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INNOVATION IN MANUFACTURING PROJECT UPDATE

The Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report dated September 21, 2011, from the Acting Commissioner of Planning and Development Services.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. This report be circulated to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, the local municipal Economic Development Offices, the Advisory Panel, manufacturing associations and interested stakeholders and businesses that are involved in the 2011 project.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council an update on the Innovation in Manufacturing Project including the project extension to March 31, 2012.

3. BACKGROUND

Manufacturing is central to York Region's economic future. Engaging and helping to revitalize the manufacturing sector will assist policy makers, innovative manufacturers and investors in identifying competitive opportunities in York Region manufacturing and lay the essential groundwork to encourage new and sustained manufacturing investment at the local level.

The objective of the Innovation in Manufacturing project is to stimulate innovation in York Region's manufacturing sector to ensure sustainability and growth.

Key project deliverables include:

- undertaking research in manufacturing innovation
- producing a self-guided online resource tool and guide for manufacturers to assess their capacity to develop a roadmap leading to research and innovation
- hosting a Life Sciences symposium (MedEdge Summit 2011) held on June 16, 2011
- hosting a manufacturer's conference in December 2011
- taking a leadership role in the development of a 50 member manufacturer consortium that will build connections within the manufacturing sector

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

The project has been extended from December 31, 2011 to March 31, 2012

The project contract was from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011. Staff requested and received an amending agreement with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities to extend the project beyond December 31, 2011 to March 31, 2012. The purpose of the extension is simply to allow for the administrative wrap-up of the project, with all other aspects of the agreement and deliverables remaining unchanged.

An industry advisory panel has been struck to help guide the project

An advisory panel of sixteen members has been formed to provide guidance to the study team on the project process and deliverables. A list of Advisory Panel members is attached to this report. The Advisory Panel includes representatives from small to large scale manufacturers, manufacturing associations, the Workforce Planning Board, the Ontario Centres of Excellence, education and academic institutions including the York Catholic District School Board and Innovation York, York Universities research and development arm, *see Attachment 1*. Terms of Reference for the Advisory Panel were developed and approved by the panel.

Businesses are being engaged to validate manufacturers' needs

A total of 250 direct contacts with York Region industries will be generated over the course of the project through corporate visits, events and tradeshow. The intent is to gather input on manufacturer's growth issues and needs and elicit support for the creation of a 50 member manufacturing consortium that will help link manufacturers together. A field visit in July of this year to five manufacturers in Aurora and Newmarket was organized by an Advisory Panel member to assist in this needs assessment.

Research is underway around best practices and tools

Research is being conducted on manufacturing innovation best practices, access to research and development (R&D) funding, and links between manufacturers and academia that support innovation. This research will help inform the development of tools to support manufacturing innovation.

As part of this work, two key York Region manufacturing subsectors including medical devices/instrumentation and food manufacturing are being analyzed and mapped to establish local capacity and identify opportunities for linkages. This work will also be used to develop tools and resources.

Life Science Summit links researchers to manufacturers



As part of this project medical device manufacturers were brought together at the MedEDGE Summit 2011, held on June 16th. The event was organized in partnership with the Town of Richmond Hill and ventureLAB. Over 200 participants learned about exciting new technological innovations, partnering and funding opportunities and fibre optic network advances impacting researchers in health care information and communications technology (ICT).

Speakers included Wayne Gudbranson, President & CEO Branham Group and Patrick Horgan, VP of Manufacturing IBM who highlighted health care ICT and opportunities to build alliances and enterprise capacity. Top executives from MaRS, Markham Stouffville Hospital, Southlake Regional Health Centre and York Central Hospital discussed commercialization opportunities and research capacity.

It is hoped the success of MedEDGE Summit 2011 can be leveraged to establish an annual forum for bringing this industry together in York Region.

