National Science and Technology Council

Committee on Technology
Subcommittee on Standards

Status Report

Mary Saunders
Director, Standards Coordination Office

NIST
National Institute of
Standards and Technology
U.S. Department of Commerce

Overview

Subcommittee on Standards

Framework Report

White House Policy Memorandum

Next Steps

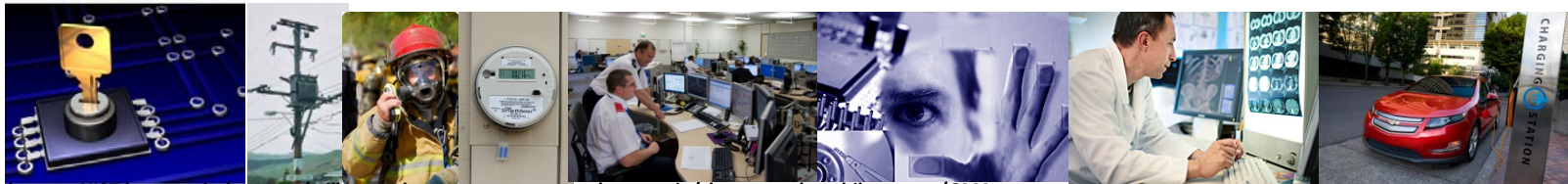# Subcommittee on Standards

A working group of the National Science and Technology Council's Committee on Technology

Signifies high level Administration interest in standards

Tracks VCAT 2009 Annual Report recommendation that NIST "serve as a principal inter-agency convener for documentary standards"

- Mission:
  - Engage government agencies on standards policy issues
  - Increase awareness within the federal government of best practices in addressing standards policy issues
  - Articulate the U.S. model of public-private cooperation in standards setting to domestic and international audiences

June 30 Meeting - Proposed Subcommittee Deliverables

images: NIST;integerwireless.com/wilber; graham-taylor; zimmytwsk; stuyagin/shutterstock;techibuzz.com/GMAutos

Framework: Standards as a Tool of Governance

- Articulates strengths of private sector-led system

- Describes importance of federal engagement

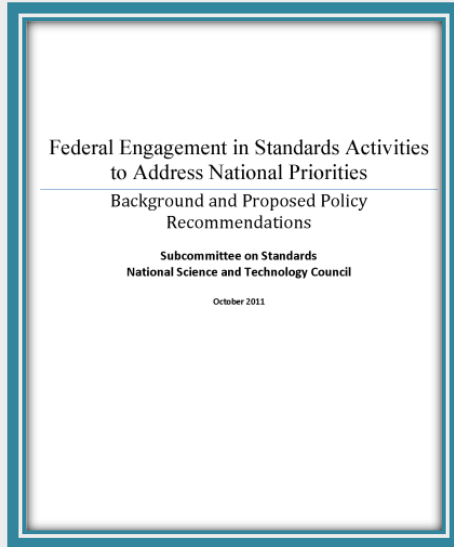- Outlines various modes of engagement

Case Studies

- Four technology areas

- Reference for federal agencies engaging in standardization activities

Recommendations

- On best practices/ principles for future engagements between the public and private sectors in national priority areas
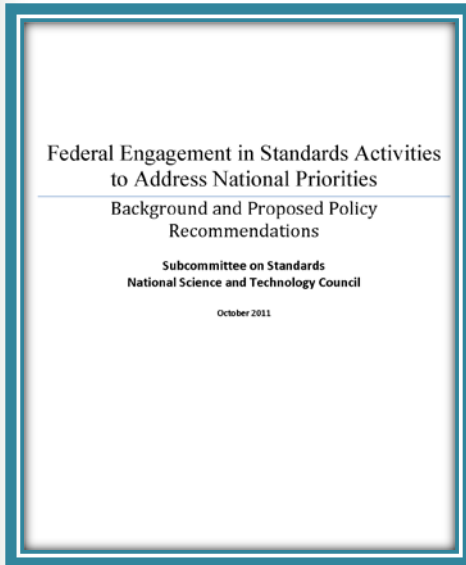
Framework Report

Report released by OSTP on October 14, – now available at www.standards.gov

Federal Engagement in Standards Activities to Address National Priorities

Background and Proposed Policy Recommendations

Subcommittee on Standards
National Science and Technology Council

October 2011

- Reflects extensive public and agency input and engagement

- Articulates USG role in the U.S. standards system

- Outlines legal and policy framework relating to USG participation in and use of standards

- Addresses developments since 1998 revision of OMB Circular A-119

- Includes six policy recommendations for federal agencies

Policy Recommendations

Federal Engagement in Standards Activities to Address National Priorities

Background and Proposed Policy Recommendations

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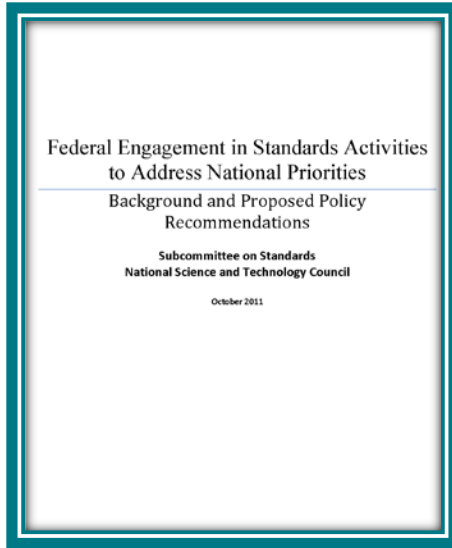
October 2011

1. Recognize that in most government-private-sector standards engagements, the primary role of the government will continue to be that of active contributor to the private-sector-led process.

