Middle Georgia
ECONOMIC ALLIANCE

Georgia®
INNOVATION | AEROSPACE

Houston
Development Authority
Be Houston.

MGRC
Middle Georgia
Regional Commission

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE
21ˢᵗ CENTURY
PARTNERSHIP

WELCOME TO THE

THE MIDDLE GEORGIA INNOVATION PROJECT

THE MIDDLE GEORGIA INNOVATION PROJECT

INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM WORKING GROUPS

Meeting 3: Contribute to Action Plan

Roy H. "Sonny" Watson Health Science Building, 80 Cohen Walker Dr. , Warner Robins.

April 28, 2021

9:00am – 12:00pm

Meeting 3: Contribute to Action Plan

This third and **in-person** meeting brings together the 3 working groups to:

• Develop specific recommendations and input into a 5-year action plan, with a list of desired outcomes and key actions.

• Discuss approaches to continue to build the Middle Georgia innovation ecosystem.

THE MIDDLE GEORGIA INNOVATION PROJECT
INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM WORKING GROUPS

Time	Details	Group	Duration
9:00 am	Welcome from Angie Gheesling, Executive Director – Development Authority of Houston County	Angie	10 min
9:10 am	Recap on findings from Meeting 2: Brainstorming how to Build the Ecosystem and set up the three working groups into spaces with facilitator and recorder/reporter	Future iQ	20 min
9:30am	Develop specific recommendations and input into a 5-year action plan – Breakout groups	Working Groups	60min
10:30am	Report out from each working group, and group discussion	All	30 min
11:00am	Discussion about approaches to continue to build the innovation ecosystem	Working Groups	30 min
11:30am	Report out from each working group; and group discussion	All	15 min
11:45am	Next Steps	Future iQ	15 min
12.00pm	FINISH		

Program

THE MIDDLE GEORGIA INNOVATION PROJECT INTENDED OUTCOMES
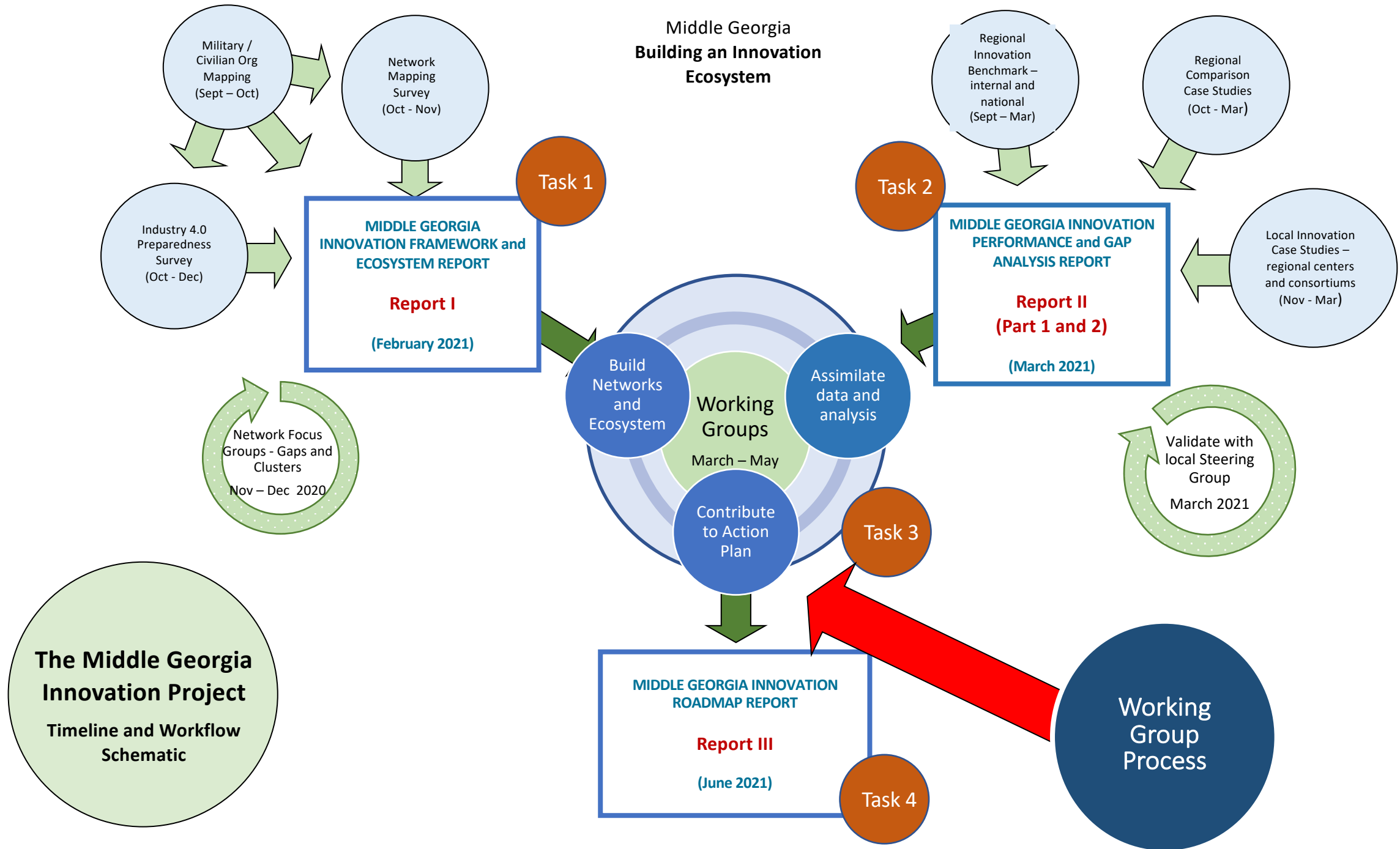
- Develop the Middle Georgia innovation ecosystem

