

Entrepreneurship in Materials Science and Engineering at MIT

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Department of Materials Science and Engineering

Massachusetts Institute of Technology



MIT Departments, Labs, and Centers



With Blood in Their Eyes
Thomas Cobb
University of Arizona Press



I&E Student Groups

 MIT Water Club



MIT FOOD AND AGRIBUSINESS
INNOVATION PRIZE



30,000

currently active companies
founded by MIT alumni



4.6 million
employees

+



\$1.9 trillion
in annual revenue

=

the GDP of the 10th
largest economy in the world

Our goal in DMSE is to promote *strategic* entrepreneurship

It is NOT

An end unto itself

A quick grab at low-hanging value

Out of line with academic interests

It IS

A search for the best path for a technology to reach the market

(a great program will kill off many incipient startups before they are invested)

A technology development path you commit yourself to for a potentially long time

(teach how true innovations build value for decades to come)

A manner of strategic thinking that connects engineers to social sciences

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We have entrepreneurship at all levels across the department:

- Undergraduate students
- Graduate students
- Postdocs
- Junior faculty
- Senior faculty

Materials-based startups are difficult:

- Difficult to meet VC standards
- Long development cycles
- High capital intensity

- **Infuses a go-long attitude**
- DMSE is recognized Institute-wide as a leader here: help set the strategic tone

Undergraduate Minor in Entrepreneurship & Innovation

Innovation: Moving Ideas to impact

Venture Engineering

Two 12-unit core subjects

E&I In Context

Leadership of Teams and Organizations

E&I Capstone

At least one subject in each of three domains

Jointly offered by the School of Engineering and Sloan School of Management with an advisory board across all five schools.



[ABOUT](#) [TEAM](#) [SUPPORT](#) [CONTACT](#)

Education & Practice

Research & Policy

Infrastructure & Community

News & Events

Resource Guide

3.207 Innovation and Commercialization



(Subject meets with 3.086)

Prereq: None

Units: 4-0-8

Explores in depth projects on a particular materials-based technology. Investigates the science and technology of materials advances and their strategic value, explore potential applications for fundamental advances, and determine intellectual property related to the materials technology and applications. Students map progress with presentations, and are expected to create an end-of-term document enveloping technology, intellectual property, applications, and potential commercialization. Lectures cover aspects of technology, innovation, entrepreneurship, intellectual property, and commercialization of fundamental technologies.

