

## SYSTEM FACILITATOR

*The System Facilitator* guides the development of a statewide network that enables entrepreneurs to grow companies at a faster rate throughout their early stages. Coordinated by two of the state's leading economic development organizations, the Connecticut Economic Resource Center and the Connecticut Technology Council, the System Facilitator supports programs for the Hubs.

### *Key Programs:*

- Over the next year, the System Facilitator will lead a process with entrepreneur support organizations, such as the *Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology*, that coordinates the efforts among entrepreneurship programs in the state. The result will be a more focused, entrepreneur-centric system of support.
- An online *Assessment Tool* will be created to provide startup and stage 2 companies with feedback on their challenges and opportunities. Each Hub's Growth Company Advisor will work with companies selected after completing an assessment, connecting them with appropriate financial and professional resources.
- The Facilitator will gather real-time data on the performance of companies participating in the Ecosystem. The facilitator will recommend ways to improve entrepreneur support services in the state.
- A *Mentor Network* will be developed and comprised of the experienced professionals, such as scientists, technologists, entrepreneurs, and professional service executives. The facilitator is providing *Mentor Training* workshops that the Hubs can utilize.
- Through the *Connecticut Space Grant Consortium*, an internship program connecting Connecticut's young engineering and business talent with hot early-stage companies.
- An entrepreneurship community news site (in Beta), connecting to online resources and collaboration spaces.
- In concert with Hubs, the System Facilitator will be offering *Innovation Vouchers*, providing an investment of \$5,000 for early stage companies to hire a Professional Service Provider, helping them solve business issues, such as prototyping, market feasibility, and testing.

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