry coating techniques to coat electrodes, Ms. Fitzgerald explained that AM Batteries’ technology does not use toxic solvents and is more energy and space efficient. As part of the project, AM Batteries will collaborate with WPI on battery material research, as well as with three (3) Massachusetts-based companies to accelerate product innovation: 6K Energy, Koura, and Factorial Energy. In addition, Ms. Fitzgerald indicated that AM Batteries expects to add sixteen (16) new jobs from this investment in 2024, and an additional sixty (60) in 2025 if the production line is successful.

After a brief period of discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by a roll call vote, with Mr. Vernescu 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 Worcester Polytechnic Institute in an amount not to exceed \$2,272,500 to support a pilot scale production line of AM Batteries’ novel, solvent-free, dry electrode manufacturing technology, as presented. This grant is to be funded through the Massachusetts Manufacturing Innovation Institute (“M2I2”) through a contract with the Executive Office of Economic Development to disburse funds from item 7002-8025 (formerly 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 Mass Tech Collaborative’s Executive Director.**

**Agenda Item VI            Center for Advanced Manufacturing – MA Manufacturing Innovation Institute (M2I2) – Clean Crop Technologies, Inc. (motion item)**

Turning to the next CAM agenda item, Ms. Fitzgerald explained that the proposed M2I2 grant to Clean Crop Technologies, Inc. (“Clean Crop”), through a contract with Western Massachusetts Economic Development Council, will allow Clean Crop to validate its “Clean Current” technology which uses electricity to generate cold plasma to remove contaminants from seeds and other foods. This technology, explained Ms. Fitzgerald, sanitizes seeds without harming them, is projected to provide a 10X reduction in energy consumption compared to traditional methods, and does not generate any chemical runoff. Ms. Fitzgerald indicated that the \$1,200,000 grant (when combined with a \$2.5 million match from Clean Crop) will allow Clean Crop to construct four (4) additional sanitizing machines that will significantly increase its capacity as well as add up to fifty (50) new jobs at its Holyoke location.

After a brief period of discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously and without abstention VOTED by a 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 to Western Massachusetts Economic Development Council in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000 to accelerate the validation of Clean Crop Technologies’ ‘Clean Current’ technology with the construction of four seed sanitation machines, as presented. This grant is to be funded through the Massachusetts Manufacturing Innovation Institute (“M2I2”) through a contract with the Executive Office of Economic Development to disburse funds from item 7002-8205 (formerly 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 Mass Tech Collaborative’s Executive Director.**

Ms. Kirk then asked Mr. Baldino to present the final agenda item.

**Agenda Item VII MA Broadband Institute – Digital Equity Partnerships Program – AgeSpan on behalf of the Mass Healthy Aging Collaborative Award Adjustment (motion item)**

Mr. Baldino explained that the proposed award adjustment to AgeSpan of \$355,182.12 is necessary due to incorrect formulas in the original budget (Excel) used to calculate the award to AgeSpan in June 2023. He noted that the incremental award is the result of correcting formulas which had inadvertently deleted certain personnel costs and associated indirect costs allocation. Mr. Baldino confirmed that MassTech Finance has verified the corrected amount. Mr. Baldino explained that AgeSpan, on behalf of the Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative, creates a support system for older adults to use internet services through digital literacy and education, outreach and adoption programs. The incremental award, explained Mr. Baldino, will bring the total MassTech award to AgeSpan to undertake these activities to \$3,305,780.97.

After a period of discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously and without abstention VOTED by a 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 an incremental award under the Digital Equity Partnerships Program (RFP No. 2023-MBI-04) to AgeSpan in an amount not to exceed an additional \$355,182.12, for a revised total award of \$3,305,780.97 to be funded from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), State Fiscal Recovery Funds. The award is subject to the execution of a grant agreement amendment in a form and with terms approved by MassTech Collaborative’s Executive Director.**

Following the vote, discussion ensued on MBI’s Digital Equity Partnership Program and the great outreach the partners are undertaking. Mr. Baldino discussed MBI’s future digital equity plans, including possible follow-on investments to existing partners and smaller awards to cover discrete gaps in outreach.

Having determined that there was no other business to discuss, Secretary Hao adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST: (Secretary)

DATE:

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

1. Draft Minutes for the October 26, 2023, Mass Tech Collaborative Executive Committee Meeting
2. Center for Advanced Manufacturing – MA Manufacturing Accelerate Program (MMAP) – Mass MEP (motion item)
3. Center for Advanced Manufacturing – MA Manufacturing Innovation Institute (M2I2) – AM Batteries, Inc. (motion item)
4. Center for Advanced Manufacturing – MA Manufacturing Innovation Institute (M2I2) – Clean Crop Technologies, Inc. (motion item)
4. MA Broadband Institute – Digital Equity Partnerships Program – AgeSpan on behalf of the Mass Healthy Aging Collaborative Award Adjustment (motion item)