

**Letter of Intent on the Australia-U.S. Chief Technology Officer Dialogue**

**between**

**the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science of Australia**

**and**

**the Council on Competitiveness**

The **Department of Industry, Innovation and Science** (hereinafter referred to as 'DIIS'), of Australia and

the **Council on Competitiveness** (hereinafter referred to as 'CoC'), a non-profit organisation, created in 1986, with headquarters in 900 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 700 Washington, D.C. 20006 United States (U.S.),

Hereinafter referred to collectively as 'Partners' of this Letter of Intent,

Have reached the following understandings:

**I. Introduction**

- a. The **mission of DIIS** is to facilitate the growth and productivity of globally competitive industries. DIIS supports the building of a strong scientific capability, business innovation and commercialisation of new ideas as critical to productivity and economic growth.
- b. The **mission of CoC** is to promote long-term U.S. productivity growth, a rising standard of living for its citizens, and the success of U.S.-produced goods and service in the global marketplace. The CoC's membership is a diverse and nonpartisan group of CEOs, university presidents, labour leaders and national lab directors. These members advance the CoC's mission through a pro-growth policy agenda in Washington, DC, around the nation and across the world.
- c. The CoC's Technology Leadership and Strategy Initiative (TLSI) has a proud history of convening U.S. technology and innovation leaders to understand technology investments and drivers, establish new paradigms for collaboration between the public and private sectors, and identify critical opportunities to sustain innovation and competitiveness.

- d. The arrangement outlined in this Letter of Intent between the Partners represents CoC's first international, chief technologist-focused partnership, underscoring the strong alignment of the U.S. and Australia's innovation strategies.

## **II. Purpose**

Guided by the U.S. and Australia's mutually compatible innovation goals, research and development capacity and industry profile, the Partners intend to deepen cooperation in the fields of innovation, entrepreneurship and competitiveness between Australian and U.S. companies, research institutions and national laboratories (hereinafter referred to as 'Participants'). Recognising the importance of building these linkages to: better understand technology investments, drivers and strategies, improve collaboration between the private and public sectors, leverage collective investments in research, talent and technology, and identify critical technology opportunities to sustain innovation and competitiveness, the Partners mutually consent to the following:

1. Establish the inaugural **Australian-U.S. Chief Technology Officer (CTO) Dialogue** to promote knowledge exchange by bringing together technology and innovation leaders from the public and private sectors. Initial tasks for the CTO Dialogue may include exploration of models for regular and ongoing exchanges, including opportunities for the establishment of an Australian counterpart to the CoC TLSI.
2. Promote dialogue between the Participants on core themes of mutual interest to the innovation ecosystems of both Australia and the U.S. Potential themes may include, but are not limited to:
  - health technologies
  - cyber security
  - artificial intelligence
  - transport and drones
  - quantum computing
  - the Internet of Things
  - efficiency measures in water management and agriculture
  - advanced and extreme materials and mining; and
  - future workforce development
3. Support for the development of strong Participant-level partnerships towards:
  - identification of mutual challenges and opportunities shared between Participants
  - establishment of collaborative project opportunities; and
  - introduction of staff transfers.

4. The activity carried out by the Participants in accordance with this Letter of Intent will be subject to the availability of funds.
5. This Letter of Intent is not intended to create any legal obligations, rights or liability on the Participants.

### **III. Other Arrangements**

This Letter of Intent will come into effect upon signature by the Partners and will remain in effect for an initial period of one (1) year. **This Letter of Intent replaces and supersedes the Letter of Intent previously signed by the Partners at Australian Parliament House on 6 December 2017.**

This Letter of Intent may be terminated at any time by either Partner with three (3) months prior written notice. Termination of this Letter of Intent will not affect the completion of any existing activities, projects or other cooperation already arranged by the Participants under this Letter of Intent.

The Partners will endeavour to resolve any disputes between them regarding this Letter of Intent through timely and friendly consultation. The President and CEO of the CoC and the Head of the Portfolio Policy and Innovation Strategy Division of DIIS (and their successors) will be the points of contact for managing this consultation process.

Signed in the English language as follows:

For the Australian Government

For the Council on Competitiveness



Date: 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Senator the Hon. Michaelia Cash

Minister for Jobs and Innovation



Date: 23 January, 2018

Deborah L. Wine-Smith

President and Chief Executive Officer, Council  
on Competitiveness



Date: 10<sup>th</sup> January

The Hon. Greg Hunt MP 2018

Minister for Health