

**House Report 112-463 - COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2013**

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

The Committee recommendation includes \$830,173,000 for NIST, which is \$79,349,000 above fiscal year 2012 and \$26,827,000 below the request.

**SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND
SERVICES**

The Committee recommendation includes \$621,173,000 for NIST's scientific and technical core programs, which is \$54,173,000 above fiscal year 2012 and \$26,827,000 below the request. The recommendation provides funding above the current year for metrology infrastructure and standards to support biomanufacturing, standards to support nanomanufacturing, the Materials Genome Initiative, measurement science and standards to support smart manufacturing, the NIST Manufacturing Fellowship Program, secure and interoperable communications, and disaster resilience and natural hazards risk reduction. The Committee encourages NIST, as Federal coordinator for the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education, to explore establishing a training program at NIST dedicated to cybersecurity education for veterans. The Committee encourages NIST to continue to explore the research field of graphene ribbon and carbon-based nanomanufacturing.

Centers of Excellence- The recommendation includes \$20,000,000 as requested to establish four Centers of Excellence which are designed to focus on innovations in measurement science and emerging technology areas, including advanced communications, advanced manufacturing, biomanufacturing, cyberphysical systems, or quantitative biology. NIST shall use its existing organizational structure to implement this program and not develop another program office.

National Strategy for Trusted Identities in Cyberspace (NSTIC)- The recommendation does not include funding for NSTIC. The Committee understands that fiscal year 2012 funding for pilots will not be obligated until the end of fiscal year 2012. NIST shall report to the Committee no later than 120 days after enactment of this Act listing the pilots funded and then, subsequently, regarding the results of these pilots. These reports shall also detail the activities and accomplishments of the National Program Office and Steering Group. NIST may support the work of the National Program Office in fiscal year 2013 with remaining balances of fiscal year 2012 appropriations. The report mentioned above shall include a spending plan for any such proposed use of fiscal year 2012 balances.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

The Committee recommends \$149,000,000 for Industrial Technology Services, which is \$20,557,000 above fiscal year 2012 and the same as the request. This amount includes \$128,000,000 for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program, which is \$443,000 below fiscal year 2012 and the same as the request.

Manufacturing Extension Partnership program (MEP)- The MEP consists of 60 centers around the country that work with small- and medium-sized manufacturers to deliver technical assistance to improve their manufacturing processes. The Committee expects the MEP program to reduce overhead costs, which represent 13 percent of the total program budget in fiscal year 2012, and use this funding to provide direct assistance to additional manufacturers. The GAO shall evaluate the extent to which the MEP program achieves administrative efficiencies and provide a report to the Committee by February 5, 2013.

The Committee is disappointed that the Secretary has not submitted the report requested in the statement accompanying Public Law 112-55 regarding the MEP program and directs the Secretary to submit this report no later than May 1, 2012.

National Innovation Marketplace (NIM)- Within the amount provided for the MEP program for fiscal year 2013, not less than \$2,500,000 is for the NIM, a web-based tool being developed by NIST to help companies, communities, colleges and universities, inventors, and entrepreneurs accelerate supply chain connections and facilitate partnerships. The Committee commends the Department's efforts to increase participation in the NIM, but notes that significant work remains to ensure that potential participants are aware of and able to access this helpful resource. The Committee directs the Department to provide, no later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, a specific and detailed plan for publicizing and promoting the NIM, with an aim toward greatly increasing participation throughout the country and across the Nation's economy. The Committee directs the Department to include in this plan specific timetables paired with specific numerical goals for each category of NIM participant.

Advanced Manufacturing Technology Consortia- The Committee recommendation includes \$21,000,000, the full amount requested, to establish industry-led Advanced Manufacturing Technology Consortia to identify and prioritize research projects supporting long-term industrial research needs. NIST shall provide a report and overall assessment to the Committee by February 5, 2013, that includes actual and planned obligation and expenditure data for each activity funded as well as a description of the activities, accomplishments, research areas identified, and long-term goals and milestones of the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Consortia program. The Committee expects NIST to allocate no more than \$1,000,000 under this program for administrative costs and to ensure that competitive research awards under this program benefit all industry members and are based on open access to intellectual property.

CONSTRUCTION OF RESEARCH FACILITIES

The Committee recommends \$60,000,000 for NIST construction, which is \$4,619,000 above fiscal year 2012 and the same as the request.

Boulder Building 1 renovation.--Of the amounts provided, \$11,800,000 is provided as requested for continued renovation activities at the Boulder, Colorado, facility. NIST shall provide an update on the status of these renovations, to include obligations and expenditures of prior year funds, no later than 120 days after enactment of this Act.

Safety, Capacity, Maintenance, and Major Repairs.--The remaining \$48,200,000 in construction funds are provided for Safety, Capacity, Maintenance, and Major Repairs, as requested. NIST shall provide a report to the Committee no later than 30 days after enactment of this Act regarding the projects that will be funded and the milestones for completion. This report shall also include a description of projects previously funded between fiscal years 2009 and 2012, to include a report on the obligations and expenditures of funds associated with each activity. NIST shall also provide a report, including obligations and expenditures, of projects funded with the \$180,000,000 NIST received in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5) to address NIST's backlog of maintenance and renovation projects.