- Provide a road map for Middle Georgia to become a 'Software Center of Excellence'

- The project will advance the efforts building the workforce that Middle Georgia needs for the future

- The outcome will be a Middle Georgia Innovation Roadmap Report and Path Forward recommendations

Middle Georgia
Building an Innovation Ecosystem

The Middle Georgia Innovation Project
Timeline and Workflow Schematic

Military / Civilian Org Mapping (Sept – Oct)

Network Mapping Survey (Oct - Nov)

Industry 4.0 Preparedness Survey (Oct - Dec)

MIDDLE GEORGIA INNOVATION FRAMEWORK and ECOSYSTEM REPORT

Report I

(February 2021)

Task 1

Network Focus Groups - Gaps and Clusters Nov – Dec 2020

Regional Innovation Benchmark – internal and national (Sept – Mar)

Regional Comparison Case Studies (Oct - Mar)

Task 2

MIDDLE GEORGIA INNOVATION PERFORMANCE and GAP ANALYSIS REPORT

Report II
(Part 1 and 2)

(March 2021)

Local Innovation Case Studies – regional centers and consortiums (Nov - Mar)

Working Groups

March – May

Build Networks and Ecosystem

Assimilate data and analysis

Contribute to Action Plan

Validate with local Steering Group

March 2021

Task 3

MIDDLE GEORGIA INNOVATION ROADMAP REPORT

Report III

(June 2021)

Task 4

Working Group Process

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.

Working group process.

- **STEP 1 – ASSEMBLE**
  - Identify and invite key stakeholders to each Working Group (March)

- **STEP 2 - CONVENE WORKING GROUPS** (March – May)
  - **Meeting 1** - **Assimilate data and analysis**
  - **Meeting 2 - Brainstorm how to Build Ecosystem**
  - **Meeting 3 - Contribute to Roadmap and Action Plan**

- **STEP 3 - PRESENT** (May)
  - Host Regional Future Summit where Working Groups present their finding and recommended Action Plans. (May)

Each working group will meet (virtual and in-person) three times (over two months), and then all groups join for a Future Summit. Working sessions will be approximately two hours in length.

