

## NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

(taken from House Report 113-248 – FY 2015 Appropriations Report)

The Committee recommends \$855,800,000 for NIST, which is \$5,800,000 above fiscal year 2014 and \$44,200,000 below the request.

### SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES

The Committee recommends \$670,500,000 for NIST's scientific and technical programs, which is \$19,500,000 above fiscal year 2014 and \$9,500,000 below the request. The recommendation does not adopt the proposed termination of the NIST Summer Institute for Middle School teachers.

*Laboratory programs.*—The recommendation includes \$597,512,000 for NIST Laboratory programs. This amount is the same as the request to support U.S. innovation, advanced manufacturing and industrial competitiveness. Within this amount, up to \$5,900,000 is provided for the National Strategy for Trusted Identities in Cyberspace (NSTIC). Given the lack of progress associated with the pilots funded thus far, the recommended amount only supports ongoing programmatic efforts and does not include the second year of funding for fiscal year 2014 grant awardees or funds to award new grants in fiscal year 2015. NIST shall provide a report to the Committee within 120 days of enactment of this Act regarding the status of each of the pilots funded and milestones achieved, the near-term plans for continuing this program, and proposed future efforts. NIST shall use the remaining \$10,600,000 proposed for NSTIC to enhance research and standards activities in its core lab programs.

*Cybersecurity Center of Excellence.*—The Committee is aware that the Nation's retail sector is vulnerable to and targeted by cyberattacks. The Committee encourages NIST to build on its existing industry-sector focused work to create a retail-specific cybersecurity initiative and partner as appropriate with academic entities and national leaders in retail cybersecurity and retail supply chain management and logistics.

*Standards Coordination and Special Programs.*—The recommendation

includes \$55,676,000 for standards coordination and special programs. Within these amounts, up to \$5,000,000 is included to maintain NIST's current forensic research and standards work. The recommendation does not include the requested increase of \$3,500,000 to support or operate Forensic Science Advisory Committees.

*Tornado resistant structures.*—While NIST has made great strides in developing and encouraging the adoption of standards to make buildings more fire, wind and earthquake resistant, the Committee is concerned that insufficient progress has been made in the development and adoption of cost-effective measures to make homes and businesses more disaster resilient in tornado-prone areas of the South, West and Midwest. The Committee believes NIST should formally establish standards both for new construction and for existing buildings and homes that are located in areas prone to severe weather. NIST is encouraged to partner with academic institutions and industry to establish such standards and models for more resilient construction.

*Windstorm research and disaster resiliency.*—As part of its efforts to improve the resiliency of buildings, NIST is encouraged to partner with academic research institutions that have expertise in the effects of natural disasters to replicate high-force windstorm impacts on buildings and test large, integrated models of such impacts.

*Canine detection standards.*—The Committee recognizes canine detection teams play a critical role in law enforcement and homeland security efforts yet no widely accepted standards or protocols exist on the breeding, training, and deployment of canine detection teams. The Committee encourages NIST to continue its existing research programs on canine olfactory detection of explosives and to collaborate with subject matter experts in academia, the private sector, and Federal, State, and local stakeholders as appropriate to develop such standards and protocols.

*Textile research.*—The Committee recognizes the importance of the U.S. textile industry and encourages NIST to pursue advanced textile and apparel research and manufacturing activities.

## INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

The Committee recommends \$130,000,000 for Industrial Technology Services, which is \$13,000,000 below fiscal year 2014 and \$31,000,000 below the request. The entire amount recommended in this account is for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), which is \$2,000,000 above fiscal year 2014 and \$11,000,000 below the request. The Committee reiterates its support for the MEP program which helps U.S. businesses streamline manufacturing techniques and increase efficiency and profits through training resources as well as specific project assistance to the U.S. domestic manufacturing industry.

*Program efficiencies.*—The Committee is aware of recent efforts by MEP to examine ways to reduce administrative costs and provide more direct assistance to the Centers. Accordingly, MEP shall provide a report within 60 days of enactment of this Act detailing

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the amount of funds to be maintained at headquarters and the uses of those funds.

*Technology and supply chain connections.*—Within funds provided for MEP, the Committee urges NIST to develop technological solutions, on both a regional and nationwide basis, to help companies, communities, colleges and universities, inventors, and entrepreneurs find one another and facilitate strategic partnerships. The Committee believes that finding ways of accelerating such supply chain connections is indispensable to any serious effort to create and sustain manufacturing jobs in the United States, and that technology—particularly Internet-based approaches—can play a vital role in enabling such connections to be quickly and easily realized. The Department shall report to the Committee on these efforts, including any lessons learned and future plans. This report shall be delivered no later than one year after enactment, with an interim report provided no later than 180 days after enactment.

*Manufacturing Innovation Institutes.*—The Committee is aware that prior year funds under this account have been used for NIST contributions to interagency support for Manufacturing Innovation Institutes. Any such contributions in fiscal year 2015 shall be proposed

as a reprogramming of funds under the procedures in section 505 of this Act.

## CONSTRUCTION OF RESEARCH FACILITIES

The Committee recommends \$55,300,000 for NIST construction, which is \$700,000 below fiscal year 2014 and \$3,700,000 below the request.

*Construction and Major Renovations.*—The recommendation includes \$11,100,000 to continue ongoing renovations of NIST’s Boulder, Colorado laboratory.

*Safety, Capacity, Maintenance, and Major Repairs.*—The recommendation includes \$44,200,000 for ongoing maintenance of the NIST labs. NIST shall continue to provide updates on the projects funded within this account, to include milestones and total amount of funding necessary for completion.