



**BOARD OF REGENTS  
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION**

Minutes of the Public Session  
January 29, 2015  
University of Maryland, College Park

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The Committee on Economic Development and Technology Commercialization of the University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents met in public session on Thursday, January 29, 2015, in the Atrium of the Stamp Student Union at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Chairman Attman called the meeting to order at 12:41 p.m. The regents in attendance were Mr. Attman, Mr. Kelly and Mr. Rauch. Also present at the meeting were Mr. Vivona, Mr. Balakrishnan, Mr. Darmody, Ms. Doyle, and OAG Bainbridge. Guests present included Ms. Brasington, Mr. Drake, Dr. Hammond, Ms. Hemmerly, Ms. Hess, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Knight, Ms. Kropp, Mr. Lurie, Dr. Motayed, Dr. O'Shea, Mr. Ostovar, Dr. Sandborn, and Dr. Varma.

1. Featured Start-Up – N5 Sensors, Inc. (Information Item)

Dr. Abhishek Motayed, faculty member at UMCP and Founder and President of N5 Sensors, Inc., presented highlights of the company and its technology. N5 Sensors has obtained an exclusive license for its technology from UMCP. The company is a spin-off from Mtech and is commercializing high-performance sensors and detectors.

Located in Rockville, MD, N5 Sensors currently has four full-time engineers and scientists working on the R&D, with an additional two student interns from the MIPS program. The company is currently funded at the level of \$780,000/year with various SBIR and state projects. In 2014, N5 won the TEDCO Maryland Manufacturing Initiative award, EPA SBIR Phase I, NSF SBIR Phase I, DHS Phase I, Army STTR Phase I, and UMCP MIPS awards. The first pilot of the technology will be tested this spring at a senior assistant living community in Montgomery County.

2. Commission on Maryland's Business Climate Update (Information Item)

Mr. Jim Hughes, UMB, provided an update on the work being done by the Commission on Maryland's Business Climate. The Commission was to complete its report in December 2014, but the Senate President and House Speaker added taxes to the scope of the work and revised the schedule at the end of 2014. Accordingly, the Commission will submit its first phase report in February and a second phase

addressing tax issues in late summer or early fall. USM submitted several recommendations, including evaluating increased flexibility in the procurement process and the aggregation of tax credits in a RISE Zone.

### 3. RISE Zone and E-Nnovation Programs Update (Information Item)

Mr. Brian Darmody, UMCP, provided an update on the RISE Zone and E-Nnovation programs. The RISE (Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise) Zone Program was passed during the 2014 legislative session and is intended to spur significant financial investments in designated zones through enhanced property and income tax credits and accelerated depreciation schedules. Draft regulations were released in late January and several counties are preparing to submit applications to be designated as a RISE Zone.

The E-Nnovation Initiative offers a state match to private funds raised in support of endowed chairs, allowing for the auctioning of varied tax credits to the private sector to match higher education funding to attract the best researchers to USM institutions. Governor Hogan has allocated \$8.5 million in the budget for the first phase of the initiative and the final regulations are close to being released. Endowments starting on July 1, 2015 will be eligible and several USM institutions are working to identify prospects to solicit for the matching funds.

The public session was adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary L. Attman, Chair  
Committee on Economic Development  
and Technology Commercialization