
NIST Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs

November 2015 Constituent Newsletter

October 2015 Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology Meeting (VCAT)

On October 6, 2015, the NIST VCAT met virtually by webinar. The in person meeting had been scheduled for Charleston, South Carolina, but record rainfall and flooding forced a last minute change. Chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the [VCAT](#) reviews and makes recommendations regarding general policy for the [National Institute of Standards and Technology](#), its organization, its budget, and its programs, within the framework of applicable national policies as set forth by the President and the Congress. Below is a link to the meeting agenda and slide presentations. The next scheduled meeting of the VCAT is February 3-4, 2016.

http://www.nist.gov/director/vcat/agenda_100615.cfm

Material Measurement Laboratory 5 Year Strategic Plan

Released in August 2015, a 5-year strategic plan for NIST's [Material Measurement Laboratory](#) (MML) reflects the measurement realities of today's research frontiers in chemistry, biology and materials science. MML is responsible for measurement science and technology needed to support the nation's research and business sectors based in the materials, chemical and biological sciences. The plan outlines a broad research agenda for measurement science in biology, chemistry and materials science, and new initiatives for NIST's widely used standard reference materials and standard data products, as well as organizational goals for internal management and strategic partnering. The document is principally aimed at the laboratory's research peers and stakeholders. The plan is available online at the link below.

<https://mmlstrategy.nist.gov/>

NIST & NcCOE Requests for Public Comment

NIST requests public comments on [Federal Information Processing Standard \(FIPS\) 186-4](#), Digital Signature Standard, initially developed in collaboration with the National Security Agency. In effect since July 2013, FIPS 186-4 specifies three techniques for the generation and verification of digital signatures that can be used for the protection of data along with a set of elliptic curves recommended for government use. NIST is primarily seeking comments on the recommended elliptic curves specified in Appendix D of the FIPS, but comments on other areas of the FIPS will also be considered. FIPS 186-4 is available online at <http://dx.doi.org/10.6028/NIST.FIPS.186-4>. Comments are due no later than COB December 4, 2015.

[The National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence](#) (NCCoE) invites comments on a draft practice guide designed to help financial services companies monitor and manage IT hardware and software assets more securely and efficiently. The draft guide, IT Asset Management ([Special Publication 1800-5a,5b](#), and [5c](#)) demonstrates how commercially available technologies can be used to track the location and configuration of networked devices and software across an organization. The guide explains how users can tie existing separate data systems for physical assets, security systems and IT support into a single system that makes it easier to gain insight into their entire IT asset portfolio. With a single system, companies will be better able to track, manage and report on an information asset throughout its entire life cycle. Benefits include lower total cost of ownership and less time needed to respond to incidents and to perform system patching and other tasks. Developed with input from the financial services industry, and in collaboration with 10 technology vendors, the guide maps security characteristics to guidance and best practices from NIST and other standards organizations. Instructions for implementers and security engineers include examples of installation, configuration and integration. The draft guide can be downloaded from the NCCoE website URL below. In addition a form for submitting comments is available at the second link below. The public comment period closes January 8, 2016.

https://nccoe.nist.gov/projects/use_cases/financial_services_sector/it_asset_management

<https://nccoe.nist.gov/webform/comments-financial-services-it-asset-management-practice-guide>



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