

**NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

**July 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; Ex-Officio Voting Members: Dr. Brian Bridges, Secretary, OSHE; Kathleen Coviello for Tim Sullivan, CEO of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority; Ralph Hoag for Kevin Dehmer, Commissioner, DOE; Public Voting Members: Adam Sternbach, Tessara; Cuneyt Erdogan, Clarus Engineering; Dr. Alain Kornhauser, Princeton University, and Non-Voting Legislative Member Senator Robert Singer.

Members of the Commission absent: Public Voting Member: David Pascrell, Gibbons, Vice Chair; Non-Voting Legislative Members: Senator Paul Sarlo, Assemblyman Christopher DePhillips, Assemblyman Christopher Tully; Non-Voting University Members: Dr. Nariman Farvardin, President, Stevens Institute of Technology; and Dr. Jonathan Holloway, President, Rutgers University.

Also present: Chris Hughes from Assemblyman DePhillips office, Vincent Smeraglia for Rutgers University; Judith Sheft, Executive Director, CSIT; Mahako Etta, Frances Keel, Shruti Kaul CSIT Staff; Elizabeth Marshall, and Christine Machnowsky, Deputy Attorneys General; Jamera Sirmans, Governor’s Authorities Unit; EDA Staff: Danielle Esser, Director; Muneerah Sanders, Board Liaison; Hector Serrano, Sr. Project Officer; and Fabiola Saturne, Project Officer.

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 May 17, 2024, meeting minutes.

**MOTION TO APPROVE:** Mr. Bridges                      **SECOND:** Mr. Hoag                      **AYES:** 7

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Ms. Sheft presented the CSIT FY25 Budget to the members.

**ITEM: Approval of CSIT FY25 Budget\***

**REQUEST:** To approve **Approval of CSIT FY25 Budget**

**MOTION TO APPROVE:** Mr. Kornhauser                      **SECOND:** Mr. Erdogan                      **AYES:** 7

**RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 1**

Senator Singer joined the meeting at this time.

## GRANT PROGRAMS

### SBIR/STTR DIRECT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Ms. Keel presented the next item before the Board.

**ITEM** Increase in Funding for CSIT NJ SBIR/STTR Direct Financial Assistance Program Pilot, Round 5

**REQUEST:** To approve an additional \$1,000,000 in funding for the CSIT NJ SBIR/STTR Direct Financial Assistance Program Pilot, Round 5 (“Program”). The funding will come from CSIT’S FY25 budget.

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

**RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 2**

## VOUCHER GRANTS

### CLEAN TECH R&D VOUCHER PROGRAM AND CATALYST R&D VOUCHER PROGRAM

Ms. Keel presented the next item before the Board.

**ITEM:** Expansion of CSIT Voucher Program Facilities

**REQUEST:** To approve an expansion of the Clean Tech R&D Voucher and Catalyst R&D Voucher Programs to include approved NJEDA Strategic Innovation Centers (SICs) as eligible facilities.

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

**RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 3**

### CATALYST R&D VOUCHER PROGRAM

Ms. Keel presented the next item before the Board.

**ITEM:** Increase in Funding for Catalyst Research and Development (R&D) Voucher Pilot Program, Round 2

**REQUEST:** To approve an additional \$1,480,000 in funding for the Catalyst Research and Development Voucher Pilot Program, Round 2

**MOTION TO APPROVE:** Mr. Erdogyn                      **SECOND:** Mr. Bridges                      **AYES: 7**

**RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 4**

**FOR INFORMATION ONLY:** The next item was the Delegated Authority Update on R&D Voucher & SBIR/STTR Direct Financial Assistance Programs.

**FOR INFORMATION ONLY:** The next item was an update on EDA initiatives.

**PRESENTATION:**

**Economic Impact Assessment of CSIT Programs**

Dr. Michael Ehrlich, Associate Professor Finance, NJIT

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

Ms. Hart asked Senator Singer if he had any parting thoughts that he would like to share. Senator Singer stated that some of the comments he heard were that it's very important to find dollars to help students get their doctorates in order to provide the type of personnel we need for the technology companies that are coming in.

Senator Singer added that part of the problem is many young people don't know where they can get dollars from, which foundations to look for, or other types of resources that are available within the state. So, perhaps we have to be that catalyst to help find out which foundations will be available, and perhaps convince some of the foundations to invest in our students of higher education.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

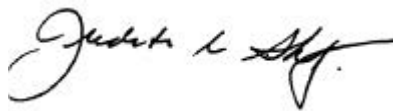
There being no further business, on a motion by Dr. Kornhauser, and seconded by Dr. Bridges, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next meeting date for the Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology is scheduled for Friday, November 15, 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 July 26, 2024.



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Judith Sheft, Executive Director  
New Jersey Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology