

NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

October 31, 2025

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

Rutgers University, NJ Institute for Food, Nutrition, and Health (IFNH)
61 Dudley Road, New Brunswick, NJ.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members of the Commission present in person or via teleconference: Debbie Hart, BioNJ, Chair; David Pascrell, Gibbons, Vice Chair; Ram Akella for Tim Sullivan, CEO of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority; Dr. Brian Bridges, Secretary, OSHE; Dr. Jordan Schiff for Kevin Dehmer, Commissioner, DOE; Dr. Alain Kornhauser, Princeton University; and Cuneyt Erdogan, Clarus Engineering.

Members of the Commission absent: Public Member Adam Sternbach, Tessara; and Non-Voting Legislative Members: Senator Paul Sarlo, Senator Robert Singer, Assemblyman Christopher DePhillips and Assemblyman Christopher Tully; and Non-Voting University Members; Dr. Farvardin, President, Stevens, and Dr. William F. Tate, IV, President, Rutgers.

Also present: Vince Smeraglia, Rutgers University, Christopher L. Hughes, Chief of Staff, Assemblyman DePhillips office; Judith Sheft, Executive Director, CSIT; Frances Keel, Program Officer, CSIT; Jiaqi Liu, Program Specialist, CSIT; Christine Machnowsky, Deputy Attorney General; EDA Staff: 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.

Welcome Remarks: Michael Zwick, PhD, SVP for Research – Rutgers University

Dr. Bridges joined the meeting via teleconference at this time.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The first item was the approval of the July 25, 2025, meeting minutes.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Akella **SECOND:** Mr. Erdogan **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.

Ms. Keel presented the next item before the Board.

ITEM: SBIR/STTR Direct Financial Assistance

REQUEST: Approval of increase in budget and program eligibility requirements for SBIR/STTR Direct Financial Assistance Round 5 *

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

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 1

Ms. Keel presented the next item before the Board.

ITEM: Catalyst and Clean Tech R&D Voucher

REQUEST: Approval of program eligibility changes for the Catalyst Research and Development (R&D) Round 2 and the Clean Tech Research and Development (R&D) Voucher Program Round 3

MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Akella **SECOND:** Dr. Bridges **AYES: 7**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 2

Ms. Sheft presented the next item before the Board.

ITEM: Clean Tech Pilot Demonstration Grant

REQUEST: Approval of modification to no cost extension for CSIT Clean Tech Pilot Demonstration Grant Round 1 and Round 2*

MOTION TO APPROVE: Dr. Bridges **SECOND:** Mr. Erdogan **AYES: 7**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 3

Ms. Sheft presented the next item before the Board.

ITEM: Clean Tech Seed Grant Round 4 – Budget Increase

REQUEST: Approval of budget increase for CSIT Clean Tech R&D Seed Grant Round 4*

MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Erdogan **SECOND:** Dr. Bridges **AYES: 7**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 4

Ms. Sheft presented the next item before the Board.

ITEM: Round 4 Clean Tech Seed Grant - awards and declinations

REQUEST: **Approval of** award recommendations and declinations for CSIT Clean Tech R&D Seed Grant Round 4*

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

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 5

Ms. Sheft presented the next item before the Board.

ITEM: First Amendment to the MOU between NJ Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology and Rutgers

REQUEST: Approval of First Amendment to the MOU between NJ Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology and Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey to Support 2024 FAST Federal Match*

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

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 6

Ms. Keel presented the next item before the Board.

ITEM: Updated CSIT Sponsorship and Membership Policy

REQUEST: Approval of an updated version of CSIT's sponsorship and membership policy and to delegate to the Executive Director the approval of sponsorship and membership opportunities in line with the policy up to a maximum of \$15,000 per event or membership and consistent with the overall CSIT annual budget approved by the CSIT board.

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

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 7

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:

Overview of Rutgers Food Innovation Center

Nolan Lewin, Executive Director, Rutgers, Food Innovation Center, provided the Board with a presentation done at the facility that he oversees.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Robert D. Domenico, founder, Cargo Fish LLC, commented on a CSIT grant program and emphasized the value of CSIT funding to support innovation.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

Chair Hart announced the upcoming retirement of Board Liaison Muneerah Sanders, and expressed gratitude for her dedication and support to the Commission since 2018.

ADJOURNMENT:

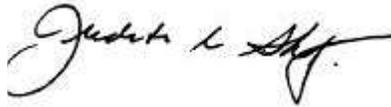
There being no further business, on a motion by Dr. Kornhauser, and seconded by Mr. Akella, the meeting was adjourned at 11:53am.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting date for the Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology is scheduled For Friday, January 30, 2026 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 October 31, 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judith L. Sheft".

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