

Governor Deval L. Patrick
Mass Challenge Launch Event
Cisco Offices, Tel Aviv, Israel
Tuesday, March 7, 2011

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS (TBD)

Good evening to all of you here with us in Tel Aviv. And to those of you joining in from Boston, good afternoon.

We're just wrapping up our first day here in Israel and we've already had some tremendously productive discussions about some opportunities for mutual growth that we see between the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the state of Israel. I think it's abundantly clear that we have two highly complementary economies, both focused on the innovation industries and leaning forward into some exciting new industries. As you know, there are already some very close ties between Massachusetts and Israel. On this trip we're working to strengthen those ties and lay the ground work for some new opportunities as well. I think the fact that we're able to leapfrog

geography and have this meeting in real time, high definition video is a testament to how technology and innovation have brought Massachusetts and Israel increasingly close together.

So this is the perfect venue to announce that we will be re-launching one of our most exciting experiments in promoting innovation: MassChallenge. After a successful first year, I'm proud to announce that we will open up the MassChallenge startup competition for a second round, by committing \$1 million of funding over the next four years.

MassChallenge is an open invitation to the world's highest-impact, highest-potential startups to build a company around their idea using Massachusetts resources. Finalists will receive support, mentorship and access to the world class resources that Massachusetts has to offer – no strings attached. Over the next six months, innovative entrepreneurs from around the Commonwealth and around the globe will be competing to turn the spark of their idea into reality.

MassChallenge was born one year ago and just past its first birthday I'm proud to call it a resounding success. Last year we received 446 applications from 26 countries and 24 states. After reviewing applications we provided 111 startups with 3 months of free support that included office space, intense mentoring programs and 250 networking and training events. One startup has an innovative, cheap way to purify water that could save lives in the developing world. Another uses GPS data from cell phones to bring users relevant, location-based advertising from local businesses. In the 6 months since we selected finalists, these startups have raised more than \$20 million in outside, private funding and created almost 300 new jobs. This is all in just six months. And MassChallenge received national attention when it became the youngest program recognized by President Obama for supporting innovative startups.

This year we are particularly honored to extend an invitation to the great innovators of Israel to join this competition. Israel is one of the few places in the world with an innovation economy as concentrated and effective as ours in Massachusetts. Based on what we've seen today and what we know about the entrepreneurs here,

we expect to see some very impressive proposals from Israeli startups.

I am excited to see the variety of ideas from every corner of the globe and to celebrate the wealth of imagination that has always been a fundamental component of the Massachusetts business climate. Ours is an economy that is always asking, “What’s next?” The collaboration between the public and private sector for this program is an example of how we always look forward, no matter the economic challenges of the day. We have the tools to compete. We have the talent, the tradition of invention, the venture capital, the ideas. And so we will compete globally and invite our partners from all around the world to come and solidify our place as a world innovation hub.

I look forward to seeing what the entrants come up with and, most importantly, the new jobs they bring to help strengthen our communities back in Massachusetts. Thank you and good luck to everyone.