



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. Flemings SMA Professor, MIT Department of Materials Science and Engineering 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 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 Bilayer 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
[Bloomer Tech](#)

Chris White
COO
[Gradient](#)

Daphne Pariser
Postdoctoral Researcher
[HeronAI](#)

Jerry Shu
Co-Founder
[Lendica](#)

Stewart Peña Feliz
Co-Founder and CEO
[MacroCycle](#)

Sujeesh Krishnan
CEO
[Kinnami Software Corporation](#)

Saman Amarasinghe
Co-Founder
[Venti Technologies](#)

12:20 pm

Lunch with Startup Exhibitors and MIT Campus Partners:

- [MIT Sandbox](#)
 - [MIT Technology Licensing Office \(TLO\)](#)
 - [E14 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](#)

2:55 PM

Networking Break & Startup Exhibit

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.

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.

4:30 PM

Wrap-Up

Catarina Madeira
Director, MIT Startup Exchange
[MIT Startup Exchange](#)

4:35 PM

Networking Reception