

FOREWORD

Dear Colleagues,

One of our country's greatest strengths is its capacity for innovation. The National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) Technology Innovation Program (TIP) is rapidly tapping into that strength in becoming a resource for solving the significant challenges that we face as a nation and society. I invite you to join us in this effort.



With the release of this Proposal Preparation Kit, we at TIP are building on our prior successful series of awards. I am pleased to say that each TIP competition has made it possible for small and medium businesses, universities, nonprofit research institutions, and national laboratories to initiate high-risk, high-reward research in areas that promise to address some of the nation's most pressing needs. TIP funds only advanced long-term research in areas where the government has a clear interest because of the magnitude of the problem and its importance to society. With help from you, this year's competition promises to be equally fruitful.

To learn more about the Technology Innovation Program, I encourage you to visit our website at <http://www.nist.gov/tip> where you will find detailed background materials and a calendar of many upcoming TIP meetings and events. If you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive future TIP announcements, take your browser to http://tipmailing.nist.gov/forms/mailling_list.cfm. I look forward to working with you, as together, we become the premier science and technology funding program in the federal government, investing in innovation to help make our country more competitive and secure in the 21st century.

Yours truly,

Dr. Lorel Wisniewski

*Deputy Director, Technology Innovation Program
National Institute of Standards and Technology*