

Hearing of the House Small Business Committee

“Fostering American Innovation: Insights into SBIR and STTR Programs”

26 February 2025

Narrative Biography

**Dr. William J. Marinelli, Ph.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer
Physical Sciences Inc.**

I hold an Sc.B. Degree in Chemistry from Brown University (1977) and a Ph.D. Degree in Physical Chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley (1981). I joined PSI in 1983 after completing a postdoctoral position at Cornell University where I worked on chemical laser technology relevant to missile defense.

At PSI, the primary focus of my research was the development of sensor technology to remotely detect the battlefield use of chemical and biological weapons. Working with the Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center and the Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense, we tested these technologies at facilities throughout the US, as well as in Canada and the United Kingdom, over nearly a 20 year period. One technology was also employed to measure foreign missile plume signatures in the early 2000's and subsequently evaluated to detect trace explosives during U.S. operations in Iraq. These activities were supported by both SBIR and non-SBIR funds.

My career at PSI advanced through levels of increasing responsibility, including establishing methods that aligned our SBIR-funded technology development with the DoD 5000 acquisition paradigm. In 2018 I was appointed Chief Operating Officer, subsequently President, and in 2022 Chief Executive Officer as well as elected to our Board of Directors.

As a three-term Selectman in the Town of Harvard, MA, I led a group of regional organizations in attempting to determine the ultimate disposition of the former Ft. Devens, which had been closed under the 1991 Base Realignment and Closure Act.