CUNY CAT and the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

The recent investments by CUNY to enhance scientific research and promote entrepreneurial activities are already paying dividends for the CAT by providing an array of services to small and large CAT companies. The following describes the role of these various entities and how the CAT partners with them to leverage their unique strengths.

*Advanced Science Research Center (ASRC):* In addition to providing advanced research facilities for startup and mature companies, the ASRC’s proposed Industry Affiliates program will provide a powerful lead generation capability by referring affiliate companies to the CAT. [http:asrc.cuny.edu](http:asrc.cuny.edu)

*Hub for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (iHUB):* A NYSTAR-designated Innovation Hot Spot, iHUB is a business incubator designed to promote faculty entrepreneurship and startup companies. It is the latest addition to the CUNY entrepreneurship network and will work closely with CAT startups.

*New York City Regional Innovation Node (NYCRIN):* Provides NSF I-Corps training, which employs the Lean LaunchPad method, to national cohorts of faculty investigators who are interested in creating spinoff companies based on their inventions. NYCRIN offers numerous regional Lean LaunchPad programs, ranging from the full I-Corps curriculum to shorter Boot Camps that will be available to CAT startups.

*Technology Commercialization Office (TCO):* The TCO facilitates the transfer of CUNY intellectual property by fostering collaborations with industry. It develops a protection and marketing strategy with inventors through patent and copyright protection and supports the formation of start-up companies. Through a $1.5M award from ESD, the TCO has recently established a “pre and seed stage” fund to invest in CUNY’s early-stage technologies, position technologies for start-up opportunities, and enable start-ups to obtain follow-on funding. This fund will allow the CAT to provide an additional source of potential funding to the startups it supports and will provide access to additional early stage companies, entrepreneurs, and investors located in New York City.

*PowerBridgeNY (PBNY):* In 2013, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) awarded three $5 million grants to educational institutions in New York State to create clean energy proof-of-concept centers (POCC) dedicated to helping New York State inventors and scientists turn their high-tech, clean energy ideas into successful businesses. CUNY has partnered with New York University, Columbia University, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Stony Brook University, and Cornell Tech to join two of these proof-of-concept centers. PowerBridgeNY is the fruit of this collaboration. CAT energy-related startups will find a natural partner in PBNY.