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Governor Deval Patrick

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For Immediate Release - July 19, 2013

Governor Patrick Celebrates the Commonwealth's Growing Innovation Economy At Greentown Labs

SOMERVILLE – Thursday, July 18, 2013 – Governor Deval Patrick today joined Somerville Mayor Joseph Curtatone, and Patrick Administration officials to celebrate the relocation and expansion of Greentown Labs, the largest incubator spaces for energy-related startups in Massachusetts, at the former Ames Safety Envelope Plant in Somerville.

First opened in May 2011, Greentown Labs is home to ten start-up companies that already account for approximately 40 full-time clean energy jobs. The company is rehabilitating the 30,000 square-foot facility in Somerville, and expects to have 100 people working in its new space when it opens. The incubator has seen rapid growth over the past two years, and presently has 20 clean-energy firms on its waiting list, many of which will now be able to locate at Greentown's new facility.

"I continue to be impressed by the work Greentown Labs is doing to fuel our innovation economy, and I thank them for their commitment to expanding in the Commonwealth," said Governor Patrick. "Investing in our innovation economy is a key part of our growth strategy because enabling and encouraging industries that depend on brainpower is the best way to take advantage of the knowledge explosion

happening in the world economy today.”

During today’s event, Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rick Sullivan also announced that the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) has committed up to \$150,000 to support the relocation and expansion of Greentown Labs. Previously, MassCEC funded 30 paid clean energy internship positions at 28 companies and organizations based at Greentown Labs and awarded \$396,000 in funding to support the innovations being developed by three Greentown Lab companies.

“We are committed to fostering the growth of clean energy incubators like Greentown Labs as we look to expand the cleantech industry in Massachusetts,” said Secretary Sullivan. “These are businesses that catalyze and support startup companies in creating jobs and help to bring new ideas to the marketplace.”

“I am grateful for the support of the Commonwealth in providing a Clean Energy Center grant to Greentown Labs to assist in their move to our city. Our partners at the state level are helping to ensure that Massachusetts stays at the forefront of the industries of tomorrow,” said Mayor Curtatone, who has recently proposed a \$1 million Innovation Fund to help support Somerville’s Innovation Economy. “People are figuring out that this isn’t the innovation district or the innovation center—Somerville is the Innovation City. We are a city that prides itself on innovation, creativity and originality. We have made it a priority as part of our comprehensive 20-year SomerVision plan to attract and bring in companies like Greentown Labs by providing the vision, planning, and development policies to attract these types of 21st century industries. Greentown Labs coming here to Somerville is an endorsement of all those efforts and a testament to the economic strength of this community.”

“We’re incredibly excited about our move to Somerville and the expansion of our organization and greatly appreciate the work of the Administration and City in helping facilitate this,” said Jason Hanna, managing director of Greentown Labs. “Mayor Curtatone and his team have done an incredible job in making Somerville the place where our entrepreneurs want to work and live. Locating in Somerville has allowed us the ability to double the size of our facility, create a better work environment for our entrepreneurs, maintain our accessible urban locale, and places us near some fantastic neighbors.”

Greentown Lab’s expansion in Massachusetts reflects the Patrick Administration’s commitment to investing in innovation to create jobs and opportunity in the Commonwealth. By making meaningful, targeted investments in education, innovation and infrastructure, the Commonwealth has seen job numbers return to pre-recession levels, and unemployment remain below the national average. These investments, particularly in the innovation sector, have made Massachusetts a global leader in the life sciences and other Innovation Economy sectors.

“By investing in the innovation economy, along with infrastructure and education, Governor Patrick is empowering the state’s entrepreneurs and communities to create economic development opportunities throughout the Commonwealth,” said Bialecki.

“This collaboration with the City and Greentown Labs is an example of the Administration’s efforts to actively plan for and support the continued growth of our innovation economy and today’s announcements are further evidence that Somerville is a great place to live, work, and play.”

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