

## **M&T Bank Named Founding Sponsor of CenterState CEO's INSPYRE Innovation Hub, the Largest Business Accelerator in New York State**

*M&T Bank and CenterState CEO expand partnership to position Central New York as a driving force in entrepreneurial development*

SYRACUSE, N.Y., Sept. 10, 2025 /PRNewswire/ -- [M&T Bank](#) (NYSE:MTB) announced it will become the Founding Sponsor of [CenterState CEO's INSPYRE Innovation Hub](#) in downtown Syracuse. This long-term sponsorship with CenterState CEO, an independent, nonprofit organization focused on growing the economy and supporting businesses across Central New York, will expand efforts to accelerate entrepreneurship and startup growth, cultivate industry-disrupting technology and fuel the region's ecosystem for talent development and attraction.

When the INSPYRE Innovation Hub officially opens later this month, it will become the largest business accelerator in New York State by square footage. The 90,000-square-foot facility will feature a renovated hardware technology center, a new makerspace, dedicated zones for robotics and uncrewed aerial systems testing, a media production studio, flexible coworking areas and a multi-purpose theater designed to host events and more.

"At M&T Bank, we believe progress is driven by communities that invite possibility and inspire collaboration," said Steve Gorczynski, M&T Bank Regional President for Central New York. "The INSPYRE Innovation Hub represents an investment in the ingenuity, creative energy and shared purpose that define this region. By supporting this important hub for entrepreneurial development, M&T Bank's founding sponsorship will empower local trailblazers and difference-makers to build businesses that will strengthen our economy and unlock new opportunities for Central New Yorkers."

The INSPYRE Innovation Hub has revitalized the previous Tech Garden facility, originally founded in 2005, to become a dynamic center for entrepreneurship, collaboration and innovation, serving as a launchpad for startups, a resource for established businesses and a catalyst for regional economic transformation. It will offer a range of programs and support services that are tailored for early-stage founders, startups looking to scale and business leaders driving breakthroughs across industries.

"We are embarking on a new chapter for entrepreneurs and innovators in Central New York with the opening of CenterState CEO's INSPYRE Innovation Hub, a world-class facility designed with founders in mind. It's a bold vision for the community that requires support from committed partners," said Ben Sio, acting president and CEO of CenterState CEO. "With a proven dedication to Central New York and deep understanding of regional economic needs, M&T Bank is an ideal partner for INSPYRE Innovation Hub. Their support will empower more people to launch a new business and propel progress across the region. We are grateful to M&T Bank for their longstanding partnership in enabling growth for Central New York and all its residents."

M&T Bank's commitment to rebuilding Central New York's startup and innovation sector extends back to 2007, when M&T became an original funder of the Emerging Business Competition. With this investment, M&T Bank helped to enable The Tech Garden's growth and revitalize the region's startup ecosystem.

The Founding Sponsor agreement – an exclusive, multi-year commitment for M&T Bank – reinforces the bank's dedication to investing in the development and growth of the communities it serves in Central New York and across the Northeast. It will contribute to the multifaceted regional work underway to nurture progress and expand supply chains in several growing industry sectors in Central New York such as advanced manufacturing, semiconductor development, drone systems, biotech and more. The partnership will build on M&T's broader vision of creating collaborative communities that fuel forward-thinking solutions and deliver lasting regional impact, similar to M&T's tech hubs in Buffalo, New York and Wilmington, Delaware.

To celebrate the project's forthcoming completion, the INSPYRE Innovation Hub will host a ribbon-cutting event on Sept. 18, 2025, and will officially open to the public soon after. For more news and details on INSPYRE Innovation Hub, visit [www.inspyrehub.com](http://www.inspyrehub.com).

M&T is the leading bank in Central New York, holding the Syracuse area's largest deposit market share, and it is the top U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) lender in the Syracuse SBA District. With nearly 400 employees and 41 branches across a ten-county region, M&T Bank maintains a Central New York regional headquarters at 250 S. Clinton Street in Armory Square in downtown Syracuse.

### **About M&T**

M&T is a financial holding company headquartered in Buffalo, New York. M&T's principal banking subsidiary, M&T Bank, provides banking products and services with a branch and ATM network spanning the eastern U.S. from Maine to Virginia and Washington, D.C. Trust-related services are provided in select markets in the U.S. and abroad by M&T's Wilmington Trust-

affiliated companies and by M&T Bank. For more information about M&T Bank, visit [www.mtb.com](http://www.mtb.com).

#### **About CenterState CEO**

CenterState CEO is an independent nonprofit committed to creating inclusive, equitable and sustainable economic growth in Central New York. Its team of experts helps members, clients and businesses of all sizes start, scale, recruit and relocate. CenterState CEO works as a problem solver alongside partners in public, private and nonprofit sectors to find collaborative and innovative solutions to advance the region and its people. Learn more at [www.centerstateceo.com](http://www.centerstateceo.com).

#### **About INSPYRE**

CenterState CEO's INSPYRE Innovation Hub is where founders dream, build and scale. INSPYRE is the largest entrepreneurship hub in New York state delivering targeted programs, tailored services, events and access to funding and networks that empower entrepreneurs at every stage of their journey, from inception to scaling and beyond. Located in downtown Syracuse, INSPYRE celebrates Syracuse's legacy of innovation and is a beacon to its bold future. It's where the innovation ecosystem convenes, and possibilities are redefined. INSPYRE invites everyone to push boundaries and shape what's next.

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