

NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

*NJIT - Profeta Center
211 Warren Street, Newark, NJ*

May 1, 2026

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members of the Commission present via Microsoft Teams: Debbie Hart, BioNJ, Chair; David Pascrell, Gibbons, Vice Chair; Ram Akella for Evan Weiss, CEO of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority; Margo Chaly, Secretary, OSHE; Dr. Jorden Schiff for Lily Laux, Commissioner, DOE; and Public Member Adam Sternbach.

Members of the Commission absent: Dr. Alain Kornhauser, Princeton University; Cuneyt Erdogan, Clarus Engineering; Gunjan Doshi, CEO, InRhythm, and Non-Voting Legislative Members: Senator Paul Sarlo; Assemblyman Christopher DePhillips; Assemblyman Christopher Tully, and Non-Voting University Member; Dr. William F. Tate, IV, President, Rutgers University.

Also present: Non-Voting Legislative Members: Senator Robert Singer, Val Kologrivov for Assemblyman Christopher Tully; and Vince Smeraglia, Rutgers University; Judith Sheft, Executive Director, CSIT; Frances Keel, Program Officer, CSIT; Jiaqi Liu, Program Specialist, CSIT; Nishant Upadhyay, Temp Grant Administrator, CSIT; Christine Machnowsky, Deputy Attorney General; Samuel Kovach-Orr, GAU; David Gannon, Partner, PKF O'Connor Davies, and EDA Staff: Kathleen Coviello, Chief Economic Transformation Officer, Fred Cole, Chief Administrative Officer, Danielle Esser, Director, Governance; Hector Serrano, Sr. Project Officer, Governance; and Fabiola Saturne, Project Officer, Governance.

Per the Chair's request, Ms. Esser 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: Dr. Teik Lim, President
New Jersey Institute of Technology - NJIT

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The first item was the approval of the January 30, 2026, meeting minutes.

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

AYES: 5

Secretary Chaly abstained.

ITEM: Annual Organizational Meeting

REQUEST: Approval is requested for the following actions:

- (1) Election of Officers, including Vice Chair and Treasurer; and
- (2) CSIT Calendar of Meetings through May 2027.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Pascrell **SECOND:** Sec. Chaly

AYES: 6

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 1

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.

ITEM: The New Jersey Commission of Science, Innovation and Technology's Annual Report for 2025

REQUEST: Approval of The New Jersey Commission of Science, Innovation and Technology's Annual Report for 2025

MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Akella **SECOND:** Sec. Chaly

AYES: 6

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 2

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: The next item was the presentation of an update on the CSIT SFY27 Budget.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY - PRESENTATION:

Report by NJIT on 2026 Economic Impact of CSIT Programs presented by Dr. Michael Ehrlich, Associate Professor of Finance & Entrepreneurship, NJIT

Mr. Pascrell left the meeting at this time

ITEM: CSIT's 2024 Financial Statements

REQUEST: Approval of CSIT's Financial Statements for 2024

MOTION TO APPROVE: Sec. Chaly **SECOND:** Mr. Sternbach

AYES: 5

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 3

ITEM: Reallocation of SBIR/STTR Direct Financial Assistance Pilot Program Round 5 Funds to the Clean Tech R&D Voucher Pilot Program, Round 3 and Catalyst R&D Voucher Pilot Program, Round 2

REQUEST: Approval of: (1) Pausing further acceptance of applications for the SBIR/STTR Direct Financial Assistance Pilot Program, Round 5 and reallocating the \$850,000 in uncommitted funds to the Catalyst R&D Voucher Program; and (2) Delegated authority for the Executive Director to transfer funds between the Catalyst R&D Voucher program and Clean Tech R&D Voucher programs in order to support the volume of pending applications.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Sec. Chaly **SECOND:** Mr. Akella

AYES: 5

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 4

ITEM: Approval of a three-award maximum for Catalyst R&D and Clean Tech R&D Voucher Pilot Programs

REQUEST: Approval of a threshold maximum of three (3) total vouchers over the life of a company across all rounds of the Catalyst R&D Voucher Pilot Program (Rounds 1 and 2) and the Clean Tech R&D Voucher Pilot Program (Rounds 1 through 3)

MOTION TO APPROVE: Sec. Chaly **SECOND:** Mr. Akella

AYES: 5

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 5

ITEM: Provide up to \$150,000 to Rutgers / NJSBDC for Federal FAST Application

REQUEST: Approval of: (1) A payment of up to \$150,000 to The State University of New Jersey's NJ Small Business Development Center (NJSBDC) at Rutgers; (2) a Memorandum of Understanding between CSIT and Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey; and (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: Mr. Akella **SECOND:** Mr. Sternbach

AYES: 5

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 6

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Robert DeDomenico, CEO of Cargo Fish, LLC, expressed appreciation for CSIT's support in awarding his company under the third round of the Clean Tech Seed Grant program. He added that he applied for the fourth round and is currently engaged in the appeal process. Mr. DeDomenico also shared recent successes, including securing their first customer and expanding outreach through participation in multiple trade shows.

Mr. Andy Bala, Founder and CEO of Delphine Diagnostics, highlighted the critical impact of CSIT funding, specifically the Catalyst R&D voucher and Maternal Infant Health grants, which enabled his company to advance sepsis diagnostics research and develop prototypes. He expressed his appreciation to the CSIT team and the value of CSIT's support and funding.

Mr. Glennon Simmons, CEO and Founder of Portable Diagnostic Systems, described how CSIT funding, including the Maternal and Infant R&D Grant Program grant and SBIR direct financial assistance, was essential for developing their point-of-care drug testing device. He announced plans to launch their product, inviting attendees to tour their facility at the Profeta Center.

Ms. Charmi Chande, CEO of PFA Solve Inc., discussed the company's progress in PFAS detection, capture, and elimination technologies. She thanked the CSIT leadership and team for their responsiveness and ongoing support.

Ms. Sheilisa McNeil, Founder and CEO of Fria Jewelry, shared that Freia Jewelry is now preliminarily approved for NSF Phase II funding and appreciated CSIT for access to resources and information.

Ms. Cassie Hallberg, CEO of Pure Trace Labs, described their PFAS detection technology and the role of CSIT in connecting them to funding opportunities and ecosystem partners. She announced their recent acceptance into the Clean Tech Research and Development (R&D) Voucher Pilot Program and expressed gratitude for CSIT's support since the company's formation.

Mr. Pascrell rejoined the meeting at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

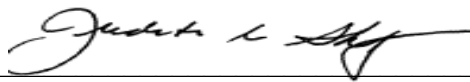
There being no further business, on a motion by Secretary Chaly and seconded by Mr. Pascrell, the meeting was adjourned at 10:52 AM by the six (6) voting members present.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting date for the Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology is scheduled for Friday, July 10, 2026 at 10:00 AM, 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 May 1, 2026.



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