2024 MIT Startup Ecosystem Conference

April 30, 2024 8:00 am - 5:30 pm

8:00 AM  Registration & Networking

9:00 AM  Opening Remarks
Gayathri Srinivasan
Executive Director
MIT Corporate Relations

Catarina Madeira
Director
MIT Startup Exchange

9:15 AM  Inside Real Innovation: Challenges for Corporations and Universities
Eugene A. Fitzgerald
CEO of Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology (SMART) and the Merton C. Fleming SMA Professor, MIT Department of Materials Science and Engineering

To move from an idea to market, a technical concept must be implemented for a market application. Incremental innovation involves introducing uncertainty predominately in only one aspect of innovation (technical, implementation, or market application) to minimize risk and use current organization knowledge. For more fundamental innovation that results in larger impact over a greater amount of time, uncertainty must be simultaneously introduced in market application, technology, and implementation. Processes to optimize such search for value are unnatural in hierarchical organizations. Corporations and Universities working in a ‘Third Place’ will be more effective at shaping such long-term innovation productivity, producing new enterprise that can bridge the gap between organizations.

10:00 AM  University and Corporate Tech Transfer
Gayathri Srinivasan
Executive Director, MIT Corporate Relations

Lesley Millar-Nicholson
Executive Director
MIT Technology Licensing Office

Thomas Holcombe
Head of Collaboration & Scouting North America
BASF

Thomas A. Collet
President, CEO, and Director
Blaver Therapeutics

This panel will focus on the most effective approaches for operating at the nexus of university, industry, and early-stage ventures. From invention to market, creating a favorable environment for technology development, collaborations, and accelerated commercialization.

10:45 AM  Networking Break

11:10 AM  Amy Nordrum
Executive Editor of Operations
MIT Technology Review

Every year, MIT Technology Review’s list of 10 Breakthrough Technologies highlights the technological advances that will have the biggest impact on the world in the years to come. Join MIT Technology Review’s Executive Editor of Operations, Amy Nordrum, as she presents the 2024 list.
11:40 AM  

**Startup Lightning Talks I**

Tricia Dinkel  
Manager of Partnerships & Engagement  
*MIT Startup Exchange*

Alicia Chong Rodriguez  
Founder and CEO  
*Boomer Tech*

Chris White  
CDO  
*Gradient*

Daphne Pariser  
Postdoctoral Researcher  
*HeronAI*

Jerry Shu  
Co-Founder  
*Lendica*

Svetlana Felis  
Co-Founder and CEO  
*MacroCycle*

Sujeesh Krishnan  
CEO  
*Kinnami Software Corporation*

Saman Amarasinghe  
Co-Founder  
*Venti Technologies*

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12:20 pm  

**Lunch with Startup Exhibitors and MIT Campus Partners:**

- MIT Sandbox
- MIT Technology Licensing Office (TLO)
- T14 Fund
- MIT Office of Innovation
- MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL)
- MIT Venture Mentoring Service (VMS)
- MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI)
- MIT Entrepreneurship Club
- MIT Deshpande Center for Technological Innovation
- The Engine

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1:30 PM  

**Startup & Corporate Engagement, Success Cases**

Ron Spangler  
Director  
*MIT Corporate Relations*

Brendan Smith  
Co-Founder & CEO  
*SiTration*

Saskia Duyvesteyn  
Chief Advisor of Research & Development  
*Rio Tinto*

Captain Aisha Saeed Harib  
Head of Knowledge, Innovation, and Development Center  
*Dubai Police*

Joshua Sarmir  
CEO  
*SplitSage*

Fostering collaborations between MIT-connected startups and corporates is part of MIT Startup Exchange mission. This panel features two successful collaborations that Startup Exchange and ILP helped form with startups and ILP corporate members. Panelists will talk about the different types of engagement, how they took shape, and what’s next as they keep progressing.
2:15 pm **Startup Lightning Talks II**

Irina Gaziyeva  
Program Coordinator  
MIT Startup Exchange

John Greenfield  
Head of Business Development  
Nova

Tairan Wang  
Co-Founder & CEO  
Sangtera

Kanwar Singh  
CEO and Co-Founder  
Skyline Nav AI

Chris Mannion  
Founder  
Meander

Catherine O’Shea  
COO and Co-Founder  
Narratize

Michael Davies  
CEO  
WKD.SMRT

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2:55 PM **Networking Break & Startup Exhibit**

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3:20 PM **Myths About Entrepreneurship**

William Aulet  
Ethernet Inventors Professor of the Practice, MIT Sloan School of Management and  
Managing Director of the Martin Trust Center for MIT Entrepreneurship  
Martin Trust Center for MIT Entrepreneurs

Entrepreneurship in the last decade has undergone a profound transformation, adapting to  
the rapid technological advancements and evolving market demands. To meet these new  
challenges, there's a pressing need for robust and adaptable standards in entrepreneurship  
education that ensure future entrepreneurs are well-equipped. In this session, we will debunk  
common myths and misconceptions surrounding entrepreneurship, shedding light on the  
realities of starting and running a successful business in today's world.

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4:00 PM **Investing in Science Based Startups**

Katie Rae  
CEO and Managing Partner, The Engine Ventures  
The Engine

Carmichael Roberts  
Business Lead, Investment Committee, Breakthrough Energy Ventures and Co-Founder,  
Material Impact  
Material Impact

In this fireside chat speakers will talk about taking science based startups to market. The  
potential these ventures have to transform sectors and the challenges they face as they  
invest early on.

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4:30 PM **Wrap-Up**

Catarina Madeira  
Director, MIT Startup Exchange  
MIT Startup Exchange

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4:35 PM **Networking Reception**