

NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

January 26, 2024

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; Kathleen Coviello for Tim Sullivan, CEO of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority; Dr. Jordan Schiff for Angelica McMillan, Commissioner, DOE; Public Voting Members: Dr. Alain Kornhauser, Princeton University; Non-Voting Legislative Members: Senator Robert Singer, and Assemblyman Christopher DePhillips.

Members of the Commission absent: Public Voting Members: Adam Sternbach, Tessara; and Cuneyt Erdogan, Clarus Engineering; Non-Voting Legislative Members: Senator Paul Sarlo, 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 Institute of Technology; Vince Smeraglia, Rutgers University; Judith Sheft, Executive Director, CSIT; Mahako Etta, and Frances Keel, CSIT Staff; Elizabeth Marshall, Christine Machnowsky, Christopher Kay, Deputy Attorneys 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 November 3, 2023, meeting minutes.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Pascrell **SECOND:** Ms. Coviello **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: Increase in funding for Catalyst Seed Grant Program – Round 2

Request: To approve a \$140,160 increase in the funding of the Catalyst Seed Grant Program Round. The funding will come from the CSIT FY23 budget.

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

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 1

Ms. Etta presented the next item before the Board:

Item: Approval of Catalyst R&D Seed Grant Program- Round 2 awardees & declinations

Request: To approve eleven grants for a total of \$1,640,160 in funding, for awards to eleven NJ based early-stage companies selected under the Catalyst R&D Seed Grant Program- Round 2.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Ms. Coviello **SECOND:** Dr. Bridges **AYES: 5**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 2

Ms. Hart recused herself out of an abundance of caution.

Dr. Kornhauser left the meeting at this time.

Ms. Etta presented the next item before the Board:

Item: Approval of Maternal and Infant Health Pilot Seed Grant Program Round 2

Request: To approve the following:

- i. The launch of Maternal and Infant Health Pilot Seed Grant Program Round 2, the continuation of a competitive pilot grant program supporting innovative technological solutions to maternal and infant health challenges.
- ii. Funding of \$1,550,000 to support this program to be allocated from CSIT's FY2024 budget.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Pascrell **SECOND:** Ms. Coviello **AYES: 5**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 3

Ms. Keel presented the next item before the Board:

Item: Approval of Increase in Funding Available for Catalyst Research and Development (R&D) Voucher Pilot Program, Round 2

Request: To approve an additional \$1,000,000 in funding for the Catalyst Research and Development (R&D) Voucher Pilot Program, Round 2 ("Program"). The funding, which is to come from CSIT's general FY24 budget, will support a total of approximately twenty-five additional awards.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Dr. Bridges **SECOND:** Mr. Pascrell **AYES: 5**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 4

Mr. Sheft presented the next item before the Board:

Item: Approval of MOU Amendment with NJEDA – CSIT Program Audit Expenses

Request: Approval of the "Fifth Amendment to the CSIT – NJEDA Memorandum of Understanding Between the New Jersey Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology and the New Jersey Economic Development Authority," attached as Exhibit A. This MOU amendment provides for CSIT to fund NJEDA up to \$512,280 to cover five years of auditing of CSIT programs by Mercadien P.C.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Dr. Bridges **SECOND:** Mr. Pascrell **AYES: 5**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 5

Dr. Kornhauser rejoined the meeting at this time.

PRESENTATION:

Research with NJ Platform

Mahako Etta, CSIT Program Manager / Patrick Crisfulla, VP of Business Development Elsevier

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT:

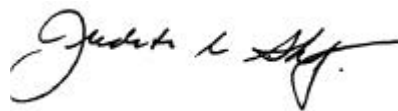
There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Pascrell, and seconded by Dr. Bridges, the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 am.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting date for the Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology is scheduled for March 22, 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 January 26, 2024.



Judith Sheft, Executive Director
Secretary