

UMass LSTF: Regional Innovation Centers Working Group Update and Preliminary Recommendations

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Situational Analysis

- The concept – initially put forward by the Governor – calls for the development of regional innovation centers that would provide infrastructure to promote regionally important elements of the life sciences sector (e.g., medical devices, manufacturing)

Situational Analysis

- The University's goal is to position UMASS as a strategic resource for the development of such regional life sciences innovation centers around the state – either as the lead or a principal partner with other institutions (e.g., BayState, Mass BioMedical Initiatives)

Situational Analysis

- Key characteristics of such centers would include:
 - responsiveness to clearly identified industry needs and interests
 - strong university-industry links
 - a focus on translational (not basic) research and commercial applications
 - shared facilities/equipment/services, incubators and the like
 - support from local government and life sciences community
 - external support for capital and operating funds

Assessment of Campus Activities and Plans

- All campuses are either currently active in developing a regional center and/or have plans to do so
- All centers typically involve partners from other UMASS campuses, private institutions and/or the life sciences industry

Assessment of Campus Activities and Plans

- **Amherst** – continued development of Pioneer Valley Life Sciences Institute (PVLSI) ...
 - partnership with BayState Medical Center in Springfield and EDC of Western Mass
- **Boston** – proposed Center for Personalized Cancer Therapy (CPCT) to be housed in the Venture Development Center
 - partnership with Dana Farber/Harvard Cancer Center

Assessment of Campus Activities and Plans

- **Dartmouth** – proposed Bioprocessing Center
 - potential partnership with Lowell campus, City of Fall River and South Coast Partnership
- **Lowell** – continued development of Mass BioManufacturing Center with Dartmouth, Mass Medical Device Center (M2D2) with Worcester, and incubator space
 - partnerships with Mass Biotech Council, MassMedic, Merrimack Valley EDC and several individual life science companies
- **Worcester** - potential opportunities to partner with Mass Biomedical Initiatives, WPI and City of Worcester

Progress to Date

- UMASS campuses have received about \$28 M in state funding to date to support the development of various regional innovation centers
- PVLSI, BioManufacturing and M2D2 were all recipients of President's S&T Funds (\$100-150 K each)
- PVLSI (\$3 M), BioManufacturing (\$150 K), and M2D2 (\$650 K) have all secured John Adams Innovation Institute Funds

Progress to Date

- BioManufacturing (\$15 M as part of Bio-Nano Manufacturing Facility) and Venture Development Center (\$5 M) were funded thru the 2006 Economic Stimulus Bill
 - Bio-nano facility in planning, construction to start 2009
 - VDC to open Fall 2008
- M2D2 (\$4 M for facility) has received state funding at the recommendation of the Mass Life Sciences Center
 - facility planning underway
 - project to start in 2008

Progress to Date

- BioProcessing (\$10 M for facility) has funds set aside in MORE program thru the 2006 Economic Stimulus Bill
 - proposal pending for release of funds
- Over \$50 M (primarily capital funding) proposed for regional innovation centers linked to UMASS in life sciences legislation
 - PVLSI in Springfield
 - ATMC in Fall River
 - centers in New Bedford and Taunton
 - matching grant program in Lowell, CPCT in Boston, etc.

Recommendations

- Pursue capital and operating funds thru Life Sciences legislation – typically \$5-10 M range for capital costs ... \$1-2 M annual operating costs per center.
- Explore other funding opportunities – next economic stimulus bill, Medical School's CTSA proposal to NIH, US Economic Development Administration funding, etc.

Recommendations

- Incorporate workforce development as an explicit element of the work program of each regional innovation center.
- Organize centers as a state-wide “network”, with potential role for an organization such as the Mass Tech Transfer Center to assist in connecting the centers, sharing resources, etc.