

Week in review

October 14, 2011 -- Our top "4" subjects you should know

1. Ohio Third Frontier Advisory Board submits recommendations

The Ohio Third Frontier Advisory Board met in Columbus this week and approved its 2012 budget recommendations, which were later accepted by the Third Frontier Commission. The board recommended that the commission focus on an updated assessment of major Ohio market opportunities and have a sharper focus on six key industries in which significant growth can be catalyzed with program investments.

The board identified the following as leading and emerging areas:

- Advanced materials
- Software applications for business and healthcare
- Fuel cells and energy storage
- Medical technology
- Aero-propulsion power management
- Sensing & automation technologies
- Situational awareness and surveillance systems
- Solar photovoltaics

The board recommends the following budget allocations:

Entrepreneurial support programs: 42% of total budget

The Entrepreneurial Support Program aims to improve the capacity of Ohio's entrepreneurial ecosystem to deliver services and attract the capital necessary to create and grow scalable technology-based enterprises.

Value chain development: 21% of total budget

These programs increase the technical capabilities and business competencies of Ohio value chains within key existing and emerging driver industries.

Open innovation: 35% of total budget

Open innovation programs cultivate a highly collaborative and innovative environment that encourages Ohio's community of technology seekers and solvers to regularly exchange new knowledge in pursuit of targeted market driven commercial opportunities.

Talent: 2% of total budget

The Third Frontier Internship Program awards up to \$3,000 per internship to for-profit companies. The internships are deployed through seven regional non-profit partners.

2. Small Business Advisory Council holds meeting

The Small Business Advisory Council met this week and discussed a new step in the agency rulemaking process that will take effect in January 2012. The council, which is housed in the newly-created Common Sense Initiative Office, led by Lt. Governor Mary Taylor, is charged with reviewing Business Regulation Impact Analysis forms that agencies

will be required to submit when filing new rules that affect businesses in the state. Director Mark Hamlin said the new process will shift the burden to agencies to show the impact new regulations have on business, as opposed to the current system where businesses may provide comment at public meetings after a rule has been filed.

Mr. Hamlin also noted that the council must submit semi-annual updates that will be provided to the legislative leaders. The first update is expected to be submitted in the near future.

3. House Public Utilities Committee continues evidentiary hearings

The House Public Utilities Committee will hear from representatives of Ohio's major investor owned electric utilities at its next meeting on Wednesday, October 19. This will be the committee's third oversight hearing focusing on electric utilities. Previously, the committee heard testimony from the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and representatives of Ohio's manufacturing industry.

The hearings are educational in nature, as many of the committee members are new to the legislature. Witnesses from the manufacturing industry agreed that the Advanced Energy Portfolio Standards included in Senate Bill 221 of the 127th General Assembly are an impediment to economic development in the state and should be revised. Senator Kris Jordan has introduced a bill that would repeal the requirement that electric distribution utilities and electric services companies provide 25 percent of their retail power supplies from advanced and renewable energy resources by 2025. The Governor has said that energy policy will be addressed in the spring.

4. State to hold Ohio Business Expo

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) has announced it will host the 2011 Ohio Business Expo on Wednesday, November 30. The expo is intended to allow business owners to network with purchasing professionals from state agencies regarding upcoming contracting and procurement opportunities with the state.

The free expo will give businesses the opportunity to become better acquainted with how the state's procurement systems operate. State officials will be on hand to provide advice on how to make more effective use of the resources and tools available for businesses. To learn more or register for the event, visit www.das.ohio.gov/eod.

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