

## Summary notes for the 6th Annual Arizona Technology & Telecom Policy Review

An [ATIC Public Meeting](#) was held on Thursday, February 19, 2009. It focused on the Arizona, national, and international high-tech policy situation and outlook for the year to come.

Moderated by **Mark Goldstein**, ATIC Secretary and President, International Research Center (<http://www.researchedge.com/>)

**Christopher Smith**, Arizona Technology Council's (<http://www.aztechcouncil.org/>) Public Policy Committee Chairman and Manager of Government Relations at Cox Communications ([http://www.coxbusiness.com/systems/az\\_phoenix/](http://www.coxbusiness.com/systems/az_phoenix/)) spoke on the Tech Council's policy initiatives. Christopher outlined the Tech Council's agenda, which focuses on:

- Advocacy (as exemplified by the leadership role played in R&D Tax Credit legislation)
- Advisory Role in lending support to other organizations (e.g., science & education; K-12 STEM Center; renewable energy by GPEC; Electronic healthcare option; access to rural broadband)
- Maintaining a watch list on important technology developments (e.g., Western Climate Initiative; Cap and trade policy, carbon tax)
- This year another area of interest has been defined that focuses on the state budget activities in the legislature (appropriations for Science Foundation Arizona; federal and state stimulus packages; K-12 appropriations)

**Ron Schott**, Chairman of the Arizona Telecommunications and Information Council (ATIC - <http://www.arizonatele.com/atic/>) provided an update on ATIC activities and plans.

- ATIC is looking at ways to improve broadband in Arizona
  - The importance of solving the Right-of-Way issues was illustrated by the delays experienced in the recent DHS pilot program in southern Arizona.
  - ATIC assisted GITA and Commerce in making Superior, Arizona, a broadband-enabled community.
  - ATIC is exploring other opportunities and how to tap into some of the broadband infrastructure money in the federal stimulus package. According to data contained in a recent Cisco-sponsored webinar, the stimulus package includes
    - USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS) loans and grants
    - US Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) grants
  - ATIC hopes to assist in leveraging the GBAS study to obtain some funding for mapping and broadband
- A Vendor Advisory Committee is being formed to create private-public partnerships. ATIC is looking for members to join this committee.

**Galen Updike**, Telecommunications Development Manager at the Government Information Technology Agency (GITA - <http://www.azgita.gov/>) reported on GITA's recent Broadband Assessment GIS Study (GBAS) and State of Arizona collaborations with other states in anticipation of new federal broadband stimulus programs.

- The GBAS study recommends that a statewide mapping survey be done
  - To identify the gaps in broadband availability in Arizona and project the needs.
  - To have GITA administer the survey under the auspices of a single council – supported by ATIC and other private and public stakeholders.
- The GBAS study funding was seeded by the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) with \$50K for this Phase 1.
  - The goals were to:
    - Identify the framework and scope for the overall survey
    - Identify GIS data sources within state agencies and other government entities (public info)
    - Identify processes and practices of other states
  - This is the most extensive study that we know of on how to conduct a broadband survey
  - It recommends a **blended approach** using public records augmented with privately held data
  - Next Steps –
    - Start Phase 2 – leverage funds from the Stimulus Package
    - Participate in upcoming federal initiatives as they will be based on documented needs
    - Participate in regional & national decision making
    - Inform constituencies & policy makers
- **Cyndi Newman**, APS Renewable Energy Technical Services Group ([http://www.aps.com/my\\_community/Solar/Solar\\_53.html](http://www.aps.com/my_community/Solar/Solar_53.html)) spoke about Arizona Public Service (APS) and its renewable energy projects, trends, and outlook.
  - APS has an extensive renewable resource plan ranging from
    - Renewable energy sources – solar, wind, geothermal, solar storage, etc. to
    - Energy efficiency strategies for end users to
    - Nuclear capabilities and options
  - Below is a summary of the technology options under consideration:
    - Residential Technologies:
      - Photovoltaic Systems
      - Solar Water Heating
      - Solar Space Heating
      - Wind
      - Geothermal

- Non-Residential Technologies:
      - Solar
      - Wind
      - Biogas/Biomass
      - Geothermal
      - Hydro
      - Others as they emerge
- **Nancy Welch**, Associate Director of ASU Morrison Institute for Public Policy (<http://www.asu.edu/copp/morrison/>) offered a bold new picture of Arizona's geography, future opportunities and "megaton" challenges described in "Megapolitan: Arizona's Sun Corridor."
  - Megapolitan Report – Arizona's Sun Corridor (from Prescott to Nogales)
    - From copper belt to sun corridor
    - A Megapolitan is a compact, connected, complex, corridor
    - It contains Realms that are defined by certain characteristics
    - 5 megaton topics for the Sun Corridor are
      - The trend is glocal – no global profile
      - Governance – hundreds of players but no one in charge
      - Two trillion dollar questions
        - Can quality ever hope to compete with easy money and 50 years of tradition?
        - Who will pay for public systems and spaces?
      - What about water? – a critical, limited resource
      - The tragedy of the sunshine – the heat island effect
- **Barbara (Bobbi) Kraver and Ted Kraver** with Greater Arizona eLearning Association (GAZEL - <http://www.gazel.org/>) and eLearning System for Arizona Teachers and Students (eSATS - <http://azelearning.org/>) gave an update on education activities in Arizona.
  - (GAZEL) is an alliance between eLearning educators, practitioners & related businesses.
    - Arizona eLearning is a \$3 billion industry and GAZEL's purpose is to promote eLearning in business, government, and education.
    - eLearning can reach rural areas with Broadband, and can deliver knowledge to everyone.
    - Only eLearning offers a cost effective solution to the problems facing education in Arizona.
    - There is an important networking meeting scheduled for March 12
  - eSATS – Ted Kraver
    - K-12 education issue
      - Infrastructure

- Professional development
- Digital curriculum
- 5 governance levels that need to be dealt with are:
  - Teacher
  - Principal
  - Superintendent
  - Department of Education
  - Legislature
- We need “disruptive innovation”
  - To take advantage of the current economic crisis
  - eLearning is a disruptive innovation
  - **Broadband for all Arizonans is a necessity to make it work!**