



R & D TO READY



An International Disruptive Design Centric + R&D + Engineering + Finance Development System & Fellowship Program

iGNITE R & D CONVERGENCE

The **iGNITE Convergence Programs** are the worlds 1st and longest running, fully integrated, design, design thinking, R&D, engineering, finance, innovation leadership and new product development programs created by catalysts, run by catalysts and validated with industry partners in more then 20 countries.

Before the Stanford Ignite program, before the Cambridge University UK Ignite program there was The iGNITE Convergence Programs formalized in 2005 and having been delivered in part, or in total to 1000's of C-Level designers, engineers, execs, officers, government officials, students and research scientists globally since it's initial efforts in 1998 at the Xerox PARC Labs. The iGNITE Convergence Programs are some of the most influential design, design thinking, new product development and innovation programs globally, and leading many participants to launch their own fully funded and sustainable startups, new R&D lab efforts & intrapreneurial groups inside corporate, government & military organizations world wide.

R&D to Ready has been carefully designed, tested, and validated from an amalgamation of multiple full semester 45hr each PhD Engineering & New Product Development + MBA Finance + MS Industrial Design courses. The 2 day program configuration has been created to maximize participants understanding and interaction with each other via case studies + discussions + emerging technology toolsets + exercises + meetings with global industry R&D leaders and program fellows. Participants leave with a clear understanding of the mindset of + exact techniques used in unorthodox industry systems used in for R&D and Design based environments to create breakthrough new product development output from R&D lab based efforts along with the leadership & team building skills to support this.



"[This] was one of the hardest things I've ever done. I walked out knowing exactly what I needed to do to design and launch a game changing product while gaining incredible leadership skills along the way..."

- Zahi Awad: MBA
McKinsey & Co. Lebanon

CONFIGURATION

6 DAY FELLOWSHIP: MON - SAT AUG 17-22



Split into distinct functional areas of: Engineering; Design, Design Thinking; New Product Development; plus Finance for VC + PE, Industrial Design, Entrepreneurship / Intrapreneurship for NPD Innovation **The R&D to Ready Fellowship is a 6 day total, Monday to Saturday configuration** with the first 4 days being small group working sessions to perfect participants understanding of the above with via explicit tools & case studies & then where participants join the 2 day corporate cohort of expert industry practitioners, scientists & executives who have all brought advanced design & lab based R&D efforts into the real world.

“ The schedule was very focused and intense and the program was packed with very useful first hand information about design, design thinking, new product development, innovation and leadership toolsets specifically on how to get innovation efforts into the right direction for investors and manufacturers. ”

Dr. Malte Schöfer - Manager New Product Development & Innovation
P3 Group @ Karlsruher Institut für Technologie, Zurich

CONFIGURATION

2 DAY CORPORATE: FRI - SAT AUG 21-22



With the distinct focus of converging Engineering; Design Thinking; New Product Development; Industrial Design; plus Finance for VC + PE, Entrepreneurship / Intrapreneurship for NPD Innovation tools and techniques, **R&D to Ready Corporate** is a 2 day total, **Friday & Saturday configuration** designed to not disrupt busy international professionals schedules, while bringing real world, industry practitioners, scientists & government experts focusing on advanced design & lab based R&D efforts under one roof.

“ Delivering participants design, design thinking, engineering, innovation, new product development and leaderships skills needed for emerging technology products to succeed in the real world, this enhances an executives leadership capabilities and uploads you with the confidence to take any advanced design where you may not have expected before. ”

Baris Aksen - Senior Program Engineer, IVI Connectivity and Controls PMST and TVM Lead
Ford Motor Company International - Canada & Turkey

LOCATION: BOSTON, USA



Harvard
Graduate
School
Of
Engineering

“Fantastic program, with great focus on design, new product development and innovation leadership by combining the strength of very opposing personalities”

Dr. Patrick Etyngier: PhD. Applied Maths, Computer Science
Head of Clinical & Research Board: Philips Medical Europe; Paris, France

R&D TO READY CHAIR

Gregory Polletta Founder

Designer. Catalyst. Engineer. Gregory's design, engineering, new product development and leadership experience has been with The Xerox PARC Labs, US, UK and France, Bankers Trust, Averro Inc., The American Management Systems Center for Advanced Technology, culminating in the formation of iGNITIATE an innovation strategy and new product development firm working with international firms and R&D labs such as Columbia University, Pfizer, MIT, The US National Science Foundation, The US Department of Defense, The Lawrence Livermore National Labs High Energy Plasma Physics Group, E-My, Fujitsu, Roche Bobois, L'Oreal, Guzzini, Louis Vuitton, Swarovski, and more. Gregory is the co-founder of the internationally award winning design brand gregorysung producing products for Magis, E-my, Philips de Pury, Cristina Grajales, Guzzini, Banana Republic, Dieteker, Ligne Roset, Artemide & more.

