Spencer J. Cox

Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER
2026-06

Establishing and Launching the Utah Quantum Initiative

WHEREAS, quantum technology represents one of the defining economic and national-security frontiers of the coming decade, and federal investment in quantum information science is expanding across the Department of Energy, the National Science Foundation, the Department of War, and the Department of Commerce, and is opening a window of opportunity for states;

WHEREAS, Utah possesses a mature, cross-sector innovation culture in which government, higher education, and industry coordinate quickly and effectively, giving the State a structural advantage few others can match;

WHEREAS, Utah maintains a strong, complementary university research base, with established strength in quantum sensing and photonics, quantum materials, and backed by mature high-performance computing infrastructure that supports quantum simulation and hybrid classical-quantum workflows;

WHEREAS, Utah's semiconductor, electronics, and advanced manufacturing base positions the State to lead in the strategically vital role of quantum hardware integration, including cryogenic control electronics, advanced packaging, and interconnect fabrication;

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2026, President Donald J. Trump issued Executive Order 14413 dedicating federal resources to support the quantum technology ecosystem, and directing the National Science Foundation to take steps to issue grants to establish quantum facilities;

WHEREAS, Utah's existing defense, aerospace, energy, and federal research relationships, including major installations such as Hill Air Force Base and Dugway Proving Ground, provide a natural pathway into federal quantum programs and ready sites for quantum sensing and timing testbeds;

WHEREAS, Utah's substantial life-sciences and biotechnology sector represents a leading demand-side application for quantum computing, including molecular simulation and drug discovery, with globally significant firms already advancing quantum-algorithm development for biology under Utah-based technical leadership, giving the State an early industry anchor in one of quantum's highest-value application domains;

WHEREAS, Utah's growing startup and investment ecosystem provides existing capital and commercialization infrastructure on which a quantum economy can be built; and

WHEREAS, the State now seeks to formalize and accelerate this work as a named priority of Utah's economic strategy and to coordinate the policy and funding needed to advance it;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Spencer J. Cox, governor of the state of Utah, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this state, hereby order the following:

1. **Creation of the Utah Quantum Initiative.** This Order creates the Utah Quantum Initiative (Initiative). The Initiative shall be a key part of Utah's economic strategic plan.

2. **Convening Body and Coordination.** The Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) shall lead the Initiative and shall invite the Nucleus Institute (Nucleus) to co-lead the Initiative.

3. **Creation of the Quantum Coordination Council.** This order creates a statewide Quantum Coordination Council consisting of the following members:
    a. The commissioner of GOED, who shall chair the Council;
    b. The executive director of Nucleus, if the executive director is not serving as the commissioner of GOED, or another representative of Nucleus, if the executive director is serving as the commissioner of GOED;
    c. The commissioner of the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs or a designee of the commissioner;
    d. The director of Talent Ready Utah or the director's designee, if the director accepts;
    e. A representative from GOED designated by the GOED commissioner;
    f. A representative from the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (GOPB) designated by the executive director of GOPB;
    g. A representative from a research institution of higher education in the state, as invited by the commissioner of GOED in consultation with the commissioner of Higher Education; and
    h. With approval of the Governor's Office, other Utah university, industry, government, and legislative partners invited by the commissioner of GOED to accomplish the strategic priorities below.

4. **Strategic Priorities.** The Council shall pursue the following strategic priorities of the Utah Quantum Initiative:
    a. Leverage core research and hardware strengths in quantum sensing, photonics, and semiconductor manufacturing, supported by the state's high-performance computing base for quantum simulation and hybrid workflows, positioning Utah as a national leader in quantum hardware integration;
    b. Under Talent Ready Utah's direction, if Talent Ready Utah elects to participate, build and retain a quantum-ready workforce, through dedicated career pathways, dual-degree and apprenticeship programs, and a formal commitment to keeping Utah-trained talent in Utah;
    c. Leveraging the Nucleus Institute (which is under the direction of the Utah Board of Higher Education), advance commercialization and industry growth by extending the state's existing commercialization infrastructure to quantum-enabled companies and pilots, including quantum applications in Utah's life-sciences and biotechnology sector such as molecular simulation and drug discovery;

d. Strengthen supply chain and federal positioning by coordinating with relevant stakeholders to seek to establish a single point of contact for federal quantum funding opportunities.
e. Develop a defense-sector engagement strategy in quantum sensing and communications;
f. Build public understanding and national reputation through a coordinated communications strategy and regular reporting on the Initiative's progress; and
g. Coordinate with the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget and Legislature to identify the policies and funding required to advance the Initiative, and prepare recommendations in partnership with legislative leadership for the upcoming legislative session.

5. **Statewide Quantum Landscape Report and Ongoing Monitoring.** The Council shall:
   a. No later than March 30, 2027, complete a statewide quantum landscape report (Report) mapping Utah's research infrastructure, manufacturing capacity, and workforce assets and submit the Report to the Governor and the Economic Development and Workforce Services Interim Committee; and
   b. Maintain an ongoing assessment of the Initiative's progress.

THIS ORDER is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until December 31, 2028.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Utah on this, the 10th day of August, 2026.

Spencer J. Cox
Governor, State of Utah

ATTEST:

Deidre M. Henderson
Lieutenant Governor, State of Utah