

NIST Statement on Fiscal Year 2008 Appropriations

The Fiscal Year 2008 appropriations for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) do not provide funding for NIST's laboratory efforts at the President's request level for the American Competitiveness Initiative. NIST received an increase in its laboratory budget of \$5.3 million or 1.2 percent, compared with a requested increase of \$66.1 million. As a result, research in a variety of areas -- including nanotechnology, quantum computing, climate change, and bioscience—will not be advanced as originally proposed.

The FY 2008 appropriations do not fully fund salary increases and other costs anticipated in the President's budget. Consequently, NIST managers are reviewing laboratory and administrative activities to ensure that ongoing high priority projects receive the funding that they need and that all funds are being used as efficiently as possible.

NIST will make every effort to optimize the funds provided, including in our construction and facilities accounts. We plan to proceed with two major facilities projects that are under way: expansion of our neutron research center in Gaithersburg and our laboratories in Boulder, improvements that are critical in order for NIST to continue to conduct cutting edge research for U.S. science and industry. We also plan to continue to reduce the backlog of deferred maintenance projects on our facilities.

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