MedEDGE summit spins off additional life sciences initiatives

Following the summit, two York Region-based initiatives were launched to further innovation on medical device research and funding. In the first instance, OCE (Ontario Centres for Excellence) and ventureLAB issued a competitive Call for Proposals to support partnerships between companies and Ontario post-secondary institutions in the Medical Devices and Life Sciences sectors. This Call for Proposals has yielded sixteen expressions of interest. In the second instance, Southlake Regional Health Centre is planning an Assistive Technology / Health IT Expo to increase collaboration between health assistive/adaptive technology innovators and physicians/clinicians to showcase products, explore research and testing partnerships and provide a forum to assess unmet needs for further development. York Region is an active participant in both initiatives.

Industry engagement to be expanded at upcoming focus group sessions and a manufacturing conference

A series of eight focus groups entitled “Productivity & Profit through Innovation Seminar for Manufacturers” are scheduled in October 2011 in collaboration with the nine municipalities, Chambers of Commerce, Board of Trade and ventureLAB. Manufacturers will be elicited for feedback on proposed tool and resource development. A guide including the results of the project and focus group seminars will be delivered at a December 8, 2011 manufacturer’s conference in Vaughan.

Project deliverables in progress for Q4-2011

- completion of focus group feedback
- research into food manufacturing subsector
- roadmap for research and development (R&D)
- web presence for manufacturing information on investinyork.ca
- geo-mapping tool in collaboration with Geomatics Branch
- guide for manufacturers
- manufacturer's conference
- manufacturing consortium initiation

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to the Planning Department. The \$247,000 project cost is fully funded from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Manufacturing is an important part of the Regional and local economies. Engaging and helping to revitalize the manufacturing sector assists policy makers, innovative manufacturers and investors to identify competitive opportunities in York Region manufacturing and lay the essential groundwork to encourage new and sustained manufacturing investment at the local level.

Due to the importance of developing the manufacturing sector in each local municipality, project staff are partnering with local economic development offices to identify high potential manufacturers to participate in the program.

7. CONCLUSION

The Innovation in Manufacturing Project is preparing York Region manufacturers to compete globally in manufacturing, increase productivity and profit.

The project will be integrated into the Economic Strategy Branch's Action Plan and take into account other Regional strategy initiatives including Vision 2051. York Region municipalities and their manufacturing businesses share important common goals: To retain and create jobs and to foster a more innovative and prosperous business climate.

Project deliverables will be completed as scheduled for December 31, 2011. Achievements to date include the creation of an advisory panel, completion of a Life Science Summit, community consultation from field visits, and ongoing research on innovation best practices.

For more information on this report, please contact Sharon Vegh, Program Manager Economic Intelligence and Innovation at (905) 830-4444, Ext. 1509 or Doug Lindeblom, Director, Economic Strategy at Ext. 1503.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause is attached to this report.)

Innovation in Manufacturing Project Advisory Panel

Name	Title	Organization
Jill Anderson	President	Aecometric Corporation / Conamara Limited
Mark Baistrocchi	President	KAMM Industries Ltd.
Susan Bergman	IM Project Coordinator	Regional Municipality of York
Paul Bottomley	Manager, Growth Management, Economy & Information Research	Regional Municipality of York
Jose Costa	Business Development Manager	Ontario Centre for Excellence (OCE)
Lawrence Cotton	Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program Coordinator	York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB)
Vern Cunningham	Owner	Alutron Modules
Steven Coates	President Engineering Manager	Better Motion Group Faurecia Automotive
Diana Harper	Senior Development Officer	Ministry of Colleges, Training and Universities (MTCU) Employment Ontario (EO)
Jeremy Laurin	President & CEO	ventureLAB
Doug Lindeblom	Director, Economic Strategy	Regional Municipality of York
Thomas Lorini	President	Novatec Machining Inc.
Dan Lynch	Industry Liaison Manager	Innovation York
Kevin McCormick	Field Advisor	Excellence in Manufacturing Consortium (EMC)
Al Wilson	Executive Director	Workforce Planning Board of York Region & Bradford West Gwillimbury
Sharon Vegh	Manager, Economic Intelligence & Innovation	Regional Municipality of York