

Patrick-Murray Administration Announces Study on Economic Impact of IT Industry in Commonwealth

Governor calls for industry collaborative to support IT sector growth

BOSTON - January, 27, 2009 - Today, Governor Deval Patrick met with academic, business and civic leaders with a stake in the information technology (IT) sector to discuss how to better position the Commonwealth's vibrant IT industry to compete in the global economy and to announce the commission of a study to examine the information technology (IT) industry's economic contributions in Massachusetts.

"Massachusetts must maintain its position as a global leader in IT and as a hub of innovation in the new generation of IT and IT-enabled technology and business opportunities," said Governor Patrick. "This study will be a critical tool in our ongoing efforts to support and grow this sector throughout the state."

The University of Massachusetts' Donahue Institute's Economic and Public Policy Research Group will conduct the study on behalf of a consortium of Massachusetts businesses and industry associations. The Institute will undertake in-depth research documenting the size and scope of activities of the major IT industry sectors in Massachusetts. It will analyze the extent to which the presence of IT firms contribute to the competitiveness of other Massachusetts industries. In addition, the report will explore opportunities for the local IT industry and investigate major obstacles to growth and expansion in Massachusetts.

"It was clear for us that there is a lot of innovation in the IT landscape in the Massachusetts, but we needed more data and evidence to demonstrate the strengths and scale of the industry here," said Paul Bosco of Cisco and Donna Cupelo of Verizon, chairs of the consortium.

The Governor also called for the establishment of an IT Collaborative that will help brand and advocate for the IT sector's position in the state, national, and global economy. Governor Patrick highlighted his administration's support of efforts in the life sciences industries as a good example of how university, industry, and government can collaborate to build a stronger IT sector.

Last November, Housing and Economic Development Secretary Dan O'Connell tapped the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative's John Adams Innovation Institute to support and advise in the formation of the IT Collaborative.

As a partner for the IT industry and the Patrick Administration in creating the framework for the IT Collaborative, The John Adams Innovation Institute is building on its experience supporting organizing efforts of other statewide strategic innovation initiatives, such as the Massachusetts Life Sciences Collaborative and the Massachusetts Broadband Institute. The Innovation Institute has been engaged in an ongoing conversation with industry, government and civic leaders in the IT space

"We are at the very early stages of this organizing effort in the IT sector", said Patrick Larkin, Director of the John Adams Innovation Institute, "but we are moving swiftly and

the support of the Governor and Secretary O'Connell is undoubtedly catalyzing progress towards an IT Collaborative."

The results of the IT Study will serve as a stepping stone for the parallel effort already underway to form the IT Collaborative.

"The IT sector stands with the life sciences, energy, defense and the creative economy as a strategic priority in our economic development agenda", said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Dan O'Connell. "This is a unique opportunity to build on the Commonwealth's extraordinary and diverse strengths in science, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship."

###

The Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development is one of eight Secretariats that make up the Governor's Cabinet. Under the leadership of Secretary Dan O'Connell, the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development oversees the following undersecretariats: the Departments of Business Development, Housing and Community Development, and Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation.