

NJ COMMISSION ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

September 27, 2019

AT&T GLOBAL NETWORK OPERATIONS CENTER (GNOC)

**ONE AT&T WAY
BEDMINSTER, NJ**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

ATTENDEES:

Members of the Commission present:

Public Members (voting): Chairman Gunjan Doshi, Public Members Charlene Brown, AT&T; Debbie Hart, BioNJ; David Pascrell, Gibbons;

Ex-Officio Members (voting): Brian Sabina for CEO Tim Sullivan of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority; and Dr. Linda Eno, representing Dept. of Education Commissioner Lamont Repollet;

Non-Voting Members: Senator Paul Sarlo; Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker, and Dr. Nariman Farvardin, President, Stevens Institute of Technology.

Public Members (voting) present via conference call: Dr. Joel Bloom, NJIT, Ex-Officio Members (voting): Secretary Zakiya Smith Ellis of the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, and Non-Voting Members: Assemblyman Christopher DePhillips.

Members absent: Dr. Beth Noveck, Office of Innovation; and Senator Robert Singer, Non-voting Member. Dr. Robert Barchi, Rutgers University.

Also present: Deputy Attorney General Elizabeth Tillou; Daniel Davidow, Office of the Governor; Danielle Esser, Deputy Chief of Staff, NJEDA; and staff.

Chairman Doshi called the meeting to order at 10:00 am with a quorum of the Commission present. Per the Chairman's request, Muneerah Sanders read the Open Public Meetings announcement and performed the roll call of the Commission.

The next item was the approval of the August 6, 2019 minutes. Secretary Ellis indicated that a correction was needed to be made to the minutes, as Deputy Secretary Gonzalez was present via conference call at the August 6 meeting, but was noted as being absent. With that correction, on a motion by Mr. Sabina, and seconded by Ms. Hart, the minutes were approved by the 5 voting members present.

Senator Sarlo entered the meeting at 10:02 am.

Assemblyman Zwicker entered the meeting at 10:05 am.

REMAINING 2019 CALENDAR MEETING DATES:

The Members were presented with 2019 Meeting calendar for their approval. On a motion by Ms. Hart, and seconded by Ms. Brown, the meeting calendar was approved by the voting members present.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Doshi summarized some updates of the Commission's recent highlights, including a note that this meeting marks six (6) months since the CSIT's initial meeting in March and the CSIT's 5th meeting. The Chairman further summarized some of the CSIT's noteworthy accomplishments, including authorization of an MOU between the CSIT and the EDA, election of officers; committee assignments; and approval of by-laws. He further noted that the Program Committee has drafted a framework to establish a program that will support the technology and innovation sector that is before you for consideration today. Lastly, he noted that the Hiring Committee was engaged in a vigorous process to bring on an Executive Director and was getting very close to being able to make a recommendation to the Board, which we hope to do at the next Board meeting. The Hiring Committee will provide an update which will be discussed later in the agenda.

Chairman Doshi asked for members thoughts.

Assemblyman Zwicker echoed the Chairman's thoughts and noted the need to figure out the appropriate programs and initiatives to make the most impact. Assemblyman Zwicker noted that he was proud to be a part of this Commission and work with each person.

Senator Sarlo acknowledged his colleagues and the bipartisanship of the Commission. Senator Sarlo acknowledged his interest given his personal engineering background. Senator Sarlo remarked the importance of the work of the Commission. He added that small steps can make a great impact, and with the amount of intellect that is part of this Commission, he is confident the CSIT can do the heavy lifting to accomplish the group's shared goals.

Senator Singer also gave his fellow commission members credit for moving forward. He added that the Hiring Committee has narrowed the candidates for Executive Director down to two choices. He also noted that the Governor had recently returned from his Trade Mission to India.

Chairman Doshi advised that he attended the Trade Mission with Governor Murphy.

Senator Singer added that he agreed, with his colleagues, and he looked forward to creating bipartisan legislation out of the Commission's work.

Chairman Doshi provided a summary of the Governor's Trade Mission to India, saying they met with three Chief Ministers. They discussed a New Jersey distribution space and came away with a promise of 1,200 jobs to come to New Jersey. He added that this Commission was brought up often during the Indian Trade Mission.

Chairman Doshi added that the CSIT formed a Program committee which did a fantastic job of looking at the history of other states around the country. The CSIT narrowed it down to two programs to move forward.

Ms. Hart said she could not contain herself and was thrilled to be so focused on SBIR. She wondered what method the commission would use that allows the Executive Director to put their stamp on the seed grant. Ms. Hart credited the EDA staff with doing terrific legwork on this project.

NEW JERSEY SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH (SBIR) AND THE SMALL BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROGRAM (STTR) SUPPORT PROGRAM.

Mr. Sabina summarized the next item for the Commission's approval, the creation and implementation of the NJ SBIR/STTR Support Program pilot utilizing \$500,000 in general operating funding resources. He noted that the program would operate on a pilot basis for a period of three (3) years and will be capitalized through general CSIT operating funds. On a motion by Dr. Bloom, and seconded by Ms. Brown, the recommendation was approved by the voting members present.

NEXT STEPS:

Staff agreed to continue to work with the CSIT Program Committee to further flesh out the scoring and evaluation criteria of the approved programs, and also to work with the Committee on the timing of the launch and award of the grant awards.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chairman Doshi asked the members if they had any old business they wished to discuss. In the interest of time, the Chairman requested that the discussion on the Innovation District program be postponed to another meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT:

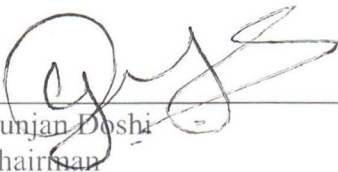
There being no further business, on a motion by Ms. Brown, and seconded by Ms. Hart, the meeting was adjourned at 11:36am.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting date for the Commission on Science, Innovation, and Technology was tentatively scheduled for Friday, December 13, 2019 at 10:00 am at Rutgers, New Brunswick.

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 September 27, 2019.



Gunjan Doshi
Chairman