



Puerto Rico 5G Zone Advisory Meeting Minutes

During the meeting on February 2nd, 2023 we discussed the following topics:

1.Meeting Opening and Update on Select Projects- Gail Nolan

a) **REACH**- In brief we still have not heard anything from NSF, nor have other announcements of awards been made.

b) **STEM Education Programming** - For 2023 challenge identification Ubaldo Cordova announced that UPR-M was submitting a proposal to NSF for the ACSER STEM funding opportunity. The Zone provided narrative consistent with our mission and philosophy that technology and human capital assets were the core of economic development, and that related programming needed to look for intersections of industries with strong market growth projections. Ubaldo defined a process for engaging industry for identification of ‘challenges’ which aligned to our REACH structure as a means of surfacing new skill needs. That grant will be submitted at the end of the month and we will keep you informed on progress.

c) **Virginia Tech/UPRM 5G Green Energy Testbed**- Admiral David Simpson from Virginia Tech gave an overview of the project background and then presented a PowerPoint presentation on the details. By means of background he framed the ‘Phase I’ work done on behalf of the Army Corp of Engineers and the partnership commitment with UPRM to create a twin lab on the island to one at Virginia Tech, then to deploy pilot projects throughout the island. The project also included workforce skill development and export product and service opportunities. I’ve attached the presentation. There was lively discussion from Advisory Board (AB) members and follow-up conversations scheduled for the combined VT and UPRM team during the Energy Summit at the end of the month. We are working both with local officials and federal officials to secure funding for the project, and encourage members to submit their energy tech registration document, which can be found [here](#), to be included in the technology assessment.

3.Review of 2022 WorkPlan Progress – I announced our intention to actively track the objectives identified by members of the AB and progress we’ve made on our 2022 workplan, and then align that with the projects we are currently working on. I am creating a more granulated version with objectives and actions, but we acknowledged the complexity of tracking these and inspiring member engagement without a collaboration tool. To solve this in the short term and long term we announced two new tools we’d be customizing to inspire more engagement. For the short term, Sean Valentine announced the ‘WhatsApp’ group he had established for our AB. The group has two sections, one for announcements, updates and queries between partners, and the second is a listing of opportunities for members of The Zone. Below is the detail on each project.

4.Discussion on Project/Partner Matchmaking CRM System- Archer Lebron from Tranxcend, a PR based technology service provider, gave an overview of a collaboration management product he had developed prior to the pandemic. The software tool, ‘Imagine Together’ works as an automated version of OKRs to track and enhance communication within complex partnerships. It is currently in beta test phase and we are working to secure funding to customize and deploy it as our collaboration platform. Until then we’ll be using the WhatsApp group. Both structures will be framed to our updated workplan which I will present at our next meeting.

5.New Chat Group- Sean Valentine has set up the WhatsApp group and the link to join is here. The ‘opportunity page’ will be for paid members. We encourage partners on the collaboration page to actively interface on needs or services. Our goal is to stimulate pollination of ideas, not all of which need to be managed through The Zone. The group name is: ‘PR 5G Zone Group’ please join today or ask for assistance to join.

At the end of the meeting we ran out of time but made brief announcements on the following items. These will be addressed in more detail at our next meeting.

d) **Advanced Innovation Center (AIC)** This proposal can be found on our website [here](#). We are looking for funding and investors.

e) **Mission to Spain** I’ll be traveling with seven other leaders on the Island for a State Department of Spain sponsored information exchange at the end of February. The topic will be aerospace and energy. We’ll be talking most specifically about our testbed project and space hub development work.

2.U of M Research Project- We announced the project timeline and encouraged members to reach out with questions or if they wanted to be a participant. The draft of the report will be circulated to members for review before being finalized in April. This will serve as a baseline with annual benchmarking planned.

6.PR5BZ Lab Use Training- We are working to create an training program for utilization of our facility, with specific focus on the IoT validation tool and High Performance Computing access. We’ll be announcing a date for this shortly. We are working with the Science Trust to fully integrate our capabilities into their ‘menu’ of available resources to researchers in their network.

7. Announcements and Closing