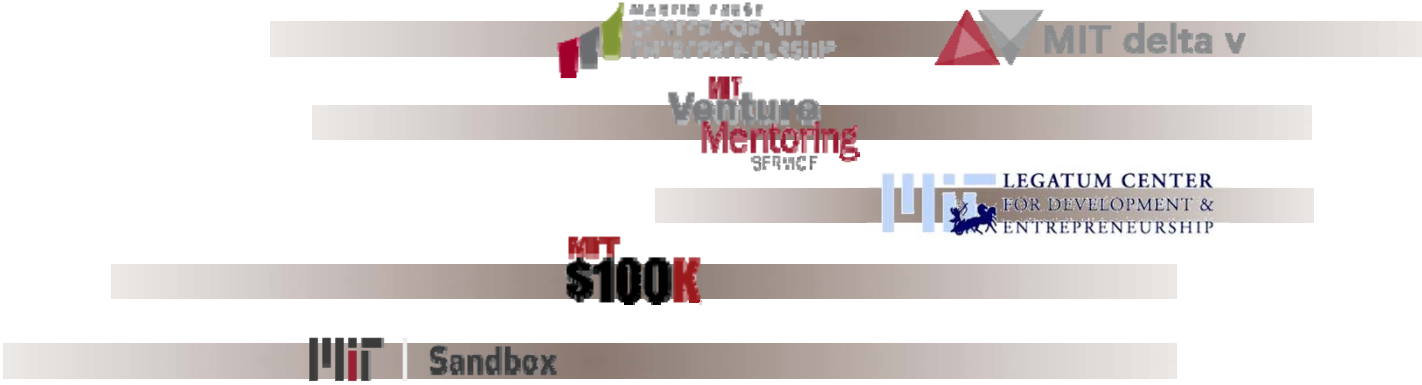
E. Fitzgerald

New course in Entrepreneurship and Innovation Minor

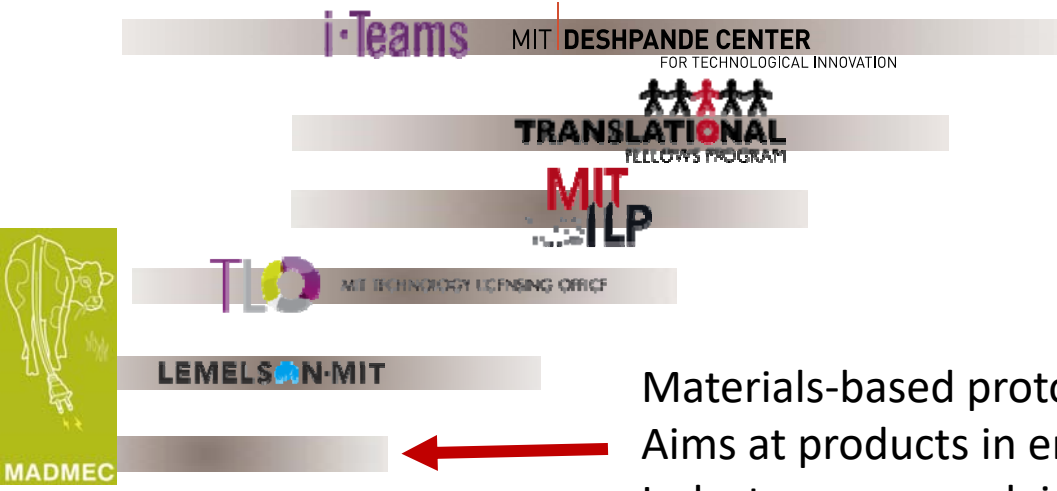
Moving Ideas to Impact

The MIT Innovation Initiative strengthens and evolves the pathways for the MIT community and its partners to develop ideas into solutions addressing today's most pressing challenges.

Stages of E&I Support on Campus



Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5	Stage 6	Stage 7
Inspiration/ Invention/ Idea Generation	Technology Development/ Idea Refinement	Commercialization Planning	Development of Business Plan	Real Company/ Project Formation	Early-Stage Growth	High Growth



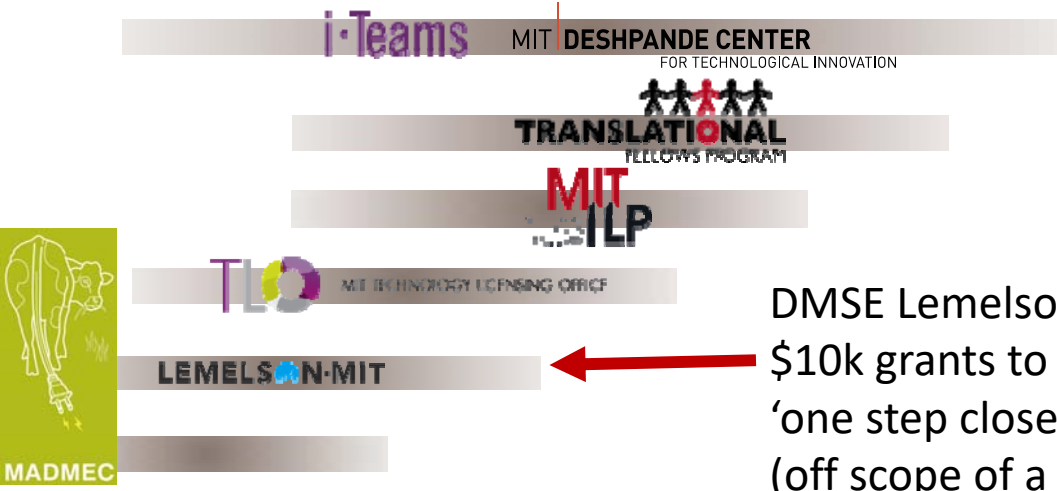
Materials-based prototyping competition
 Aims at products in energy, sustainability
 Industry sponsored, industry and entrepreneurial mentoring