Documenting the need and opportunity

THE MIDDLE GEORGIA INNOVATION PROJECT

INNOVATION FRAMEWORK AND ECOSYSTEM REPORT

February 2021

THE MIDDLE GEORGIA INNOVATION PROJECT

INNOVATION PERFORMANCE AND GAP ANALYSIS REPORT

Part 1: Potential for Innovation and Comparable Case Studies

March 2021

THE MIDDLE GEORGIA INNOVATION PROJECT

INNOVATION PERFORMANCE AND GAP ANALYSIS REPORT

Part 2: Technical and Gap Analysis

March 2021

future→iQ®

HOME   ABOUT   SURVEYS   DATA VISUALIZATION   WORKING GROUPS   DISCUSSION BOARDS   RESOURCES   CONTACT US

Overview

Topic #1: Middle Georgia as a 'Software Center of Excellence' – How do we do this?

Topic #2: Start-Up Innovation – How to create a connected innovation start-up environment in Middle Georgia

Topic #3: Industry 4.0 Technologies – how do we build regional capability and readiness?

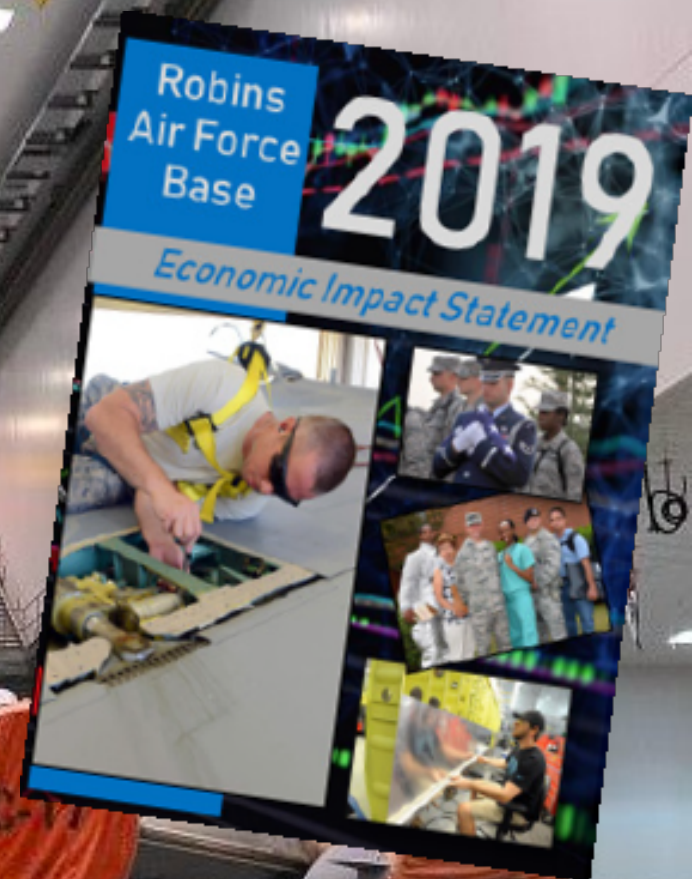Topic #4: Telling Our Story – How do we best promote the good things happening in Middle Georgia?

TOPIC #2: START-UP INNOVATION – HOW TO CREATE A CONNECTED INNOVATION START-UP ENVIRONMENT IN MIDDLE GEORGIA

Home » The Middle Georgia Innovation Project » Discussion Boards » Topic #2: Start-Up Innovation – How to create a connected innovation start-up environment in Middle Georgia

