

**Clinton Creates Cabinet-Level Science Council**

On November 23, 1993, President Clinton signed an executive order establishing a cabinet-level National Science and Technology Council (NSTC). Its major functions will be to coordinate interagency science and technology policy making, and to implement and integrate the President's science and technology policy agenda across the federal government.

"One of the most critical tasks I expect the NSTC to undertake is an across-the-board review of federal spending on research and development," said Clinton. "The Council will prepare coordinated R&D budget recommendations for accomplishing national objectives in areas ranging from information technologies to health research, from improving transportation to strengthening fundamental research and international science and technology programs," he said.

Establishment of the Council "to strengthen and streamline" the White House science and technology functions was a key recommendation of the National Performance Review. The NSTC will consolidate responsibilities previously carried out by other interagency councils, including the Federal Coordinating Council for Science, Engineering, and Technology (FCCSET); the National Space Council; and the National Critical Materials Council.

**NTSC Coordinating Committees**

- Civilian Industrial Technology R&D
- Environment and Natural Resources Research
- Education and Training R&D
- Fundamental Science and Engineering Research
- Health, Safety, and Food R&D
- Information and Communication R&D
- International Science, Engineering, and Technology R&D
- National Security R&D
- Transportation R&D

The NSTC will have nine research and development coordinating committees (see list) "to establish clear national goals for federal science and technology investments and to ensure that science, space, and technology policies and programs are developed and implemented to effectively contribute to those national goals," said a White House statement. The NSTC is also expected to further international cooperation in science and technology.

Ad hoc working groups will be established as needed to review and coordinate specific policies and initiatives.

Clinton will chair the NSTC. Its members will include Vice President Gore, OSTP director John H. Gibbons, NSF director Neal F. Lane, and the secretaries of commerce, defense, energy, health and human services, interior, and state as well as the administrators of NASA and the EPA, the director of the Office of Management and Budget, and the heads of the National Security Council, National Economic Council, and Domestic Policy Council.

"Private sector involvement with the NSTC will be essential to developing successful science and technology policies that help American businesses achieve sustainable growth and create high quality jobs, as well as to maintaining our academic and research institutions' world leadership in science, engineering, and mathematics," said Clinton.

**PCAST Established for 2 Years**

To ensure involvement of the private sector with the NSTC, Clinton signed a second executive order on November 23, 1993, establishing the President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology. The private sector group will serve as an advisory body to the President and NSTC.

Clinton's PCAST is much like the Bush administration's PCAST, but larger (15 members instead of 12) and a committee rather than a council. Established for two years from the date of the executive order, the new PCAST is expected to do most of its work through subcommittees.

The Clinton administration has premised many of its plans for national revitalization on the concept of public/private partnerships, so Clinton's "goal for this Committee is to help encourage those partnerships."

Clinton plans to appoint to the Committee 15 distinguished individuals from industry, education and research institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and other sources, including state and local governments. John H. Gibbons,

director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and Assistant to the President for Science and Technology, will co-chair the Committee with a private sector Presidential appointee.

**55 Proposals Named in Second Round of TRP**

At the end of November, 55 more proposals, all dealing with technology deployment, were selected to negotiate for matching funds under the Clinton administration's Technology Reinvestment Project. According to a White House statement, these projects account for \$110 million in requested federal matching funds. Combined with the first round of projects announced (see *MRS Bulletin*, December 1993, p. 14), this represents the commitment of about half of TRP's \$472 million in FY 1993 resources.

The largest single project from this round, the \$25.7 million Chicago Manufacturing Technology Center, aims to assist 9,000 small manufacturers in the Chicago metropolitan area. The proposal leader, the Economic Development Commission of the City of Chicago, was joined by Argonne National Laboratory, two University of Illinois campuses, Shorebank Corp. (a development bank), and by other educational and research institutions.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology will manage 33 of the recently selected proposals through its Manufacturing Extension Partnership. Nine of the projects named in the first round also come under NIST's MEP. As noted by DOE Secretary Ronald H. Brown, manufacturing extension centers make up about one third of the TRP selections just announced.

The program with the most participants (63) is the \$13.2 million New Mexico Manufacturing Extension Program.

A list of award selections, proposed projects and their sizes is available by calling the Department of Defense at (703) 697-5737. The hotline for TRP program information is still operable: 1-800-DUAL-USE. □

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