



Connecticut Technology Council Calls for Support of High Growth Firms, More Funding For Connecticut Innovations and Asks Governor to Oversee Building of Innovation Eco-System

Connecticut's second largest statewide business trade association issues 2011 public policy Innovation Agenda

February 24, 2011 02:47 PM Eastern Daylight Time

HARTFORD, Conn.--(EON: Enhanced Online News)--Connecticut Technology Council said future economic growth is very possible as it issued its 2011 public policy Innovation Agenda today for the consideration of the new Governor Malloy Administration, the State Legislature and other economic development groups. The Agenda is organized around the key parts of what has become known as the "innovation eco-system," which is the set of conditions and relationships that give a region the ability to create companies and jobs through the complex process of commercializing intellectual property. Parts of this ecosystem include university or corporate tech transfer, adequate investment capital, start-up business acceleration, incentives, networks, available talent, global connections and regional infrastructure. Each area is addressed in the Agenda, which is available as a downloadable PDF at www.ct.org.

Board members Kevin Burns, CEO of Precision Combustion in North Haven, and Frank Marco, a partner in the New Haven-founded Wiggin & Dana law firm, co-chaired the task force that oversaw the drafting of the Agenda, which involved more than half of the group's 45-person board.

"Building on the findings of our ground-breaking Competitiveness Agenda report published two months ago, this Innovation Agenda sets out government objectives and strategies needed to build high quality jobs and a sustained growth environment in Connecticut," noted Burns. "We can rebuild Connecticut's competitiveness, but we must act. We will follow this Innovation Agenda immediately with specific policies and action steps and will be talking about these with the administration and the legislative leaders in the weeks and months ahead."

"We are delighted that Governor Malloy and the legislative leadership have indicated their appreciation of the importance of innovation to creating the jobs of the future economic prosperity for the state, and believe that the public-private initiatives recommended by our Agenda can play a key role in this effort," said Marco.

"Connecticut finds itself in a category of locations that depend on high value-added jobs and very competitive companies, such as Silicon Valley, Boston, and countries such as Denmark and Singapore. We are moving full speed into a post-industrial future – that doesn't mean we won't have manufacturing, but R&D and innovation will drive our economic growth," said CTC President and CEO Matthew Nemerson. "This agenda addresses what we have learned about what it takes to compete in this league. Ironically, we invented this type of economy in the 1840s and excelled for 150 years. We can do this again."

The technology council will produce a third document later this month outlining a range of additional specific projects and concepts in each of the eight areas in which the Agenda has issued broader recommendations. Visit www.ct.org for more information.

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