



Agenda

Competitiveness Conversations Across America: Fortifying the Future — Innovation in Critical Infrastructure Security

Location

San Pedro 1 Data Science Center
University of Texas at San Antonio
San Antonio, Texas

March 10, 2025 (Central Time)

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm: Networking & Registration
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm: Competitiveness Conversation Dinner & Keynote

March 11, 2025 (Central Time)

8:00 am – 8:30 am: Breakfast
8:30 am – 12:00 pm: Competitiveness Conversation Programming
12:05 pm – 1:00 pm: Lunch & Keynote
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm: Competitiveness Conversation Programming

Competitiveness Conversations Across America: Fortifying the Future — Innovation in Critical Infrastructure Security

Monday, March 10, 2025

6:00 PM REGISTRATION AND PRESIDENT RECEPTION

7:00 PM WELCOME

7:15 PM COMPETITIVENESS CONVERSATION DINNER

Dinner Keynote

9:00 PM DINNER CONCLUDES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

8:00 AM BREAKFAST AND NETWORKING

**8:30 AM PUTTING COMPETITIVENESS IN CONTEXT —
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN TEXAS**

To launch the Texas edition of the “[Competitiveness Conversations Across America](#)” series — taking place under the auspices of the “[National Commission on Innovation and Competitiveness Frontiers](#)” — the Cohosts will frame the grand challenges and opportunities facing Texas and the United States, with a specific focus on the imperative of critical infrastructure security (CIS) for U.S. competitiveness.

8:45 AM FIRST LOOK: INNOVATION & COMPETITIVENESS — TEXAS

A snapshot of key pillars across talent, technology, investment, and infrastructure supporting Texas’ innovation-based competitiveness.

9:00 AM SECURING AMERICA’S FUTURE: BUILDING *THE* INDUSTRY THAT PROTECTS ALL INDUSTRIES

As threats to our digital and physical assets grow increasingly complex, effectively harnessing the full spectrum of resources within Texas’ innovation portfolio is vital for developing cutting-edge solutions that enhance resilience and security. In this session, leaders from across sectors and domains will examine the pivotal role of Texas’s innovation ecosystem in positioning the state as a global leader in technological innovation, cybersecurity, and critical infrastructure protection.

Key Questions to Consider:

1. How is the state rethinking traditional models to define, coordinate, and support local, state, and regional innovation?
2. Why has the state been successful in attracting innovative talent and firms?
3. What major investments in infrastructure, technology, and talent are shaping the Texas innovation ecosystem?
4. Looking at the grand challenges facing the world—and focusing on Texas’ strengths—what is the state doing to leverage technological disruption for competitive advantage?

9:45 AM TECH TALK

10:00 AM NETWORKING BREAK

10:15 PM CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY: INDUSTRY, THE PUBLIC SECTOR, AND THE MILITARY

Critical Infrastructure Security (CIS) requires cross-sector, highly integrated collaboration between the private sector, government, research enterprise, and defense forces. In this panel, leaders from these stakeholder groups will discuss working together to secure Texas’ infrastructure, and what more can be done.

Key Questions to Consider:

1. What is the biggest threat to Texas’ infrastructure today?
2. What are the biggest challenges in protecting U.S. critical infrastructure?
3. Why is close collaboration between different sectors a necessary step?

11:00 AM MORNING KEYNOTE: POSITIONING TEXAS AS THE GLOBAL CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY LEADER

Congressman Tony Gonzales will share what Texas must do to safeguard the nation's critical systems, and how Texas's leadership benefits the security of the United States.

11:20 AM BEYOND BORDERS: EXPANDING ECONOMIC COLLABORATIONS ACROSS TEXAS AND THE REGION

South Central Texas (San Antonio/Austin) is a rapidly-evolving innovation ecosystem and a key reason Texas is the second fastest-growing economy in the United States. In this session, drivers of economic development from across the state will highlight how Texas is expanding its regional innovation identity through a strategic vision, increased collaboration, and greater investment. The Interstate 35 corridor (connecting the St. Lawrence Seaway/Great Lakes to Mexico) is the backbone of innovation zones in Texas. Automotive, aerospace, chips, food, and other industries rely on this artery for R&D and the movement of goods, services, and labor.

Key Questions to Consider:

1. What is Texas's strategic economic vision for the future, and how is the state uniting to bring this vision forward?
2. Texas shares a large international border, across which goods, ideas, and people move rapidly. What challenges and opportunities does this present?
3. How can Texas organizations better collaborate in and outside of the state?

12:05 PM LUNCH

Lunch Keynote

1:00 PM LEVELING UP TEXAS TALENT: BUILDING AN UNMATCHED TECH WORKFORCE

To build a secure future, Texas needs a workforce of innovators ready to tackle the evolving security problems facing the state. This panel will discuss how to cultivate a highly skilled and adaptable talent pool that can develop and implement the innovation needed to protect U.S. critical infrastructure. Topics will include investment needs across education, new training approaches, and fresh

models of collaboration with industry leaders to ensure the Texas workforce remains at the forefront of technology, security, and innovation.

1:45 PM TECH TALK

2:00 PM INVESTORS IN INNOVATION: FINANCING TEXAS' INNOVATION ECONOMY

Consistent and reliable capital is the lifeblood of commercializing and scaling innovation, be it CIS, cybersecurity, or any other tech-driven sector. In this session, leaders of some of Texas's leading innovation investors will highlight how they are providing the backing needed to kickstart a new wave of technology growth in the state, and opportunities that would expand innovation investment even further.

Key Questions to Consider:

1. Why has Texas attracted so much investment, from both inside and out, in innovation?
2. How can investors and innovators be better connected to allow for deeper and more sustainable partnerships?
3. What barriers or risks could be removed to accelerate investment in the state?

2:45 PM NETWORKING BREAK

3:00 PM MAPPING THE ENABLING CONDITIONS FOR TEXAS' COMPETITIVENESS STRATEGY FOR THE NEXT 25 YEARS

Pulling from insights gathered throughout the Texas Competitiveness Conversation, the hosts will examine the enabling conditions essential for the state's competitiveness strategy over the next 25 years, including the intersection of policy, infrastructure, education, innovation, and workforce development.

Key Questions to Consider:

1. What do you envision as the most significant opportunities and challenges for Texas's economic competitiveness over the next 25 years?

2. What initiatives are necessary to strengthen the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in Texas?
3. What key learnings from the state should be elevated to the national level to improve the productivity and innovation capacity of the United States?

3:45 PM WRAP-UP

4:00 PM COMPETITIVENESS CONVERSATION CONCLUDES