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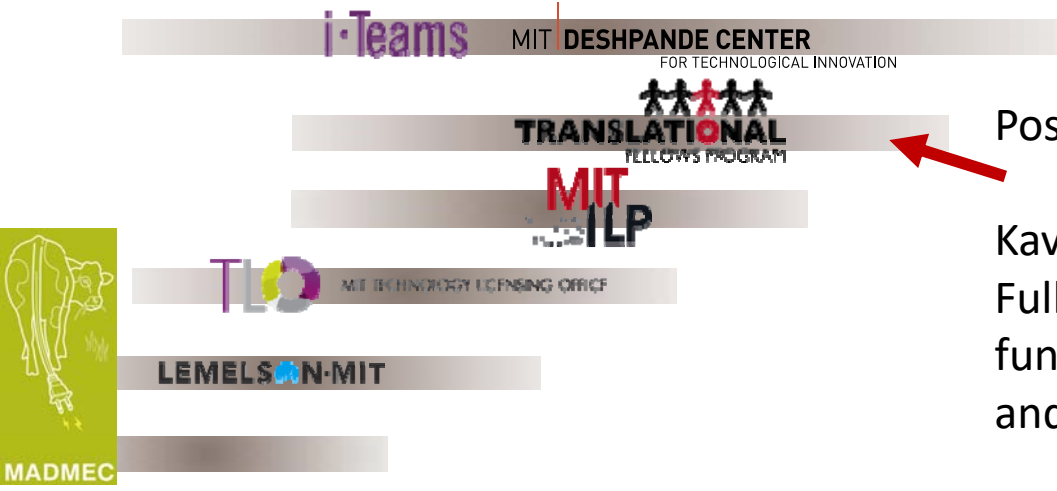
DMSE Lemelson-Vest endowed fund
\$10k grants to student projects to move
'one step closer to product viability'
(off scope of a funded project)



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Postdoc entrepreneur bootcamp program

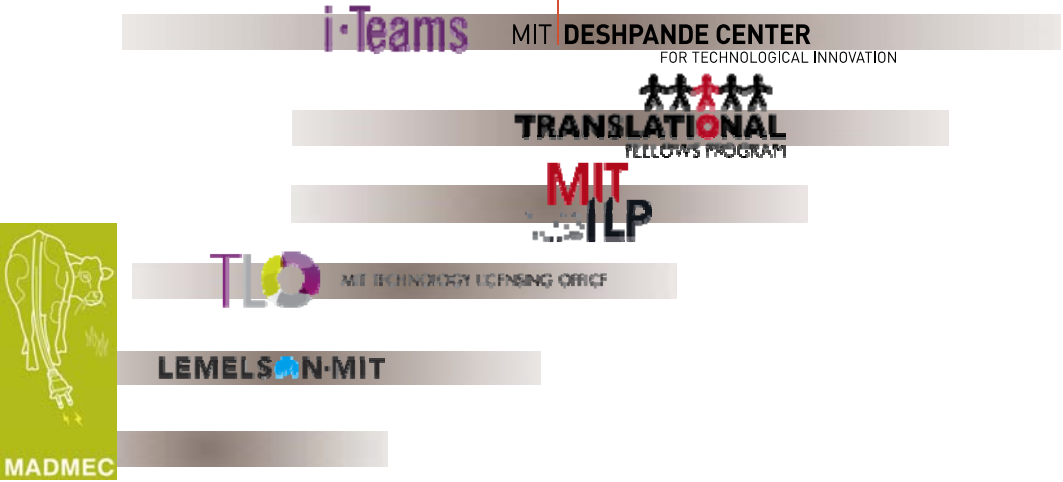


Kavanaugh Fellows:
Fully supported postdocs, liberated from funding concerns to mature their technology and develop a commercialization plan

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The Engine:
An MIT-founded, independent capital fund aimed at “go-long” value building through hard tech investing

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