



THE MIDDLE GEORGIA INNOVATION PROJECT INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM WORKING GROUPS

TASK 3

BACKGROUND

The Middle Georgia Regional Commission received a grant from the Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) to fund The Middle Georgia Innovation Project. This project aims to build the regional innovation ecosystem, and includes an innovation gap analysis of the 11 counties of the Middle Georgia region. The ultimate objective of the project is to develop the Middle Georgia Innovation Ecosystem. This includes a road map for Middle Georgia to become a 'Center of Software Excellence'.

Three key Innovation Ecosystem Working Groups:

Start-Up Innovation Ecosystem

Focus on building a connected ecosystem that fosters start-up and entrepreneurial culture.

Industry 4.0 Technologies Ecosystem

Focus on building regional capability and readiness for Industry 4.0 technologies.

Software Engineering Ecosystem

Focus on building local capability for software engineering and creating a relevant industry cluster.

The working groups will focus on innovative regional solutions to address the key topic area. Future iQ will support the groups, by helping synthesize the work from:

- The Middle Georgia Charrette and Regional Planning Initiative (2018)
- Task 1 – Innovation Framework and Ecosystem Report
- Task 2 - Innovation Performance and Gap Analysis Report
- Other relevant studies.



WHAT TO EXPECT

Future iQ will facilitate the three Innovation Ecosystem Working Groups over the next three months. The draft work program is laid out below. The outcomes will be incorporated into the Middle Georgia Innovation Project Final Roadmap Report (Task 4).

STEP 1 - INVITE (March)

Identify and invite key stakeholders to each working group.

STEP 2 - CONVENE (March - May)

Convene working groups. Each working group will meet in a virtual manner three times (over two months), and then all groups come together for a Future Summit. Working sessions will be approximately two hours in length and will be supplemented by surveys, online discussion boards, and focus group sessions, as required.

Meeting 1 - Assimilate data and analysis

- Review research and define gaps and opportunity - This will be supported by synthesis from the Task 1 and 2 reports and draw from additional studies as required.
- Explore opportunities, 'scope out' issues and desired outcomes.

Meeting 2 - Brainstorm how to Build Ecosystem

- The working groups will brainstorm and explore how to build the relevant networks and ecosystems.
- The working groups will examine how to activate projects and build sustainability by embedding activities in the associated institutional frameworks.

Meeting 3 - Contribute to Action Plan

- The working groups will develop recommendations and input into a 5-year action plan, with a list of achievable key actions.
- The working groups will develop a strategy for ecosystem sustainability with schedules for continued meetings and timelines for working toward key objectives.

STEP 3 - PRESENT (May)

Host Regional Future Summit where working groups will present their finding and recommended Action Plans. The Future Summit will include:

- Rapid polling with broader stakeholder groups for vetting and approval.
- Action plans will be incorporated into the project's Final Report.

DATES

Wednesday 31 March - Meeting 1: *Assimilate data and analysis*

Wednesday 14 April - Meeting 2: *Brainstorm how to build the ecosystem*

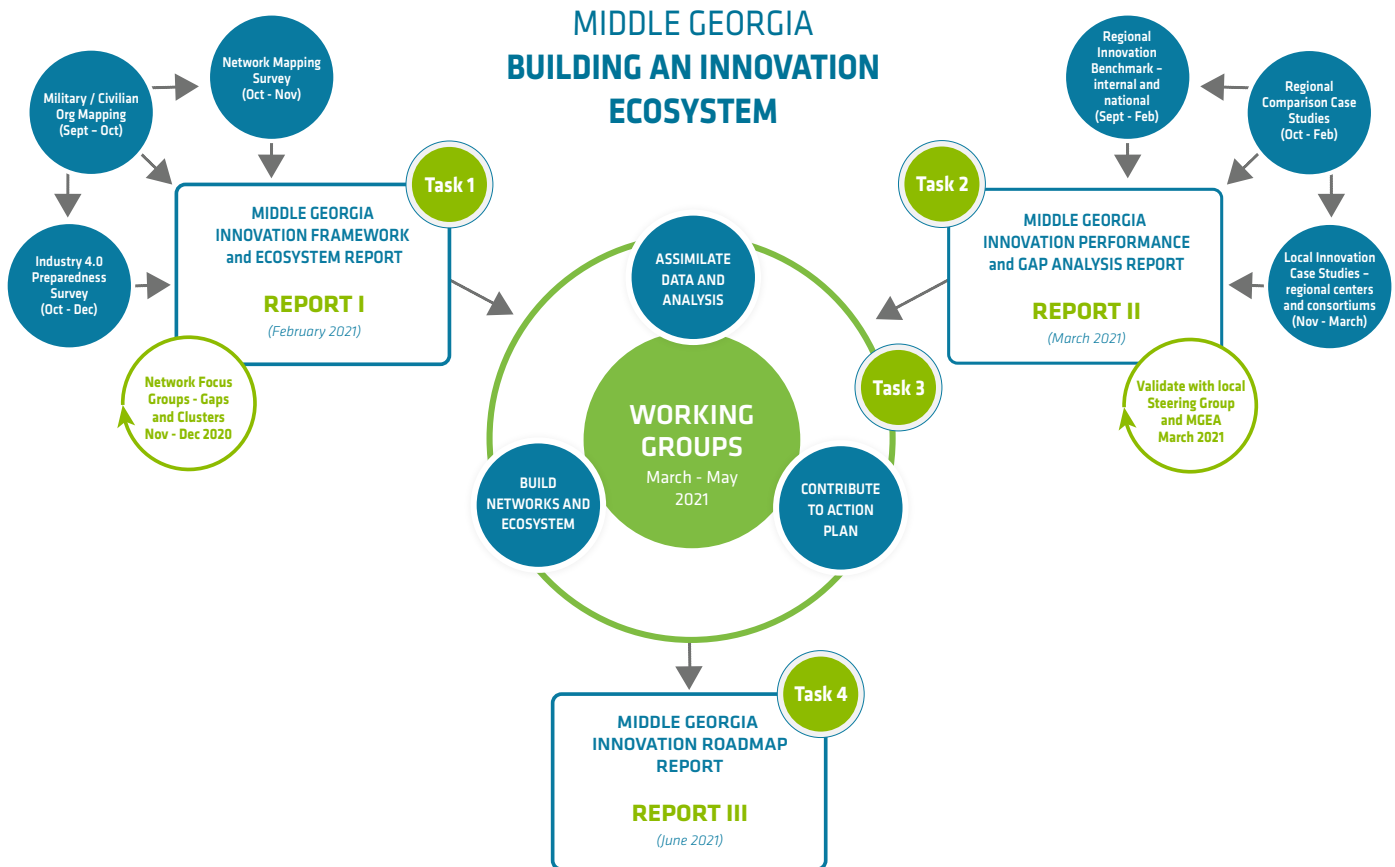
Wednesday 28 April - Meeting 3: *Contribute to Action Plan*

Wednesday 12 May - *Regional Future Summit*

Apply to Join Working Group: <https://lab2.future-iq.com/middle-georgia-innovation/working-groups/working-groups-application-form/>



Overall Project Schematic



For more information please go to <https://lab2.future-iq.com/middle-georgia-innovation/>

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