Professor Polletta has delivered +50 full semester BA/MS/MBA/Ph.D courses in Computer Science, Engineering, Product Design, Design Thinking, Strategic Management, Entrepreneurship, Industrial Design, Finance and VC for NPD. New Product Development at: Le Grande Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussees ENPC Ph.D Engineering & MBA Program, Paris; University of Connecticut, USA; European School of Economics, Milan & Rome; Parsons School of Design, Paris; IFM MBA in Luxury Management Paris; Lucerne School of Art & Design, Switzerland; The Royal College of Art London, St. Martins school of Design, Harvard, and many more. After +10 years with ENPC & after +500 industry professionals passed through his iGNITE Convergence Program classes, Professor Polletta was named the most inspirational professor in the ENPC Ph.D & MBA Program for elite French engineers. Gregory has served as a board of advisor, board member & investor to nonprofit &



for profit firms throughout Europe & US, and a past Designer in Residence at True Start Capital VC, London focusing on consumer products and retail. Polletta holds a MS in Industrial Design from Domus Academy, Milan, a BS in Information Systems in Management & Engineering Manufacturing program and a minor in Emerging Technology Development from the University of Connecticut, United States with a concentration in Medieval Society at Selwin College, Cambridge University UK.

Gregory has been a Product Design jury member at the Cannes Lions Festival; a judge at the Clio Awards, the President Clinton \$1M HULT Prize, and past Chairman of the Global Leadership Summit in New York. He is a Royal Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce member, +30yr keynote speaker & later with the prestigious London Speakers Bureau; designer for The World Retail Congress Prize in Paris & Rome; a US Presidential Leadership Scholars candidate & speaker at the UK House of Lords.

PAST SELECTED ENDORSEMENTS

“An extremely attractive approach to design, new product development, innovation and leadership. While being very challenging, the iGNITE Program was also amazingly innovative & I’ve learned to adapt, put a name to and utilize processes I was aware of on an intuitive level. This program empowers and motivates Future leaders!”

Dr. Dorin Dussiac
PhD. Atomic & Condensed Matter Physics
Deputy Minister of Environment - Republic of Moldova

“I felt [**this**] delivered great value & facilitated feedback on our beliefs and encouraged collaborating with other members. The program was had a very positive attitude with a tough subject and a very tough group”

US NAVY Pilot
Deputy Commander
Joint Carrier Air Wing

“A very dynamic and highly thought-provoking program thanks to the unique and refreshing no-BS policy of the entire experience and team. I walked out with a new mind-blowing perspective on how human behaviors and relations impact design, new product development and business decisions along with the R&D strategies at the highest level to launch game changing innovative products”

Dr. Igor Sobkowicz: PhD Materials Science
PV Solar Cell R&D Engineer at Cupertino Electric, Inc.; San Francisco, USA

“We needed this. Bold and revolutionary ideas & tools didn’t follow a cookie cutter process. I believe The **iGNITE Convergence Program** was very necessary for some while proving to us that we can execute design thinking efforts quickly.”

Senior Intelligence Officer
US Navy & Central Intelligence Agency
United States Department of Defense

“ [**this**] challenged my way of thinking about product development and design. We learned to consider global industrialization, engineering, physical product design, and customers needs. This is very useful today to efficiently market innovation in the biotech industry.”

Dr. Richard Le Boucher: PhD Fish Genetics
Manager for Disruptive Innovation @ IMV Bio Technologies; France

LOGISTICS: R&D TO READY

DURATION AND FEES

R&D to Ready is August 17-22, 2026 in Boston and especially designed for scientists, designers, researchers, and NPD Finance professionals and split into 2 distinct groups:

- MS & PhD Students: 2 day configuration

\$2100/person on Friday & Saturday August 22 & 23 for Masters and PhD Students with dept head confirmation of full time enrollment

- MS, PhD, Exec Fellowship: 6 day configuration

\$3900/person, Monday to Saturday, August 17 to 23 for Masters, PhD Students with dept head confirmation of full time enrollment & for Industry Professionals with at least 3 years of relevant and specific experience

- Corporate: 2 day configuration

\$4300/person on Friday & Saturday August 22 & 23 for active, full time execs, government officers and professionals with multiple years of industry specific R&D, Design, Finance & NPD based experience.

Fees can be augmented (where necessary) for \$1800 per person for a 10 year B1 US Visa with an additional \$2000 expedited visa fee for last minute processing if necessary) via our US State Department Legal team. Food, flights to the US plus local transport, etc., are the responsibility of participants & there is 20% cancel fee. Participants should depart Sunday August 15th to arrive in Boston to comfortably start Monday Aug 17th for the 6 day configuration or arrive on Thursday Aug 21 for the Friday start of the 2 day configuration.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

R&D to Ready takes into consideration your position, objectives, your organization's capabilities and timeframes. We recommend submitting your completed application via the R&D to Ready website at <https://www.R-and-D-to-Ready.com> and where the team can then advise on next steps. Note: the program is taught with case studies in English and participants should be able to exchange complex views, listen, learn & work in this way. For past participant endorsements & details please visit LinkedIn to see past R&D to Ready efforts at MIT <https://bit.ly/3Q9pLy8> and Harvard <https://bit.ly/3ZblOx6> in Boston, USA