Berkshire Innovation Center Breaks Ground on BIC Tech Hub, Laying Foundation for Regional Innovation Cluster

Supported by $7.2 million in state funding and $1 million from the City of Pittsfield, the initiative will expand the BIC and bring together growing companies, emerging technologies, specialized equipment, and workforce development resources.

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PITTSFIELD, MA - The Berkshire Innovation Center (BIC) yesterday celebrated the groundbreaking of the BIC Advanced Manufacturing for Advanced Optics Tech Hub, a major investment in the infrastructure and partnerships needed to support the development of a regional innovation cluster in the Berkshires.

The initiative, supported by $7.2 million in funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and $1 million from the City of Pittsfield, represents a deliberate effort to bring together growing companies, complementary technologies, specialized equipment, research institutions, and workforce development programs in an environment where they can reinforce one another and create new opportunities for innovation and economic growth.

A central component of the initiative is a physical expansion of the Berkshire Innovation Center at the William Stanley Business Park in Pittsfield. The project will add roughly 12,000 square feet of new space, including specialized manufacturing and laboratory infrastructure designed to support emerging technologies and growing businesses.

The broader vision, however, extends well beyond the building itself. By concentrating companies, technical capabilities, talent, and training resources in one location, the BIC Tech Hub aims to strengthen collaboration, accelerate the commercialization of new technologies, and attract additional businesses and investment to the region.

"Massachusetts leads in innovation because we invest in our people, our businesses and the infrastructure they need to succeed," **said Governor Maura Healey**. "The Berkshire Innovation Center's new Tech Hub will build on the region's strengths in advanced manufacturing, help growing companies bring new technologies to market and create opportunities for good-paying jobs. We're proud to support this project and ensure that communities across Massachusetts can share in the growth of our innovation economy."

"Strong regional economies are built through partnerships that connect local businesses, communities, and the resources they need to grow," **said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll**. "This expansion is a great example of what we can accomplish when state and local partners work together to make targeted investments in economic development. By bringing companies, cutting-edge technology, and workforce training together in Pittsfield, we're helping create new opportunities for businesses and workers across the Berkshires."

The BIC Tech Hub is supported through the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative's Transformational Tech Hubs program, which seeks to strengthen the Commonwealth's position in emerging technology sectors by supporting regional innovation ecosystems.

The initiative builds on the BIC's existing role as a regional center for advanced manufacturing, technology commercialization, workforce development, and industry collaboration. The Tech Hub's initial focus on advanced optics and photonics is anchored by industry partners Electro Magnetic Applications (EMA) and Myrias Optics, whose growing capabilities and complementary technologies provide an important foundation for the emerging cluster. The new facility will support their continued growth while creating opportunities to attract additional companies, research partnerships, and talent to the region.

“A true launchpad for local business, the TechHubs program will transform how the BIC supports and convenes start-ups,” said **Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MassTech) CEO Carolyn Kirk**. “These funds will not only strengthen the regional technology ecosystem, but with time draw more interest to the Berkshires as a pipeline for tech talent.”

The project is also supported by a $1 million commitment from the City of Pittsfield, reflecting the City's continued investment in the William Stanley Business Park and its development as a center for innovation and advanced manufacturing.

“Thirty years ago, GE left Pittsfield and left a hole in the heart of the Morningside Community, but through many years of dedicated work, we are bringing life back to the William Stanley Business Park,” said **Mayor Peter Marchetti**. “The expansion of the Berkshire Innovation Center, through the Tech Hub, is a significant investment by the BIC, its partners, the city, the Healey-Driscoll Administration, and our state and federal partners. Through the creation of high-quality jobs and recruitment of new businesses, we are taking the right steps to build on our progress in growing our economy.”

“With the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center’s early investment, the BIC has become a vital pillar of Western Massachusetts’ innovation economy, laying the groundwork for a collaborative ecosystem that connects companies, researchers, and emerging talent with the resources to drive technological advancement and economic growth,” said **Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC) Interim President and CEO Liz Graham**. “The new BIC Tech Hub builds on that foundation, expanding access to specialized facilities, cutting-edge equipment, and industry partnerships that will empower local companies to scale, accelerate the development of emerging technologies, and create new pathways to skilled careers across the region.”

“After visiting the Berkshire Innovation Center just two weeks ago to announce a $735,000 federal earmark for the BIC’s Cybersecurity Learning and Testing Facility, I’m pleased to be back to celebrate the beginning of an exciting new chapter here at the BIC," **said Congressman Richard E. Neal**. “Manufacturing has played a prominent role in the western Massachusetts economy for decades. Today’s groundbreaking represents a significant step in continuing that tradition by strengthening partnerships with local employers and educational

institutions that are critical in providing the workforce development needed to meet the demands of a changing economy."

