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**Illinois Science & Technology Coalition Releases
First-of-its-Kind Science & Technology Roadmap**

*Receives national award for innovative Corporate-Startup Challenge initiative at
SSTI Conference in Chicago*

CHICAGO—September 16, 2014—The Illinois Science & Technology Coalition (ISTC), a not-for-profit organization focused on growing the state’s innovation economy, today released its first Illinois Science & Technology Roadmap (S&T Roadmap), an innovative data-driven report that identifies research and innovation strengths positioned to drive competitiveness and business growth in key industries across the state. The announcement was made at the 18th Annual National SSTI (formerly the State Science & Technology Institute) Conference in Chicago, where ISTC was also recognized with SSTI’s Most Promising TBED (technology-based economic development) Initiative Award for the Illinois Corporate-Startup Challenge.

The S&T Roadmap provides an in-depth look at Illinois’ competitive innovation strengths and collaboration opportunities to support industry product development. The Roadmap will help the state facilitate and support effective programs and collaboration, target federal funding opportunities and position Illinois as a global hub for partnerships in high-impact technology clusters.

“Illinois’ world-class research institutions are a valuable asset for driving competitiveness and growth of industry statewide,” said ISTC president and CEO Mark Harris. “The Illinois Science & Technology Roadmap responds to needs expressed by our government, academic and industry partners to better understand where we have comparative advantages and to identify ways to better harness and connect these assets with industry R&D activities and investments throughout the state.”

The S&T Roadmap presents a snapshot of Illinois innovation efforts by highlighting technology clusters—metal alloys, advanced polymers, batteries and energy storage, biofuels, medical biotechnology and nanotechnology—in which Illinois research productivity and commercial potential align with strong industry and community activity. The Roadmap’s Illinois Technology Cluster Network models more than 90,000 connections between more than 16,700 companies, academic institutions and inventors. This model along with data on research strengths and high-quality patents provide “living” tools to identify where innovation currently occurs and where there is potential for new collaboration between academia and industry.



Roadmap partners Elsevier, Ocean Tomo and Dr. C. Scott Dempwolf at the University of Maryland provided invaluable contributions of data and analytics capabilities to the creation of these tools and the overall report.

Evaluating existing support and observed gaps for Roadmap technology clusters revealed three cross-cutting areas where policies and funding can have a strong impact on Illinois' innovation economy: driving connectivity between industry and academia; assisting high potential startups; and ensuring resources for capital infrastructure needs. The Roadmap provides specific recommendations for each area that can serve as a guide to Illinois and federal lawmakers. Key recommendations include:

- Building a statewide corporate relations network to streamline industry engagement with Illinois universities and national laboratories
- Creating a PhD fellowship to utilize top Illinois talent to support the growth of Illinois startups
- Increasing matching capital funds to continue creation of leading R&D and entrepreneurship facilities
- Expanding the Illinois Corporate-Startup Challenge to connect more corporations to inventors and small businesses

The Illinois Corporate-Startup Challenge is a prime example of an innovative initiative that drives connectivity between industry and academia and provides assistance to high-potential startups. Conceived by Governor Pat Quinn's Illinois Innovation Council and launched in 2013, the Challenge builds bridges between the major corporations that serve as the backbone of Illinois' economy and the startup businesses that will power that economy through the 21st century – including those originating at Illinois research universities. The program uses a highly curated matchmaking process to pair Fortune 1000 corporations—including Archer Daniels Midland, Allstate, Deere & Company, Exelon, Hyatt, Molex, Motorola Mobility and Walgreens—with startup companies to address corporate innovation needs, while providing customer access and validation for Illinois' emerging small businesses.

This novel approach drew the attention of SSTI, which presented its Most Promising TBED Initiative Award to ISTC for the Illinois Corporate-Startup Challenge at the opening of the conference.

"The Illinois Science & Technology Coalition's Corporate-Startup Challenge is an innovative model for connecting startups and large companies," said Dan Berglund, SSTI president & CEO. "All regions and states can learn from its groundbreaking model of connecting early-stage ideas and companies to large, established businesses."

The Challenge's successful outcomes reinforce the importance of building the connections and programs described in the S&T Roadmap. More than 40 percent of startups matched with Fortune 1000 companies through the Challenge have grown out of Illinois universities, providing an award-winning model to foster the opportunities described in the report.

View the executive summary and full report here:

http://www.illinoisinnovation.com/filebin/pdf/ISTCRoadmap_ExecutiveSummary_Final.pdf
http://www.illinoisinnovation.com/filebin/ISTC_RoadmapFINAL.pdf



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About the Illinois Science & Technology Coalition

The ISTC is a member-driven, non-profit organization that harnesses the power of research and innovation to grow the state's economy. Created by the State of Illinois 25 years ago, and with the support of the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity, the ISTC drives public-private partnerships between industry, research universities, federal labs and government to increase research and technology-based investment, talent, awareness and job growth in Illinois. For more information, visit www.istcoalition.org.

About SSTI

SSTI is a national nonprofit organization that leads, supports and strengthens efforts to improve state and regional economies through science, technology and innovation. As the most comprehensive resource available for those involved in technology-based economic development, SSTI offers the services that are needed to help build tech-based economies. SSTI conducts research on best practices and trends in tech-based economic development and encourages cooperation among and between state and federal programs.

For more information about the Science and Technology Roadmap data partners, visit: [Elsevier Research Intelligence](#), [Ocean Tomo](#), and [Dr. C. Scott Dempwolf, University of Maryland](#)

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