

# **APPROVED MINUTES**

## ***TWO HUNDRED NINETIETH MEETING***

of the

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

of the

## **MASSACHUSETTS TECHNOLOGY PARK CORPORATION**

July 24, 2024

Zoom Videoconference

The Two Hundred Ninetieth 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 July 24, 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, Julie Chen, Rupa Cornell, Joe Dorant, Paige Fetzer-Borelli, Pam Reeve, and Bogdan Vernescu.

The following members of the Mass Tech Collaborative staff were present: Carolyn Kirk, Michael Baldino, Keely Benson, Pat Larkin, Marc Leonetti, Holly Lucas Murphy, Christine Nolan, Dana Nolfé, Jennifer Saubermann, Brianna Wehrs, Rachel Stachowiak, John Wetzel, Lily Fitzgerald, and Paula Foley.

Also in attendance was Sarah Stanton, Undersecretary for the Executive Office of Economic Development.

Secretary Hao observed the presence of a quorum and called the meeting of the Mass Tech Executive Committee to order at 2:03 p.m.

### **Agenda Item I      Approval of Minutes**

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, 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 Eighty Eighth Meeting of the Executive Committee, held on June 21, 2024, by Zoom videoconference, as**

**the formal Minutes thereof, and the Draft Minutes of the Two Hundred Eighty Ninth Meeting of the Executive Committee, held on June 27, 2024, by Zoom videoconference, as the formal Minutes thereof.**

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

Secretary Hao reported that the current legislative cycle ends on July 31, 2024, and discussions are continuing in the State House on the Mass Leads Act, the economic development bill filed by Governor Healey. Secretary Hao indicated that there is a lot of support among legislators for the Act and that she is hopeful for its passage. Secretary Hao noted the proposed legislation designates approximately \$3 billion for economic development programs, including many initiatives to be undertaken by Mass Tech.

Secretary Hao then asked Ms. Kirk for her report.

**Agenda Item III      Report of the Chief Executive Officer**

Ms. Kirk provided an update on the FY25 budget discussions currently underway at the State House. She indicated that Mass Tech is anticipating \$10 million in appropriations and that she is optimistic that will be the amount that will ultimately be put forth by the budget conference committee and approved by the Legislature.

Ms. Kirk then turned to a discussion of the line items from the Mass Leads Act that have a direct impact on Mass Tech. This includes core Mass Tech programs, such as M2I2 and the Collaborative Research and Development Matching Grant Program. She pointed out three new initiatives included in the bill: Applied AI Hub; TechHubs; and Robotics, as well as a number of earmarks added by the Legislature, such as funding for a quantum innovation hub in the Pioneer Valley region and a Financial Innovation and Research Center in Worcester. Ms. Saubermann then reported that the bill is currently being negotiated by a conference committee, which is tasked with reconciling the differing House and Senate versions. She indicated that to pass the Legislature, the conference committee report must be filed and voted on before midnight on July 31, 2024, which signifies the end of formal legislative sessions this year. Secretary Hao noted that discussions are already underway among the quasi-public agency leadership to determine which agency will tackle which pieces of the Mass Leads Act should it pass. Ms. Stanton added that Ms. Kirk and her team have worked well with the other quasies to partner and collaborate in support of the Commonwealth's technology ecosystems.

Ms. Kirk then asked Ms. Lily Fitzgerald to present the next motion items.

**Agenda Item IV      Center for Advanced Manufacturing – Massachusetts Manufacturing Innovation Initiative (M2I2): Fleet Robotics with partner MassMEP; florrent with partner MassMEP; and Tufts University for Food Engineering for Alternative Sustainable Technologies (motion item)**

Ms. Fitzgerald indicated that the Center for Advanced Manufacturing (“CAM”) was presenting a request for Executive Committee approval of three (3) items. The first item. Ms. Fitzgerald explained, was a \$365,000 award to Fleet Robotics for a project to develop five (5) robots with ultrasound detectors to detect cracks and corrosion in in-water boats at the Port of New

Bedford. Ms. Fitzgerald stated that this funding will allow Fleet Robotics to work with MassMEP and Quinn Fisheries to create new jobs. In addition, Ms. Fitzgerald explained, this technology will reduce the drag from biofouling, which can increase emissions by 25% - 90%.

Ms. Fitzgerald then stated that the second CAM item was a \$402,000 award to florrent technologies to create a pilot manufacturing facility for production of activated carbon input. The funding, explained Ms. Fitzgerald, will allow florrent to purchase equipment used to mill, filter, and process waste biomass into activated carbon. Ms. Fitzgerald stated that florrent will partner with MassMEP and the Pocasset Pokanoket Land Trust to create a demand for waste biomass from underrepresented farmers in Western Massachusetts.

The third and final item from CAM, explained Ms. Fitzgerald, was a \$2.1 million award to Tufts University Center for Cellular Agriculture to establish a future foods pilot innovation center including up-stream and downstream processing equipment and test kitchen. This facility, explained Ms. Fitzgerald, would be accessible to the community on a fee-for-service basis and will be designed to meet the unmet need for affordable, local cultivated meat production capacity. Ms. Fitzgerald indicated that the facility will also be used for hands-on training for undergrads and grads in the cultivated meat (i.e., cellular agriculture) field.

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 the following grant awards 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:**

- **to MassMEP in an amount not to exceed \$365,600 to support Fleet Robotics’ construction of their autonomous robotic systems for maritime maintenance for ongoing ship inspection and cleaning;**
- **to MassMEP in an amount not to exceed \$402,175 to support florrent’s build out of a pilot scale facility for the production activated carbon from waste domestic biomass as a core component of their supercapacitors; and**
- **to Tufts University in an amount not to exceed \$2,136,711.34 to establish Foodtech Engineering for Alternative Sustainable Technologies (FEAST), a first of its kind innovation center for prototyping and pilot-scale cultivated meat and foodtech manufacturing.**

**The grant awards are subject to the execution of grant agreements in a form and with terms approved by Mass Tech Collaborative's Chief Executive Officer.**

Having determined that there was no other business to discuss, Secretary Hao adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST: (Secretary)

DATE:

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

1. Draft Minutes for the June 21, 2024, Mass Tech Collaborative Executive Committee Meeting
2. Draft Minutes for the June 27, 2024, Mass Tech Collaborative Executive Committee Meeting
3. Center for Advanced Manufacturing – Massachusetts Manufacturing Innovation Initiative (M2I2): Fleet Robotics with partner MassMEP; florrent with partner MassMEP; and Tufts University for Food Engineering for Alternative Sustainable Technologies (motion item)