"Advanced manufacturing has an important role to play in the economic future of the Berkshires, and investments like this are how we make sure those opportunities are available right here in Western Massachusetts," said **State Senator Paul W. Mark**. "As someone who worked in the trades before serving in the Legislature, I understand the importance of investing in both our businesses and the skilled workers they depend on. I was proud to work alongside my colleagues in the legislative delegation and the Healey-Driscoll Administration to help secure this funding, and we will continue advocating for additional state investments to support the growth of advanced manufacturing in our region. The Berkshire Innovation Center has already shown what we can accomplish when we bring businesses, technology, and workforce development together. This expansion builds on that success by giving growing companies the resources they need, attracting new businesses and investment to the Berkshires, and creating more opportunities for our local workforce."

"We are building this City towards a strong future, and this groundbreaking today marks a significant advancement in Pittsfield's economic health. This is a great investment by our state and it requires true collaboration -- there are so many pieces of the puzzle that needed to come together to unlock this funding," said **Representative Tricia Farley-Bouvier**. "The Healey-Driscoll Administration saw the true promise of an investment here and heeded our call. I look forward to seeing what the BIC accomplishes with this Hub."

While the Tech Hub begins with established industry partners and emerging technology companies, its long-term objective is to create an environment that supports continued growth. As participating companies expand and new technologies develop, the concentration of expertise, infrastructure, and talent can help attract other businesses, entrepreneurs, and research partnerships.

The approach reflects a growing recognition that innovation is often accelerated through clusters of interconnected businesses, institutions, and resources. Rather than supporting companies in isolation, the BIC Tech Hub seeks to establish a foundation that can benefit a broader network of participants over time.

"The establishment of this Tech Hub is a watershed moment for both the BIC and the Berkshires as a whole. Building a regional innovation center requires a critical mass of technical capabilities, expertise, and access to testing/economic resources needed to build and grow companies and technologies. None of this is possible without a physical space for all of this to occur in," said **Justin McKennon, CTO of Electro Magnetic Applications (EMA).** "EMA has been a driving force behind the growth of the BIC since it first opened, and we believe strongly that this expansion will lead to many more success stories like ours out here."

Berkshire Innovation Center

“Today we broke ground in the park named for William Stanley, setting the stage for our region's future. The Berkshires technology base is more diverse than at any point in our history, and the BIC is establishing a permanent anchor for advanced industry. The BIC Tech Hub is the first step toward a thriving regional technology cluster. A new cybersecurity facility ensures our manufacturing and technology companies have critical support, while the William Stanley Business Park selection as a state clean energy ready pilot positions us to power that growth sustainably. Backed by strong initial backing, we are building lasting economic capacity: skilled jobs, new companies, and a technology corridor linking Boston, New York City, and Rochester,” said **Giovanna Fessenden-Fairbank, Assistant General Counsel IP at Marvell Technology and incoming BIC Board Chair**. “Turning this foundation into fully realized regional jobs requires sustained, ongoing investment and partnership. Few places can match what the Berkshires offer: meaningful technical innovation alongside world class arts and culture, with outdoor recreation right outside the door. We are building the innovation infrastructure that will help define the next century of the Berkshires.”

"This groundbreaking is an important milestone, but the building itself is only part of the story," said **Ben Sosne, Executive Director of the Berkshire Innovation Center**. "Our goal is to create the conditions for an innovation cluster to take root and grow here in the Berkshires. That means bringing together companies, technologies, equipment, talent, and training programs in ways that create opportunities none of them could achieve on their own. We're building infrastructure today that we hope will support innovation and economic opportunity across the region for years to come."

The expansion will provide new space for specialized manufacturing, technology development, and related activities while strengthening connections to the BIC's existing programs and facilities. The project is intended to serve as a platform for future collaboration, business growth, workforce training, and continued investment in the region. As construction moves forward, the BIC will continue working with industry, academic, government, and workforce partners to develop the relationships and capabilities that will help the Tech Hub achieve its long-term objectives.

About the Berkshire Innovation Center

The Berkshire Innovation Center is a nonprofit organization located at the William Stanley Business Park in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. The BIC supports innovation, technology development, advanced manufacturing, workforce training, and economic growth by connecting businesses, educational institutions, entrepreneurs, and community partners with the resources and relationships needed to succeed.

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