

“Taken from House Report 108-576, FY 2005 House Report for Commerce, Justice, and State Appropriations bill...”

## **SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES**

The Committee recommendation includes \$375,838,000 for the Scientific and Technical Research and Services (core programs) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, which is \$35,095,000 above the current year, and \$47,030,000 below the request.

The Committee recommendation includes \$338,657,000 and 1,831 positions to support the full base operating costs of the core NIST programs, as requested. In addition, the Committee recommendation includes programmatic increases totaling \$37,181,000 for this account. The Committee expects NIST to prioritize funding for programs associated with standards and guidelines relating to the national security of the United States, including efforts relating to biometric and cyber security and programs relating to improvements to the nation's manufacturing and services sectors. The Committee strongly urges NIST to give priority consideration to Help America Vote Act outreach to the election community; expediting work on a new voting standards accreditation program; and its work with the Technical Guidelines Development Committee working with the Election Assistance Commission. NIST is directed to provide in advance of the fiscal year 2006 hearings a report detailing what steps must be taken to bring its activities in line with the timetable established by the Act. Further, the Committee directs NIST to provide all necessary equipment for the Advanced Measurement Laboratory in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

The Committee directs the Secretary to submit a spending plan for fiscal year 2005 to the Committee no later than November 15, 2004.

The recommendation continues funding of \$2,400,000 for a telework project and \$6,500,000 for a critical infrastructure program, both of which received similar funding in fiscal year 2004.

## **INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**

The Committee recommendation includes \$106,000,000 for the Industrial Technology Services appropriation of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, which is \$110,480,000 below the current year level and \$66,810,000 above the request.

*Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Program.*--Recent economic downturns have had a devastating effect on the manufacturing sector. In an effort to ameliorate some of these effects, the Committee recommendation includes \$106,000,000 for this program

in fiscal year 2005, which is \$66,810,000 above the request and the current year. Federal support for the MEP program, combined with State and private sector funding, have translated into more jobs, more tax revenue, more exports, and a more secure supply source of consumer and defense goods.

The Committee directs NIST to provide assistance to an applicant under the MEP program only if the applicant agrees to make available to the public on request their audited statements, annual budgets, and minutes of meetings and agrees to provide the public with reasonable notice of, and an opportunity to attend, their meetings. The Committee further directs NIST to provide assistance to an applicant under the MEP program only after the applicant files appropriate Federal financial disclosure statements.

*Advanced Technology Program.*--The Committee adopts the President's request, and does not include funding for this program.

## **CONSTRUCTION OF RESEARCH FACILITIES**

The Committee recommendation includes \$43,132,000 for the construction and major renovations of the NIST campuses at Boulder, Colorado, and Gaithersburg, Maryland.

The Committee directs NIST to submit a quarterly report to the Committee on the progress of all construction projects, beginning with the second quarter of fiscal year 2005.

This account supports all NIST activities by providing state of the art facilities necessary to carry out the NIST mission.