

NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

March 22, 2024

This meeting was held in-person and via Microsoft Teams teleconference.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members of the Commission present in person: Debbie Hart, BioNJ, Chair; and Kathleen Coviello for Tim Sullivan, CEO of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority.

Members of the Commission present via conference call: David Pascrell, Gibbons, Vice Chair; Ex-Officio Voting Members: Dr. Brian Bridges, Secretary, OSHE; Ralph Hoag for Kevin Dehmer, Commissioner, DOE; Public Voting Members: Dr. Alain Kornhauser, Princeton University; Adam Sternbach, Tessara; and Cuneyt Erdogan, Clarus Engineering.

Members of the Commission absent: Non-Voting Legislative Members: Senator Paul Sarlo, Senator Robert Singer, Assemblyman Christopher DePhillips, and Assemblyman Christopher Tully; Non-Voting University Members: Dr. Nariman Farvardin, President, Stevens Institute of Technology; and Dr. Jonathan Holloway, President, Rutgers University.

Also present: Greg Townsend, Stevens; Vince Smeraglia, Rutgers; Val Kologrivov from Assemblyman Tully's Office; Judith Sheft, Executive Director, CSIT; Mahako Etta, and Frances Keel, CSIT Staff; Christine Machnowsky, Deputy Attorney General; Jamera Sirmans, Governor's Authorities Unit; EDA Staff: Danielle Esser, Director; Hector Serrano, Governance Officer, and Muneerah Sanders, Board Liaison.

Per the Chair's request, Ms. Sanders read the Open Public Meetings announcement and performed the roll call of the Commission.

Prior to commencing the meeting, Chair Hart asked Ms. Esser to read aloud a statement regarding the process for public comment at the board meeting for any members of the public on the call. No members of the public presented themselves at this time.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The first item was the approval of the January 26, 2024, meeting minutes.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Ms. Coviello **SECOND:** Mr. Erdogan **AYES: 7**

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: The next item was the presentation of the Chair's Report to the Commission.

Dr. Kornhauser joined the meeting at this time.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: The next item was the presentation of the Executive Director's Report to the Commission.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: The next item was an update on the CSIT SFY25 Budget presented by Judith Sheft, Executive Director.

Ms. Etta presented the next item before the Board:

Item: Approval of Pilot Clean Tech Demonstration Grant Program, Round 2

Request: To approve the Pilot Clean Tech Demonstration Grant Program, Round 2, a competitive program that will provide grants to support New Jersey-based companies accelerating the commercialization and deployment of innovative clean energy technologies. The Program specifications remain substantially similar to the prior round (Round 1), however eligibility requirements have been amended to limit multiple applications from one company, to limit applications from current grant recipients, add bonus points for companies that have a New Jersey LGBTQ+ certification, and to slightly refine scoring to align with other CSIT R&D Seed Grant programs.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Ms. Coviello **SECOND:** Dr. Kornhauser **AYES: 8**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 1

Ms. Sheft presented the next item before the Board:

Item: Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Rowan University to support the preparation of a proposal under the National Science Foundation’s Regional Innovation Engine grant program

Request: To approve: 1.) A transfer \$100,000 from CSIT’s FY2024 budget to Rowan University. This funding will be used to support the hiring of a consultant to oversee the development of a proposal for a consortium of New Jersey entities applying for a \$160 million Regional Innovation Engine (“Engine”) Type-2 grant in Advancing Photonics Technologies from the National Science Foundation; and 2.) an MOU between CSIT and Rowan University provided it is in substantially the same form as attached to this memorandum (Exhibit A). The MOU addresses mutual understandings regarding the \$100,000 in funding.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Dr. Bridges **SECOND:** Mr. Sternbach **AYES: 8**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 2

Ms. Etta presented the next item before the Board:

Item: Recommendation to Expand the Institutional Criteria for RwnNJ

Request: To approve the expansion of the institutional criteria for participation in Research with New Jersey (RwnNJ) and delegated authority to CSIT’s executive director to add eligible research entities to the RwnNJ database. Cost for this expansion is covered by funding already approved for RwnNJ in CSIT’s FY 2023 budget and no additional funding in FY2024 is necessary.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Dr. Bridges **SECOND:** Mr. Erdogan **AYES: 8**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 3

Dr. Kornhauser left the meeting at this time.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: The next item was the presentation of the update on EDA Initiatives.

Ms. Coviello left the meeting at this time.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

The next items were:

1. Delegated Authority Update on Catalyst R&D Voucher Program;
2. Delegated Authority Update on Clean Tech R&D Voucher Program;
3. Delegated Authority Update on SBIR/STTR Direct Financial Assistance Program – Round 5;
and
4. Delegated Authority Update on CSIT Sponsorships

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT:

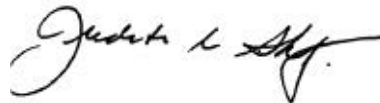
There being no further business, on a motion by Dr. Bridges, and seconded by Mr. Pascrell, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55am.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting date for the Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology is scheduled for May 17, 2024 at 10:00 am, in person and virtually. Members are encouraged to attend in-person as it will be the annual meeting.

CERTIFICATION:

The foregoing and attachments represent a true and complete summary of the actions taken by the Commission on Science, Innovation, and Technology at its Meeting on March 22, 2024.



Judith Sheft, Executive Director
Secretary