

Finding Opportunity in Emerging Conditions

Action Team 1 • Progress Report 1 • June 2, 2010

Stamford Center for Innovation

The purpose of the center is to spur the growth of startup companies that can exploit opportunities in emerging conditions. The key segments of the New York metro economy are FIRE & ICE. FIRE stands for Finance, Insurance and Real Estate. ICE stands for Innovation, Creativity and Environment. As Wall Street North, Stamford has been a raging FIRE, but cannot stoke it to be the sole driver of job growth going forward. Stamford needs to make some ICE. The SCI is nurturing start-ups in several ICE patches, including food and water, info tech/media, energy/green tech, healthcare, education, and global development. Team 1 will also launch a speaker series at Old Town Hall this summer to bring together the Stamford tech communities in these sectors.

Team 1 is exploring the possibility of putting together a group of innovation-focused partners who could lease the entire private space in Old Town Hall, making it the home of the Stamford Center for Innovation and the hub of an ecosystem that supports and inspires innovation...a place where entrepreneurs can find access to knowledge, advice and professional support, including:

- Mentoring
- Early stage investment interest – angels and VC's
- Legal, accounting, HR support

An Ecosystem for Entrepreneurs

Other cohabitants of Old Town Hall might include:

- *Digital Film School of CT Film Center*...creating digital content for media and publishing revolution, movies and electronic games.
- *Network Innovation Lab*...a place where a leading network company creates a space with the highest bandwidth and connectivity...co-creating with their customers to lead the network revolution in terms of products and services.
- *Stamford Training for Entrepreneurs Program (STEP)*...a tuition-based, residential 12 week program for up to 15 startups with 3 classes/year...world class mentoring with

STEP Investor Forum at graduation, presenting business plans to the investment community.

- *Leadership, Innovation, Strategy Training Institute (LIST)*...online and/or in-person facilitated training for large, small & mid-size businesses + individuals.
- *Lab for Education Technology for Students (LETS)*...NYC is leading an effort to bring technology into schools using the technology that students already have...Stamford should consider programs developed in NYC. Entrepreneurs + educators + publishers = potent mix. Results can be scaled from Stamford.
- *Resilient Futures Global Headquarters in Stamford*...Powerful strategic framework for Reinventing Stamford...Training and publishing efforts built on Stamford success...Partnering with other innovation leaders e.g. FIDO, Spark Awards...Branching out from urban planning & redevelopment to corporate applications together with FIDO (Fearless Innovation Done Online).
- *Museum of Innovation*

WeSEE

The team is also launching WeSEE: "We Sense Emerging Environments"...a community knowledge network of "listening posts" who can feed the Stamford Center for Innovation a steady stream of opportunities from ongoing reconnaissance of emerging conditions.

Stamford's Niche

All of the above is based on the fact that Stamford has unique capabilities and resources in both human and financial capital. Stamford **is not likely** to be about inventing the next hot technology or faddish social toys on the web. Stamford **is likely** to be about packaging technology to create new services, enhancing new service offerings, and taking them to scale.

