



## **Innovation Economics for the Next Administration**

**September 25, 2008**

**Newseum**

**555 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W, Washington, DC**

As 2009 approaches with a new administration to take office, questions as to how to spur innovation and economic growth will by necessity loom large on the policy agenda. Nonetheless, fresh thinking about how to craft a national innovation-based economic policy, what innovation policies to implement and how to implement them effectively are in short supply. In this conference, the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation and the University of Colorado Silicon Flatirons Center on Law, Technology, and Entrepreneurship will set forth both the conceptual framework and a set of specific policy proposals to raise the level of debate.

The conference will begin by setting in context the role of innovation economics in the pantheon of economic policy. With that model in mind, we will move to discuss governmental policy tools as well as regulatory strategies—including self-regulation—to manage technology policy issues.

Finally, we will turn to a set of proposals developed by Dr. Rob Atkinson of ITIF and Professor Phil Weiser of Silicon Flatirons.

**8:30-9:00 AM: Breakfast and Coffee**

**9:00-9:10 AM: Welcome: Honorable Nancy Johnson**, Baker Donelson and co-chair, ITIF

**9:10-10:05 AM: Innovation Economics as the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Economic Doctrine**

A major reason why innovation policy has up to now gotten short shrift in Washington is because the dominant economic policy models advocated by most economic advisors and implicitly held by most policy makers largely ignore innovation and technology-led growth, in favor of either tax cuts on individuals, budget surpluses, or social spending. In contrast, the emerging doctrine of “innovation economics” recognizes that the new realities of a global, knowledge-based economy require a new approach to national economic policy based less on capital accumulation, budget surpluses, or social spending and more on smart support for the building blocks of private sector growth and innovation. This session will examine the limitations of two current economic doctrines (neo-classical and neo-Keynesian) and lay out the framework of innovation economics and examine the implications for national economic policy.

**Moderator:**

**Dr. Rob Atkinson**, President, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation

**Panelists:**

**Michael Mandel**, Chief Economist, *Business Week*

**David Audretsch**, Director of the Institute for Development Strategies at Indiana University and ranked as one of 60 most important economists of all time.

**Richard Lipsey**, Professor Emeritus of Economics at Simon Fraser University, and author of the award winning book, *Economic Transformations: General Purpose Technologies and Long Term Growth*.

**10:05-11:00**

**IT and Telecom Policy Models of Governance and Policy Strategies**

Policymakers often consider policy issues related to the information industries (and the transition to a digital economy) in isolation from one another and often do so without emphasizing the significance of innovation. Rarely, for example, will policymakers consider in tandem the role of broadband policy, intellectual property reform, antitrust law, and the role of government support for science and technology research. This panel will bring together a group of leading academics and former and current policymakers to do just that.

**Moderator:**

**Phil Weiser**, Director of Silicon Flatirons Center and Professor of Law, University of Colorado.

**Panelists:**

**Pierre de Vries**, Research Fellow, Economic Policy Research Center, University of Washington; and former Chief of Incubation at Microsoft.

**Michael Katz**; Sarin Chair in Strategy and Leadership, Haas School of Business, U.C. Berkeley, Professor, Department of Economics, and Director, Center for Telecommunications and Digital Convergence.

**Jonathan Baker**, Professor of Law at American University's Washington College of Law.

**11:00-11:15 AM: Break**

**11:15- 12:15 PM: Proposals for Innovation Policy**

**Moderator:**

**Clive Crook**, economic columnist *National Journal* and chief Washington Commentator *Financial Times*.

**Presenters:**

**Dr. Robert Atkinson**, President, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation

**Phil Weiser**, Director of Silicon Flatirons Center and Professor of Law, University of Colorado.

**Commentators:**

**Ron Blackwell**, the chief economist at the AFL-CIO.

**Kathleen Wallman**, President, Wallman Consulting and former chief of the Common Carrier Bureau at the FCC and Deputy Director of the National Economic Council.

**Bruce Mehlman**, Partner, Mehlman Vogel Castagnetti and former Assistant Secretary of the Commerce for Technology Policy.

**Ray Gifford**, Head of Communications, Internet and Intellectual Property practice at Kamlet Shepard and former President of the Progressive and Freedom Foundation.

**12:15-12:20 PM: Closing Remarks**

**Cal Dooley**, President and CEO, American Chemistry Council (ACC), and co-chair ITIF.