From research carried out to date in Task 1, Task 2 and the working group phase which constitutes Task 3 of the project, it has been established that there are a concentration of existing innovation centers and partnerships that exist around the Universities and RAFB.
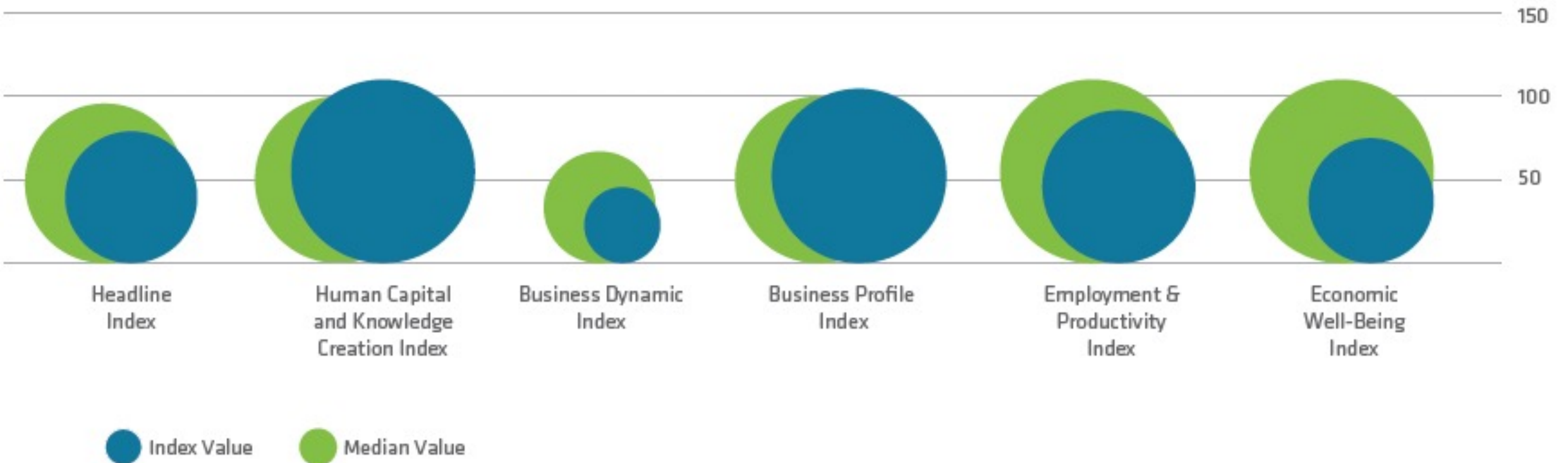
However, to create a connected 'innovation start-up' environment in the Middle Georgia region the existing innovation centers need to connect with each other in addition to the day-to-day inspiring work that the centers are already carrying out independently. The following themes have arisen from work to date on the project in relation to creating a 'connected

RAFB – Key Driver of Innovation

Innovation Index for Middle Georgia compared to Median US value

Outperforming in knowledge creation

Headline Index

Human Capital and Knowledge Creation Index

Business Dynamic Index

Business Profile Index

Employment & Productivity Index

Economic Well-Being Index

150

100

50

● Index Value   ● Median Value

High Performing Industries Tier II: Average Wage by Employment Change and Employment Level

3. Legal Services
($47,929; 1,103)

4. General Freight Trucking
($48,014; 1,054)

1. Other Food Manufacturing
($49,904; 1,766)

8. Couriers and Express Delivery Services
($47,275; 710)

14. Architectural and Structural Metals Manufacturing
($57,830; 317)

7. Machinery, Equipment, and Supplies Merchant Wholesalers
($49,610; 753)

Scientific Research and Development Services
($73,112; 429)

6. Other Specialty Trade Contractors
($48,048; 769)

10. Activities Related to Real Estate
($46,987; 431)

Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Parts and Supplies Merchant Wholesalers
($48,583; 295)

5. Specialized Freight Trucking
($47,980; 888)

2. Outpatient Care Centers
($47,476; 1,624)

9. Utility System Construction
($46,828; 484)

Employment (2019)

Emerging scientific and computer systems sectors

Source: BLS, Local Area Unemployment Statistics(1991-2019), Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages(1991-2019)

