

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 \$34.2 million in grant funding to 115 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.

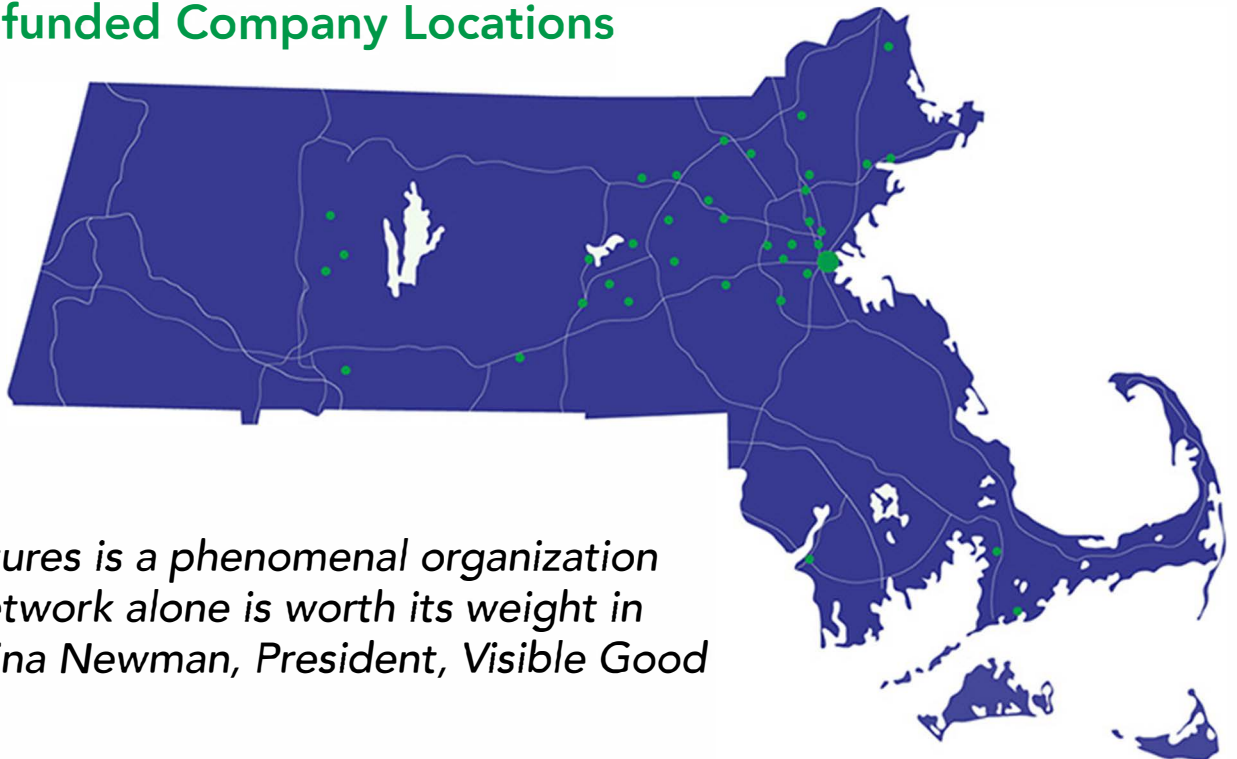
*"Without START, I don't think we'd exist right now. No exaggeration. The START one funding came at a very critical moment when we were making an important pivot in our business model.*

*- Joseph Chung,  
Cofounder & CEO, Kinto*

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## START-funded Company Locations



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

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For more information, visit [www.mass-ventures.com](http://www.mass-ventures.com) or contact Stacy Swider at [sswider@mass-ventures.com](mailto: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.