Georgia Tech Center for Urban Innovation
Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts

INNOVATION SCALE-UP POLICY: ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY

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Georgia Tech's Interdisciplinary Influence in the Policy Arena

- Georgia Tech's Past (and Current) Roles:
  - Leading Through Research (myriad contract research relationships)
  - Collaborating with Industry and Government Agencies
  - Participating in Policy Processes (individual roles---discrete topics)
    - Scientific Advisory Committees (influencing public sector and industry policy priorities)
    - Industry Advisory Boards

Georgia Tech's Interdisciplinary Influence in the Policy Arena

- Georgia Tech's Expanded Roles:
  - Participating in Ongoing Policy Processes (collective expertise as policy advisers/cultivating stakeholder relationships)
    - Clinton Global Initiative America's Advanced Manufacturing Working Group (connecting stakeholders; setting priorities)
    - National Policy Commissions: exp. Miller Center Manufacturing Commission (policy recommendations)
    - White House's Advanced Manufacturing Partnership (AMP 1.0 and 2.0) Scale-Up Workstream (national policy frameworks)

Innovation Scale-Up Focus Areas of Policy Research

- In addressing the innovation scale-up challenges, GT researchers are focused along four major themes:
  - Supply chain development
  - Technology diffusion
  - Capital sources/access, entrepreneurship and
  - Connectivity (including research center development and stakeholder engagement) and transparency between supply chain partners

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Examples: Policy Solutions to Support Innovation Scale-Up

Qualified intermediary solutions and technology platforms to direct and connect SMEs to resources required for scale up (virtual or physical)

Minimizing barriers to technology adoption created by industry-imposed rigidity in the production and supply chain

Affordable and accessible market insight for SMEs to spur advanced manufacturing innovation and risk-managed investments.

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Example: Policy Context For Technology Diffusion

Expansion of Qualified Intermediary Solutions and/or Technology Platforms

Goal: To direct and connect SMEs to the range of diverse resources required for scale up.

Context:

- FIRST, successful supply chain development and technology diffusion programs and institutions vary geographically, by industry and/or by technology---one size does not fit all
- SECOND, the SME space represents dynamic groups of firms – they grow, get acquired, merge (or decline) with regularity. Supply chain development is not a program but a system.

Policy Targets: Scale-Up and Technology Development and Diffusion I

1. Technology diffusion resources accessible to SMEs in terms of cost and content of the technology offerings (“microlabs” providing a hands-on capability)

1. Market Insights (information on new markets and potential demand for emerging technologies in order to assess risk).

2. Certification of suppliers (testing, licensing, certification, & supply-chain matching)

Policy Targets: Scale-Up and Technology Development and Diffusion II

4. Asset mapping of regional R&D and workforce development resources

5. Connections to industry specific supply chains in other regions and as well as in global networks (expanding supply-chains across scales)

6. Real-time and up-to-date knowledge sharing about firms in the local/regional supply chain to aid in succession-planning, matching, and technology diffusion

Georgia Tech's Unique Role in the Innovation Policy Space

- Technology
  - **Proximity to Innovation:** we understand the potential applications of new materials, processes, and technologies
- Diffusion
  - **Credibility/Capacity as an Intermediary**: we connect industry, academia, and public sector innovators and producers to identify new markets and new capabilities (exp. MEP)
- Policy
  - **Intersection of Policy Processes and Technical Expertise:** atypical specialization in the technologies, innovation systems, and industrial networks

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