Senate Report 112-158 - DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE AND JUSTICE, AND SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2013

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

Appropriations, 2012	\$750,824,000
Budget estimate, 2013	857,000,000
Committee recommendation	826,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$826,000,000 for the National Institute of Standards and Technology [NIST]. The recommendation is \$75,176,000 above the fiscal year 2012 enacted level and \$31,000,000 below the budget request. Up to \$9,000,000 may be transferred from the Scientific and Technical Research and Services account to the Working Capital Fund.

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.

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

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES

Appropriations, 2012	\$567,000,000
Budget estimate, 2013	648,000,000
Committee recommendation	623,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$623,000,000 for NIST research and services. The recommendation is \$56,000,000 above the fiscal year 2012 enacted level and \$25,000,000 below the budget request.

Cybersecurity- The Committee supports the administration's strong request for cybersecurity activities within NIST, which includes: \$10,000,000 for the National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence; \$26,000,000 for the Comprehensive National Cybersecurity Initiative; and \$24,000,000 for the National Strategy for Trusted Identities in Cyberspace. In addition, the Committee directs NIST to maintain funding for the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education at \$4,000,000.

The Committee encourages DOC to fund multidisciplinary programs of study and research that focus on tackling cybersecurity issues on a global scale. When

establishing criteria for external grant funding, consideration should only be given to institutions of higher education, including community colleges, designated by the National Security Agency as Centers of Academic Excellence for Information Assurance Education and Centers for Academic Excellence for Information Assurance Research.

Centers of Excellence.--The Committee supports the administration's proposal to create Centers of Excellence that will produce collaborations between NIST, academic, and industry specialists on research focused on innovations in measurement science and new technology developments. Similar collaborations have already yielded significant benefits in areas of nanomaterials, healthcare, batteries and electrochemical energy conversion, and advanced photovoltaic devices. As part of the agency's 2013 spending plan, NIST is directed to provide an updated framework for creating an appropriate number of new centers of excellence from within the funds provided.

Greenhouse Gas Measurements- The Committee maintains support for NIST's greenhouse gas measurements programs and is aware of the need to develop prototype greenhouse gas observation networks for measuring carbon dioxide and methane in the atmosphere at local scales. In order to increase confidence in greenhouse gas emissions inventories and to improve current measurement and standards infrastructure, NIST is directed to leverage existing assets and services from the private sector that maintain high quality atmospheric weather monitoring systems.

Facility Security- The Committee continues to provide funding for NIST to maintain security operations for its laboratories and facilities. The Federal Protective Services [FPS] has previously proposed to take over NIST's security operations, yet the Committee has not received a plan from the administration that would detail the transfer of security funding and responsibility from NIST to FPS. Therefore, the Committee does not grant such a transfer during fiscal year 2013.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Appropriations, 2012	\$128,443,000
Budget estimate, 2013	149,000,000
Committee recommendation	143,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$143,000,000 for Industrial Technology Services. The recommendation is \$14,557,000 above the fiscal year 2012 enacted level and \$6,000,000 below the budget request. Supporting the Nation's manufacturers, especially small businesses, is critical to keeping America innovative in a global marketplace. The Committee's recommendation provides \$128,500,000 for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program and \$14,500,000 for the Advanced Manufacturing Consortia.

CONSTRUCTION OF RESEARCH FACILITIES

Appropriations, 2012	\$55,381,000
Budget estimate, 2013	60,000,000
Committee recommendation	60,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$60,000,000 for construction of research facilities. The recommendation is \$4,619,000 above the fiscal year 2012 enacted level and the same as the budget request.

The recommendation funds the highest-priority construction, maintenance, and repair projects at NIST. The Committee directs NIST to provide quarterly reports on the status of all construction projects.