

NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

November 3, 2023

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members of the Commission present via conference call: Debbie Hart, BioNJ, Chair; David Pascrell, Gibbons, Vice Chair; Ex-Officio Voting Members: Dr. Brian Bridges, Secretary, OSHE; Dr. Jorden Schiff for Angelica McMillan, Commissioner, DOE; Public Voting Members: Adam Sternbach, Tessara; and Cuneyt Erdogan, Clarus Engineering.

Members of the Commission absent: Ex-Officio Voting Member: Kathleen Coviello for Tim Sullivan, CEO of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority; Public Voting Member Dr. Alain Kornhauser, Princeton University; 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; Judith Sheft, Executive Director, CSIT; Mahako Etta, and Frances Keel, CSIT Staff; Christine Machnowsky, Christopher Kay, Deputy Attorneys General; Dorian Smith, 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. Sanders 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 September 15, 2023, meeting minutes.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Pascrell **SECOND:** Mr. Sternbach **AYES: 6**

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

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

Ms. Etta presented the next item before the Board:

Item: Approval of Two Additional Clean Tech Seed Grant Pilot Program Round 2 Awards

Request: To approve two additional Clean Tech Seed Grant Pilot Program, Round 2 grants totaling \$150,000 (or up to \$75,000 each).

MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Sternbach **SECOND:** Ms. Hart **AYES: 6**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 1

Ms. Keel presented the next item before the Board:

Item: Approval of the Food and Agriculture Research & Development Pilot Seed Grant Program awardees

Request: To approve five Food and Agriculture Research & Development Pilot Seed Grant Program grant awards totaling \$374,820.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Dr. Bridges **SECOND:** Mr. Erdogan **AYES: 6**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 2

Ms. Etta presented the next item before the Board:

Item: Approval of Catalyst Research and Development Pilot Seed Grant Program, Round 3

Request: To approve the following:

- i. The Catalyst Research and Development Pilot Seed Grant Program, Round 3 (“Program”) to support New Jersey based companies accelerating the commercialization and deployment of innovative technologies in all strategic industry areas except therapeutic drug discovery. The Program specifications remain substantially similar to the prior round, however eligibility requirements have been amended to limit multiple applications from one source, to limit applications from current grant recipients, and to slightly refine scoring to merge two economic impact categories.
- ii. Allocation of \$1,500,000 from CSIT’s FY 2024 budget to fund the Program.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Sternbach **SECOND:** Mr. Erdogan **AYES: 6**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 3

Ms. Sheft presented the next item before the Board:

Item: Approval of the Fourth Clean Energy and Clean Tech Innovation Memorandum of Understanding between the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, and New Jersey Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology

Request: To approve a fourth Clean Energy and Clean Tech Innovation Memorandum of Understanding between the New Jersey Economic Development Authority and the New Jersey Commission on Science Innovation and Technology to allocate funding from the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, totaling \$5,820,000.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Sternbach **SECOND:** Mr. Erdogan **AYES: 6**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 4

Mr. Sheft presented the next item before the Board:

Item: Approval of the Launch of Clean Tech R&D Pilot Seed Grant program, Round 3

Request: To approve the following:

- i. The launch of Clean Tech R&D Pilot Seed Grant program, Round 3, a competitive grant program supporting the development and innovation of clean technologies to transform new discoveries from research stage into commercially viable technologies, leading to industry and investor interest.

- ii. The allocation of \$1,500,000 to support a total of approximately twenty Program awards. As it has in past years, CSIT plans to fund the Program through a Memorandum of Understanding with the New Jersey Economic Development Agency (NJEDA) that CSIT has requested to be approved by the Members on this date, November 3, 2023. NJEDA has in turn received funding from the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) through a Clean Energy and Clean Tech Memorandum of Understanding entered into on Oct 25, 2023.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Dr. Bridges **SECOND:** Mr. Sternbach **AYES: 6**
RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 5

FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

The next items were:

1. Delegated Authority Update on Awards for Catalyst R&D Voucher Program;
2. Delegated Authority Update on Awards for Clean Tech R&D Voucher Program; and
3. Delegated Authority Update on CSIT Event Sponsorships.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT:

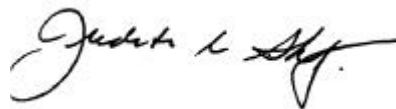
There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Sternbach, and seconded by Mr. Erdogan, the meeting was adjourned at 11:01 am.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting date for the Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology is scheduled for January 26, 2024 at 10:00 am, in person and virtually.

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 November 3, 2023.



Judith Sheft, Executive Director
Secretary