

Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs April 2015 Constituent Newsletter

NIST MEP Director Selected

Pending approval of the Department of Commerce, Ms. Carroll A. Thomas has been selected to serve as the next [Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership](#) (MEP) Director after a full and open competition and a rigorous review process. Ms. Thomas is currently the Associate Administrator, Office of Small Business Development Centers at the Small Business Administration (SBA). She serves as the principal SBA senior executive in a major partnership with the U.S. State Department Western Hemisphere Office. Ms. Thomas worked at NIST from January 2000 to November 2012 as a member of the Marketing and Communications Office in the MEP. She has received numerous Leadership and Performance Awards, including a Commerce Gold Medal, Silver Medal, and three NIST Uriano awards.

NIST MEP Promotes Federal Funding Opportunity for 12 MEP Centers

In March 2015, NIST MEP issued a [Federal Funding Opportunity](#) for nonprofit organizations to operate state MEP centers in 12 states – Alaska, Idaho, Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Utah, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin. The objective of the MEP program is to provide business and technical services to small and medium-sized manufacturers within the state of operation. MEP will commit nearly \$32 million annually for five years across the 12 states – based on performance and availability of appropriated funds. Applications are due June 1, 2015. Informational webinars will be conducted for interested applicants on April 6th at 2:00pm and April 16th at 1:00pm (all EDT). Please send an email to mepffo@nist.gov to register for either of the informational webinars.

NIST NSTIC Federal Funding Opportunity Solicits Projects That Support Online Privacy

NIST is soliciting applications for funding pilot privacy-enhancing technologies that embrace and advance the National Strategy for Trusted Identities in Cyberspace ([NSTIC](#)). NSTIC seeks to promote secure, user-friendly ways to give individuals and organizations confidence in their online interactions. NIST anticipates making awards in the range of approximately \$750,000 to \$1,500,000 per year, per project, for up to two years. The projects should demonstrate or deploy new solutions that either do not exist or are not widely adopted in the marketplace today. These are the fifth in a series of pilot project grants NIST has funded in support of the strategy since 2012 and the first to emphasize projects focused specifically on privacy. NSTIC's guiding principles are that identity solutions should be privacy-enhancing and voluntary, secure and resilient, interoperable and cost-effective and easy-to-use.

NIST will hold a [webinar](#) on April 15, 2015, to provide general information regarding NSTIC, to offer general guidance on preparing applications and to answer questions. Applications are due by Thursday, May 28, 2015. The complete FFO announcement is posted [here](#).

NIST VCAT 2014 Report Released

On April 1, 2015, the primary external advisory committee for NIST released its annual report to Congress, expressing support for the institute's efforts in cybersecurity, advanced manufacturing, advanced communications, disaster resilience and safety. The Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology (VCAT) reviews NIST's strategic direction, performance and policies, and provides the Secretary of Commerce, Congress and other stakeholders with its assessment of the value and relevance of NIST's programs to the U.S. science and technology base and to the economy. A copy of the Report is available for download [here](#).

NIST

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