

1NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

July 25, 2025

This meeting was held via Microsoft Teams teleconference.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members of the Commission present via teleconference: Debbie Hart, BioNJ, Chair; David Pascrell, Gibbons, Vice Chair; Kathleen Coviello for Tim Sullivan, CEO of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority; Dr. Brian Bridges, Secretary, OSHE; Lisa Haberl for Kevin Dehmer, Commissioner, DOE; Adam Sternbach, Tessara; Dr. Alain Kornhauser, Princeton University; Non-Voting Legislative Members: Senator Robert Singer, Assemblyman Christopher DePhillips; and Vince Smeraglia for Dr. William F. Tate, IV, President, Rutgers, Non-Voting University Member:

Members of the Commission absent: Public Member Cuneyt Erdogan, Clarus Engineering; Senator Paul Sarlo Non-Voting Legislative Member; and Dr. Farvardin, Stevens, Non-Voting University Member:

Also present: Gianna Daniele from Assemblyman Tully's Office; Mahako Etta, NJ Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority; David Gannon, PKF O'Conner Davies; Judith Sheft, Executive Director, CSIT; Frances Keel, Program Officer, CSIT; Elizabeth Marshall, and Christine Machnowsky, Deputy Attorneys General; EDA Staff: Morris Friedmann, CFO; Danielle Esser, Director; Hector Serrano, Sr. Project Officer; Fabiola Saturne, Project 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 Mr. Serrano 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 21, 2025, meeting minutes.

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

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 Monthly Report to the Commission.

During her report, Ms. Sheft announced the departure of Mahako Etta from CSIT, who has taken a new position at the New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority, and thanked her for years of service for CSIT.

Ms. Sheft presented the next item before the Board.

ITEM: Approval of FY26 CSIT Budget

REQUEST: Approval of the \$3,500,000 CSIT FY26 budget.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Dr. Kornhauser **SECOND:** Dr. Bridges **AYES: 7**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 1

Ms. Sheft and Mr. Friedmann presented the next item before the Board.

ITEM: CSIT's 2022 and 2023 Financial Statements

REQUEST: Approval of CSIT's financial statements for 2022 and 2023.

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

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 2

Ms. Keel presented the next item before the Board.

ITEM: Increase in Funding for Catalyst Research and Development Voucher Pilot Program, Round 2

REQUEST: Approval of an additional \$1,800,000 in funding for the Catalyst Research and Development Voucher Pilot Program, Round 2.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Dr. Kornhauser **SECOND:** Mr. Pascrell **AYES: 7**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 3

Ms. Keel presented the next item before the Board.

ITEM: Providing \$125,000 to Rutgers / NJSBDC for Federal FAST Application

REQUEST: Approval of the following:

1. A \$125,000 payment to Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey's NJ Small Business Development Center (NJSBDC). These funds from CSIT's FY2026 budget will be used by NJSBDC to meet the cash match requirement for their 2025 award submission to the federal Small Business Administration for a FAST grant to provide technical assistance to NJ entrepreneurs that have applied to or are considering an application to the federal SBIR/STTR program. CSIT will not provide this funding to NJSBDC if NJSBDC does not receive a 2025 federal FAST grant.
2. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between CSIT and Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.
3. Delegated authority to the Executive Director of CSIT to extend the eighteen-month term of the MOU for up to an additional twelve months pursuant to Section 3 of the MOU.

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

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 4

Ms. Sheft presented the next item before the Board.

ITEM: Increase in Funding for ResearchWithNJ

REQUEST: Approval of the following:

1. Allocation of an additional \$500,000 in funding to cover one of the two remaining one-year extensions of the current contract with Elsevier for provision of services to CSIT related to the ongoing development and maintenance of the ResearchWithNJ portal.

2. Delegated Authority to the Executive Director of CSIT to accept proposed expansion of universities STEM and STEM-adjacent staff profiles on RwnNJ so long as the total cost for the annual fee to Elsevier is less than \$500,000.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Dr. Bridges **SECOND:** Ms. Coviello **AYES: 7**
RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 5

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 the Delegated Authority Update on CSIT Sponsorships.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT:

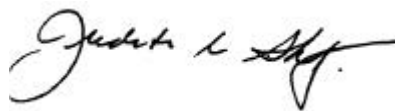
There being no further business, on a motion by Ms. Coviello and seconded by Dr. Bridges, the meeting was adjourned at 11:32am.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting date for the Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology is scheduled for Friday, October 31, 2025 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 25, 2025.



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