

mean the difference between success and failure for some companies. One tool that could help these small businesses protect their intellectual property would be to establish a revolving Federal fund for international patent protection where U.S. companies could apply for financial support to help offset patent protection costs. The fund could be replenished by the successful return on investment once the patents are awarded and the company grows.

The Committee directs the Department of Commerce, working with the USPTO and the International Trade Administration to provide the Committee with a report within 90 days of enactment of this act with recommendations on how best to help small businesses with international patent protection. If such a fund is a reasonable option, the Department should recommend an initial level of appropriations, and how the fund could be managed. The Department should include suggested criteria for who would be eligible to apply for the program, what criteria companies would be selected to receive funding, and how the fund could become financially self-sufficient. If a fund is not a suitable option, then the Department should provide other suggestions that could achieve the same solutions to the problem these small businesses face.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

Appropriations, 2010	\$856,600,000
Budget estimate, 2011	918,900,000
Committee recommendation	968,100,000

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$968,100,000 for the National Institute of Standards and Technology [NIST]. The recommendation is \$111,500,000 above the fiscal year 2010 enacted level and \$49,200,000 above the budget request.

The recommendation provides that up to \$9,000,000 may be transferred from the Scientific and Technical Research and Services account to the Working Capital Fund, which the NIST uses to purchase equipment for its laboratories.

NIST’s mission is to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life. It carries out its mission in four complementary programs.

A description of each NIST account and the corresponding Committee recommendation follows in the subsequent three headings.

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES

Appropriations, 2010	\$515,000,000
Budget estimate, 2011	584,500,000
Committee recommendation	584,500,000

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$584,500,000. The recommendation is \$69,500,000 above the fiscal year 2010 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

The Committee’s recommendations are displayed in the following table with specific increases described:

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES, DIRECT OBLIGATIONS
[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
National measurement and standards laboratories	\$557,475
Baldrige National Quality Program	9,854
Corporate Services	17,171
Total STRS	584,500

The Scientific and Technical Research account funds NIST Laboratories, which provide the measurement science and physical standards critical to supporting technology infrastructure for U.S. innovation. NIST is one of the science agencies supported by the America COMPETES Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–69), doubling funding for basic research over 10 years. The recommendation supports many of the administration’s new initiatives, increasing research funding by more than 13 percent over the 2010 fiscal year level.

National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence.—The Committee is aware of investments being made to secure our Nation’s national and defense industrial base to the growing threat from cyber attacks. While a number of Federal agencies play a role in this important area of information assurance, the Committee notes that NIST, as the Nation’s standard setting entity, plays a critical role in this area because NIST is the only Federal lab whose mission is to collaborate with the private sector on standards. The Committee directs the Director of NIST to establish and operate a National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence [NCCOE] at the level of \$10,000,000 from within funds provided in addition to \$15,500,000 requested by the administration for Cybersecurity for Emerging Technologies and Threats. The NCCOE should be organized to support the full range of cybersecurity requirements of Federal agencies, State and local governments, academia, and the private sector. Its primary focus should be on technology transfer, research and development, an information clearinghouse, and certification of cyber solutions and systems. The Committee recommends that the center include representation from the most relevant Federal Government agencies, key State government-level representation, specifically those States that are home of key Federal agencies with strong cyber missions, and include representatives from the academic and private sectors, to ensure that the NCCOE fulfills its mission to connect a wide variety of nationally significant cybersecurity efforts. Of the funds provided, \$6,650,000 should be for internal NIST requirements to staff and scale up the center, and \$3,350,000 shall be allocated on a merit-based competitive basis for activities with relevant non-Federal entities, with particular interest to States with key private sector partnerships that can help NIST develop the standards, protocols and pilot initiatives to help ensure cyber defense solutions in key parts of the national economy.

The Committee includes funding within the amounts provided for Strategic Measurement Partnerships for the following congressionally designated projects, and directs the National Institute of

Standards and Technology to refrain from charging administrative costs to these grants. The Committee expects that the National Institute of Standards and Technology will provide appropriate management and oversight of each grant.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY—SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES

[Congressionally designated projects]

Recipient	Project	Description	Amount
Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI	Facility for Advanced Visualization Technologies	Research equipment and personnel	\$750,000
University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI	Hawaii Open Supercomputing Center (HOSC) and Coral Bio-diversity.	Collaborative effort to understand coral disease	\$3,000,000
University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY	University of Kentucky Evaluation of Firefighter Turnout Gear for Safety.	Research into the performance of firefighter turnout gear	\$275,000
University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI	Rhode Island Consortium for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology.	Equipment and personnel for nanotechnology research	\$1,250,000

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Appropriations, 2010	\$194,600,000
Budget estimate, 2011	209,600,000
Committee recommendation	199,600,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$199,600,000 for Industrial Technology Services [ITS]. The recommendation is \$5,000,000 above the fiscal year 2010 enacted level and \$10,000,000 below the budget request. Supporting the Nation's manufacturers, especially small businesses, is critical to keeping America innovative in a global marketplace.

The Technology Innovation Program [TIP], created by the America COMPETES Act of 2007, is currently at point of transition. While the program provides a unique set of tools to promote technological innovation outside of the normal range of mission oriented government innovation programs. However, at its current and projected funding levels, the program is under resourced to stimulate widespread transformational technological innovation. The Committee therefore provides funding only to continue existing awards, and notes that NIST must make a decision about the future of the program that makes highest and best use of limited funding.

CONSTRUCTION OF RESEARCH FACILITIES

Appropriations, 2010	\$147,000,000
Budget estimate, 2011	124,800,000
Committee recommendation	156,706,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$156,706,000 for construction of research facilities. The recommendation is \$9,706,000 above the fiscal year 2010 enacted level and \$31,906,000 above the budget request.

The Committee directs NIST to provide quarterly reports on the status of all construction projects.

The recommendation funds the highest priority safety, capacity, maintenance, and repair projects at NIST.

JILA Expansion.—The Committee provides \$2,000,000 for NIST to complete the JILA expansion.

The Committee provides \$48,000,000 for congressionally designated projects, and directs NIST to refrain from charging administrative costs to these grants. The Committee expects that NIST will provide appropriate management and oversight of each grant.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY—SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES

[Congressionally designated projects]

Recipient	Project	Description	Amount
Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS	Life Sciences Commercialization Laboratory	Necessary laboratory space	\$4,000,000
University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL	Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Teaching and Research Corridor.	Construct an interdisciplinary science and engineering building.	\$30,000,000
University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, MS	Mississippi Biotechnology Research Park	Commercialize new technologies related to biotechnology	\$8,000,000
University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS	Mississippi Polymer Institute	State-of-the-art technical and scientific expertise for polymer-based research.	\$6,000,000