

MassVentures finds, funds and fosters early stage deep tech that fuels economic growth across the Commonwealth.

START Program

MassVentures' SBIR Targeted Technologies (START) program provides non-dilutive grant funding to Massachusetts based companies that have won a Phase II Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) or Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) award. The dollars help companies bring prototypes to commercial reality.

Since its founding in 2012, START has:

- Provided \$31.2 million in grant funding to 105 companies.
- Helped winning companies raise more than \$4 billion in additional capital.
- Catalyzed employment of over 2500 people in Massachusetts.

"The START program is critical for SBIR-funded companies that need this type of support to move from a research-driven company to commercialization."

– Reshma Shetty, cofounder, Ginkgo Bioworks

How it Works

Each year, the program awards:

- 10 Stage I grants of \$100,000 each;
- 5 Stage II grants of \$200,000 each to the most promising Stage I winners from the previous year;
- 2 Stage III opportunities of up to \$500,000 each of seed in a commercial spinout from the most successful Stage II companies.

An annual influx of new Stage I candidates perpetuates the cycle.

Eligibility

Massachusetts companies that have received a Phase II SBIR or STTR award within the past 4 years are eligible to apply.

START Fills an Important Gap

START grants help companies pay for commercialization activities which are not allowed in federal grant budgets. All expenses must be pre-approved by MassVentures.

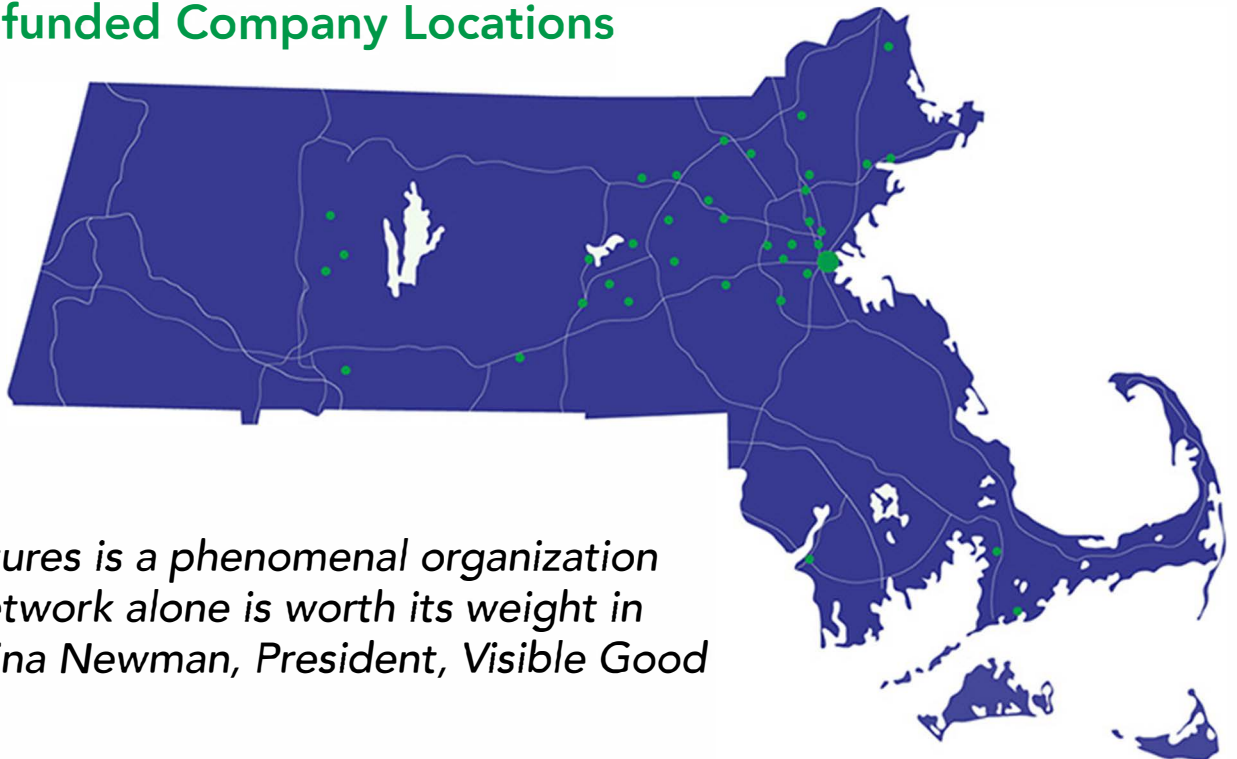
These include, but are not limited to:

- Patent expenses incurred with approved law firms;
- Expenses related to prototyping or product development;
- Expenses related to business plan creation;
- Costs of market research incurred with approved firms;
- Sales and marketing activities at trade shows.

"Without START, I don't think we'd exist right now. No exaggeration. The START one funding came at a very critical moment when we were making an important pivot in our business model.

*- Joseph Chung,
Cofounder & CEO, Kinto*

START-funded Company Locations



"MassVentures is a phenomenal organization and the network alone is worth its weight in gold." - Tina Newman, President, Visible Good

For more information, visit www.mass-ventures.com or contact Stacy Swider at sswider@mass-ventures.com

Our Mission:

To support the innovation economy and economic growth initiatives of the Commonwealth by helping to transfer research and early stage innovations to viable technology businesses and jobs.