Average Annual Number of New Businesses in Middle Georgia (2018)
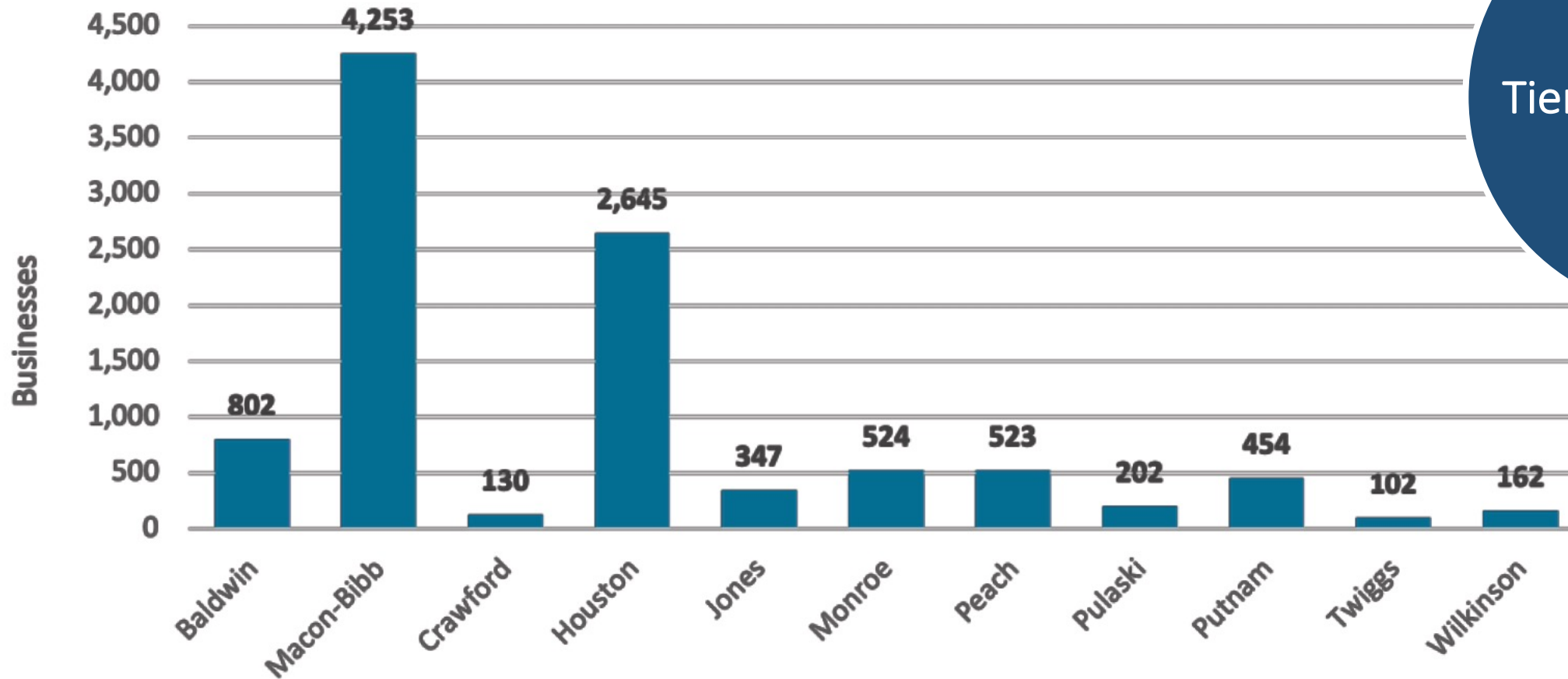
Macon
Tier 2 regional city
proposition

Recap from Meeting 2: Brainstorm how to Build Ecosystem – Start-Up Innovation Ecosystem

Recap

- **Define and build pathway for start-ups**
  - Innovators need knowledge about how to connect to other innovators and funding
  - Need to know what innovation is needed