2. Identify the context(s) where Federal government leadership / coordination may be appropriate.

3. Outline objectives for government engagement in standardization activities to support national priorities.

4. Enhance effective coordination and participation by agencies.

5. Clarify agency responsibilities with respect to the full range of standards setting alternatives.

6. Lay out key principles underpinning voluntary standardization processes.

Policy Recommendations (2)

Additional attributes of standards organization processes that agencies should consider:

- Access and availability
- Clear IPR policies
- Timeliness

Framework Document Impact

Federal Engagement in Standards Activities to Address National Priorities

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Medium Term

- Identify actionable instances to apply policy recommendations
- Use in interactions with foreign governments
- Basis for further discussion on key issues

Near Term

- Positive feedback received
- Unambiguous articulation of USG approach
- Basis for formal EOP position on proposed standards policy recommendations

White House Memorandum for Heads of Agencies

- Issued by Three White House Offices

Executive Office of the President
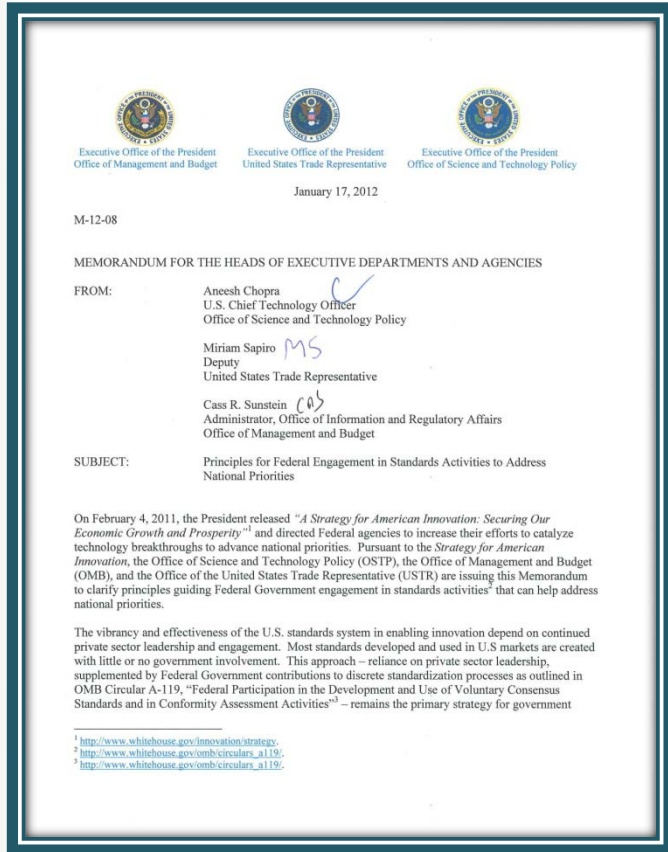Office of Management and Budget

Executive Office of the President
United States Trade Representative

Executive Office of the President
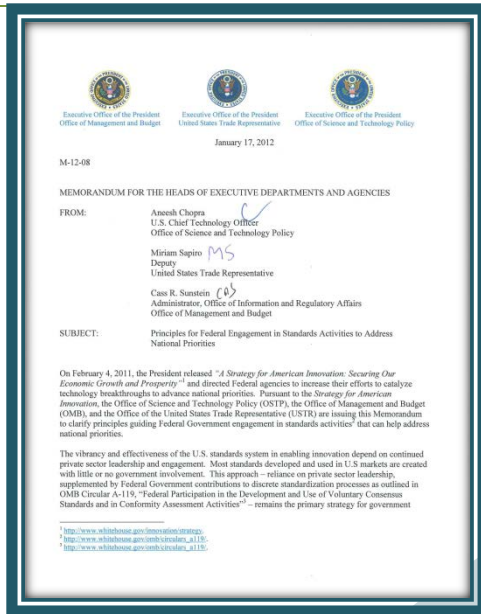Office of Science and Technology Policy

- Principles for Federal Engagement in Standards Activities to Address National Priorities

    - Innovation Focus
    - Private Sector Role
    - Strategic Objectives
    - Agency Responsibilities

- Takes into account the impact of growth of ICT technologies and changes to the standardization system since 1998

Strategic Objectives

- Produce timely, effective standards and efficient conformity assessment schemes that are essential to addressing an identified need

- Achieve cost-efficient, timely and effective solutions to legitimate regulatory, procurement and policy objectives

- Promote standards and standardization systems that promote and sustain innovation and foster competition

- Enhance U.S. growth and competitiveness and ensure non-discrimination, consistent with international obligations

- Facilitate international trade and avoid the creation of unnecessary barriers to trade

Principles Impact

Provides the private sector greater clarity and certainty about federal government engagement

Conveys the U.S. government's continuing commitment to the public-private partnership that is the foundation of the U.S. standards system

Sends an important message to both domestic and international audiences

Establishes a framework for policy makers (Administration and Congress) to use while defining their standards needs

Provides clear direction to agency staff and leadership in their efforts to catalyze technology breakthroughs to drive U.S. innovation and competitiveness

Next Steps

Leverage White House formal commitment to the importance of standards in spurring technology deployment, NIST role

Apply principles to address inter-agency coordination issues – e.g., cybersecurity, cloud computing, etc.

Update NIST guidance for agencies on conformity assessment

Pursue changes to OMB A-119 if needed

- Use of standards in regulations
- International standards definition
- Standards and intellectual property rights
- Inter-agency communication and coordination