Utah Advanced Manufacturing Grant
Intellectual Property Initiative

Andrew W. Buffmire
Economic Clusters and Intellectual Property (IP)

- IP has become a major driver of enterprise value
- Enterprises need to protect proprietary advantages (IP)
- Industry clusters benefit from industry innovation
- In an established industry cluster single players rarely drive comprehensive beneficial industry innovation
- The goal is to balance individual enterprise interests against comprehensive industry innovation benefits
Sources: Cluster Based IP Innovation

- Government funded innovation
  - Direct R&D at Innovation Center
  - Educational Institutions R&D:
    - Research Universities: Utah; USU
    - Regional Universities: Weber; UVU
    - Applied Technology Colleges: OWATC; DATC; SLCC
  - Third Party Government Sponsored Research

- Industry Innovation: Patents and Trade Secrets

- Mechanisms for Cluster Benefit
  - Patent Pool – Pooled Cross Licensing
  - Enterprise or University Direct Patent Licensing
  - Enterprise Direct Trade Secret Licensing
Intellectual Property Cluster Strategy

- Importance of a trusted management structure
  - Independent institution oversight (Weber State)
  - Advisory Board with structured industry participation

- Patent Pool
  - Concept of “essentiality”
  - Relative valuations for technologies licensed into Pool
  - Royalties for technologies licensed from Pool

- Direct Licensing of Patents and Trade Secrets
  - Ongoing enterprise control must be assured
  - Cluster Role: Adoption of stakeholder standards and processes, introductions and operational support
IP Pooling and Cross-Licensing Benefits

- Provides for the quick dissemination and early review of best practices and efficiencies to cluster participants
- Allows for rapid commercialization of new technologies
- Enhances industry cluster competitiveness
- Enhances protections from improper foreign use
- Can provide enterprises economic benefit through licensing into additional non-competitive markets
Technology Areas of Initial Interest (Carbon Fiber)

- **New Materials**
  - New Fibers and Resins and Fiber/Resin integration processes
  - Nano materials and technologies
  - New university technologies (i.e. Spider Silk)

- **Non-Destructive Inspection (NPI)**
  - Enhanced quality control at decreased cost
  - OWATC Grant

- **Continuous Processes**
  - Lay-up Robotics
  - Continuous pressure processing
  - Continuous heat processing
IP Program Implementation Upon Grant Receipt

- Technology survey of potential participants
  - Educational Institutions and Enterprises
  - Utah Cluster enterprise participants
  - Prior Art and “White Space” Review and Analysis (Enclavix)
  - Identify and prioritize high value R&D target areas for cluster

- Establish technology commercialization licensing systems and processes (Weber State Oversight)

- Establish independent processes for pooled technology valuations and licensing royalties

- Develop and implement processes and incentives for new technology development of high value to cluster
Michael Best

- A Top 200 US Law Firm
- Represents over 20 Universities in technology commercialization including the University of Utah
- Patent Attorneys comprise over 1/3 of firm
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6995 Union Park Center, Suite 100
Salt Lake City, Utah 84047
Phone 801.833.0500    Fax 801.931.2500