- **Proximity is important**
  - Create "innovation campus" – combination of private/public partnerships and innovation spaces close to livability amenities as seen in Augusta and Cincinnati
  - Create geographical 'innovation corridor' between Macon and Warner Robins

- **Create Intellectual / Creative Collisions**
  - Co-create atmosphere is needed to bring people together and harness potential. Hacking Health is global organizing building innovative ecosystems. Helps cause Creative Collisions.
  - Mentors who have been successful to help train innovators; Human component – enthusiasm, strong leadership, mentoring and voice of success

- **Who will run the ecosystem?**
  - Need a dedicated person or entity to concentrate on building and running the ecosystem

Recap from Meeting 2: Brainstorm how to Build Ecosystem – Industry 4.0 Technologies Ecosystem

- **Industry 4.0 technologies are coming – build awareness.**
  - Tradeshows are useful to educate and inform students. A good way to spread the news of success
  - From TAG perspective, the aeronautical space is where Georgia leads. Need to get these "good news stories" and messaging out there to attract and retain talent

- **Build an ecosystem that is demonstrating and applying Industry 4.0**
  - Need to push Industry 4.0 into Economic Development and think about the Industry 4.0 readiness within the region's industrial base
  - NERDIC project is a good example of building an Industry 4.0 ecosystem. This could be replicated in Middle Georgia. www.ccat.us/NERDIC/
  - There is a need for more industry players, who are using the technologies, to be involved in ecosystem

- **Talent to be homegrown and from out of state**
  - The region can leverage RAFB and Fort Benning bases to grow talent in these technologies
  - Need to focus on ' what do we need to learn' and hire talent to work in the Industry 4.0 area.
  - Incentives are needed to attract people to work/live in the region

Recap

Recap from Meeting 2: Brainstorm how to Build Ecosystem – Software Engineering Ecosystem

Recap

- **Quantify the future need**
  - There is a need for excellent talent but also organizations to hire this talent
  - Need to engage with the companies, who can articulate what they need from future talent

- **Focus on home grown talent**
  - Hard to attract teachers from Atlanta to move to Middle Georgia, even though there is a huge demand for computer science teachers in the region. Need to identify students who want to stay in the region and give them the software skills to get a job at RAFB or outside of the base
  - Internships are very important to retain STEM students in the region. They are the resources to create the "Software Center of Excellence"

- **Market the region's appeal**
  - Companies encouraged talent to take up job offers by paying for travel to interviews and showing them the whole Middle Georgia region and the attractions of living in the area
  - The 11 counties of the Middle Georgia region should look at their aesthetic appeal regarding quality of life and amenities on offer to people moving to the region or staying in the region

- **Focus on industry cluster development**
  - New North is an example of organization in WI, successful in building clusters through mapping current ecosystem and bringing in industry partners to full the gaps

DEVELOP SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS AND INPUT INTO A 5-YR ACTION PLAN – 60 MIN

OUTCOMES: What are the key regional outcomes we need to achieve over the next 5 years?   (30 min)

ROADMAP: What do we need to achieve each year (15 min)

LEADERSHIP: Who should lead this process and who else needs to be at the table? (15 min)

OUTCOMES
What are the key regional outcomes do we need to achieve over the next 5 years?
(specific and measurable)

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

ROADMAP
What do we need to achieve each year?
(specific and measurable)

2021	
2022	
2023	
2024	
2025	

LEADERSHIP
Who should lead this process and who else needs to be at the table?

Leader	
Team	

APPROACHES TO CONTINUE TO BUILD THE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM - 30 MIN

What are the specific approaches that will continue to build the overall regional innovation ecosystem and create momentum?

What specific approaches that will continue to build the OVERALL regional innovation ecosystem and create momentum?

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

NEXT STEPS FOR INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM WORKING GROUPS

Future Summit (Wednesday 12 May)- Virtual

- Present findings and recommended Action Plans. These will be incorporated into the final report

- Rapid polling will take place with broader stakeholder groups for vetting and approval