

NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

August 7, 2026

This meeting was held 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; Ralph Hoag for Lily Laux, Commissioner, DOE; Public Members: Cuneyt Erdogan, Clarus Engineering; and Adam Sternbach, Yuma AI.

Members of the Commission absent: Dr. Alain Kornhauser, Princeton University, and Non-Voting Legislative Members: Senator Robert Singer, Senator Paul Sarlo; Assemblyman Christopher DePhillips, and Non-Voting University Member; Dr. William F. Tate, IV, President, Rutgers University.

Also present: Non-Voting Legislative Members: Dana Walter for Assemblyman Christopher Tully; Judith Sheft, Executive Director, CSIT; Frances Keel, Program Officer, CSIT; Jiaqi Liu, Program Specialist, CSIT; Christopher Kay, Deputy Attorney General; Samuel Kovach-Orr, GAU; and EDA Staff: 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.

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.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The first item was the approval of the May 1, 2026, meeting minutes.

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

AYES: 7

ITEM: Approval of CSIT FY27 Budget

REQUEST: To approve the CSIT FY27 budget.

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

AYES: 7

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 1

ITEM: Approval of Restated CSIT-NJEDA MOU for Administrative Support Services

REQUEST: To approve a restated MOU between the CSIT and the New Jersey Economic Development Authority for administrative support services.

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

AYES: 7

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 2

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

ITEM: Request to increase of Funds to Catalyst and Clean Tech R&D Voucher Programs

REQUEST: To approve additional funding for the Catalyst Research and Development Voucher Pilot Program, Round 2 and for the Clean Tech Research and Development Voucher Pilot Program, Round 3. Total funding will come from CSIT's FY27 budget.

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

AYES: 6

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 3

Mr. Erdogan did not vote on this action.

ITEM: Request to Approve 5th MOU with NJIT for Evaluation of CSIT Programs

REQUEST: To approve: (1) a transfer of \$20,000 from the CSIT FY2027 budget to New Jersey Institute of Technology, for NJIT to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the economic impact of CSIT grant programs since its inception; and (2) approve a Memorandum of Understanding with NJIT. Delegation of authority to the Executive Director is also requested so that changes, insertions or deletions to the form of the MOU, as may be necessary or appropriate, may be made with the advice of the Office of the Attorney General.

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

AYES: 7

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 4

ITEM: Personnel Matter – Executive Director

REQUEST: The Board is requested to approve an increase in the Executive Director's salary by 3%.

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

AYES: 7

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 5

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

ADJOURNMENT:

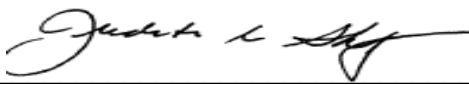
There being no further business, on a motion by Secretary Chaly and seconded by Mr. Erdogan, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM by the seven (7) voting members present.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting date for the Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology is scheduled for Friday, November 13, 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 August 7, 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judith Sheft", is written over a horizontal line.

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