

## Boston Innovation Community at CIC Helps Combat COVID-19



For over twenty years, CIC (Cambridge Innovation Center) has been changing the world. Currently CIC coworking facilities host over 2000 companies in seven cities across the United States and Europe – with a location soon to open in Toranamom Hills in Tokyo! The CIC network of innovation communities helps founders build their companies and develop world-changing solutions.

It is no surprise then that in the face of unprecedented challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, innovative groups all around CIC Cambridge have launched new initiatives. Hopefully these examples of progress through innovation provide hope and a reminder that important work is happening in so many fields right now.

Below are highlighted projects from select groups at CIC, who are directly working on innovations that could help the world with the COVID-19 crisis.

### **Tiba BioTech and Revela BioTech – Cambridge, MA**

TibaBiotech has a mission to create a new generation of vaccines and immunotherapies for human and animal disease. In collaboration with the US Army's Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, TibaBiotech is developing an RNA vaccine candidate, which has the potential to provide broad protection after a single dose. Along with sister CIC startup, Revela Biotech, the TibaBiotech team is also working on a test strip diagnostic for rapid in-field testing of COVID-19.

<http://tiba.bio/>

<https://www.revela.bio/>

### **First Line Software – Cambridge, MA**

First Line Software is a global custom software solutions provider with Healthcare IT playing a major role in their business. Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, the company has been involved in a number of projects helping communities and healthcare institutions to deal with COVID-19-related challenges. First Line Software is working with an innovative startup bringing reliable, home-administered coronavirus testing to consumers. It has developed applications to monitor and control the flow of patients and visitors to hospitals and clinics, to screen healthcare personnel for symptoms of the disease before they arrive to work, and for managing bed availability across the network of several city hospitals.

<https://firstlinesoftware.com/>

## **Vishwa Robotics – Cambridge, MA**

Vishwa Robotics offers robotic products to significantly improve human life. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the company is now designing a very long-range drone concept. The design combines the capabilities of a helicopter with a fixed wing aircraft. Typically helicopters or quad rotors have large vertical rotors to lift a heavy payload off the ground but they can only fly a short distance. On the other hand, fixed wing aircraft can fly a long range at high speed but can only carry so much. The Vishwa X Wing combines both helicopter and fixed wing bi-plane with terrain adaptive landing gear to enable the pandemic drones to land in unstructured environments or even on a moving ship. First, for take-off and landing, the helicopter-like function of the drone allows it to hover and take-off vertically with heavy medical supplies. Then the drone can smoothly transition to a fixed wing aircraft mode to fly at high speeds and cover long distances, even across cities, counties, and states. Once it reaches a destination it can land safely while keeping rotors vertical due to perching landing gear legs that can adjust and straighten the fuselage for safe take off. For more, check out the Youtube video below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zWbALLDzsQY>