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**MITRE** | SOLVING PROBLEMS  
FOR A SAFER WORLD™



BUILDING PATHWAYS TO DISCOVER, ACCELERATE, AND DELIVER INNOVATION  
FROM NONTRADITIONAL SOURCES TO SOLVE NATIONAL PROBLEMS.

**January/February 2021**

## **Bridging Innovation Interview with Nick Rotker**

Looking for an example of leveraging networks to make positive change? Look no further than Massachusetts' very own Nick Rotker, Bridging Innovation lead for MassChallenge Rhode Island partnership and current Department Manager of the newly formed Underwater and Acoustic System Department at The MITRE Corporation.

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## Innovation Tool Kit (ITK): It Really Does Work!

NewsLast September, about 80 MITRE leaders in the Health FFRDC participated in a two-hour introduction to the Innovation Toolkit (ITK)—a collection of methods and techniques curated by a team of cross-disciplinary MITRE experts to help teams work together to solve hard problems. A lot of leaders learned about the tools, but did anyone DO anything with them? You are about to find ...

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## Looking at SportsTech for Innovation Diversity

What do sports and government have in common? A first glance, not much. But, as you look closer, growing investments in innovative uses of technologies are driving dynamic changes across the global sports market. From data analytics, video exploitation, secure transactions and payment systems to customer experience, human performance, and safety devices, innovations applied to

sports might introduce some unique diverse solutions for related government needs.

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## The Power of the Innovation Network

More than twenty startups were recently awarded Small Business Innovation Research Phase II contracts by the Army during their xTech SBIR pilot competition. The purpose of the pilot is to accelerate technology prototypes for crucial Army capability gaps into military platforms.

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## Maintaining a Balanced Perspective on Artificial Intelligence by Paul Silvey

The quest to build Artificial Intelligence (AI), at least narrowly defined as computer programs that can mimic human cognitive capabilities sufficiently well as to solve practical problems for us, has again captured the business world's attention. Government and private investment dollars are flowing into this sector, motivated by Machine Learning (ML) successes in performing object or event recognition and classification from perceptual data, at levels that can match and sometimes surpass the abilities of humans. The availability and affordability of massive amounts of data and computational resources, along with algorithmic innovations including large multi-layer artificial neural networks, has created a kind of gold rush phenomenon in the last ten years.

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# Events

## MassChallenge Applications Open for Boston, Rhode Island, and Texas

Events MassChallenge is the global network for innovators. We equip bold entrepreneurs to disrupt the status quo and create meaningful change. With more than a decade of experience, our proven methodology accelerates the innovation potential of high-growth businesses and startups as they address some of the biggest challenges across industries, impacting the way we live, work, and play. Our US-based ...

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## Scale Aviation Accelerator Accepting Applications for Spring Class 2021

Now accepting applications for Spring Class 2021 Led by Starburst, in collaboration with UCLA, SCALE is a one-of-a-kind initiative for industry, government, innovators, academia, and investors to accelerate early-stage aerospace startups across the Los Angeles region. An equity-free program, SCALE's mission is to help companies push products to market and advance technology research and economic development in Los ...

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## The MIT Industrial Liaison Program presents a webinar series on Sustainability, March 9, 2021, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Join the MIT Industrial Liaison Program in The Leading Edge webinar series, this week on Sustainability on Tuesday, March 9, 11:00AM - 1:00PM EST. This webinar is a broad overview of sustainability research at MIT. Fields include: materials science, energy, recycling, economic policy, and urban planning.

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## DIU has 3 open solicitations for Department of Defense.

Submit your commercial solutions to solve national security challenges with the help from the Defense Innovation Unit. DIU has 3 open solicitations for Department of Defense.

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For more information on Bridging Innovation and to view past issues of the newsletter, go to [bridge.mitre.org](https://bridge.mitre.org).

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