

# Nanotechnology Research Infrastructure: A Collaborative Platform for Innovation

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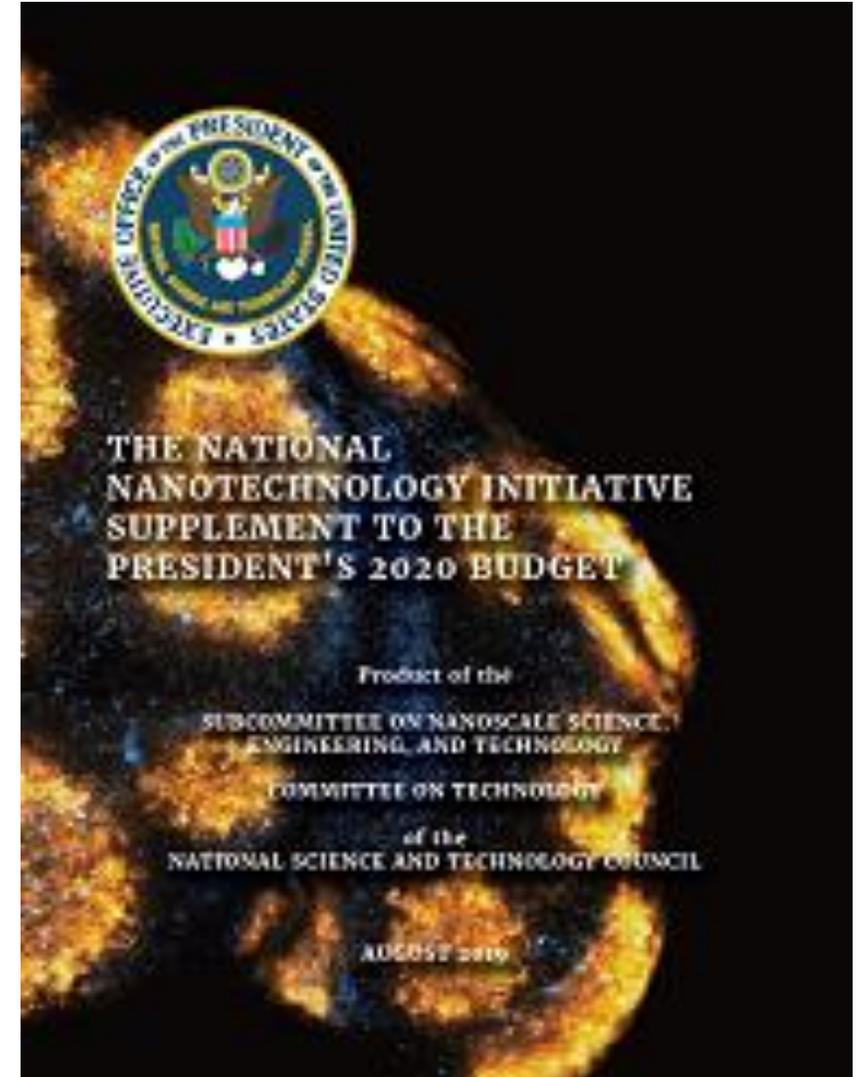
October 24, 2019

National Nanotechnology Coordinated Infrastructure

Harvard University, Boston

# U.S. National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI)

- Collaborative R&D to advance understanding and control of matter at the nanoscale for:
  - National economic benefit
  - National security
  - Improved quality of life
- 20 Federal Departments and Independent Agencies
- 2020 budget request: over \$1.4 billion
  - Cumulative ~\$29 billion investment since 2001
  - EHS investment ~\$1.26 billion since 2005



*A coordinated initiative, not a distinct funding program.*

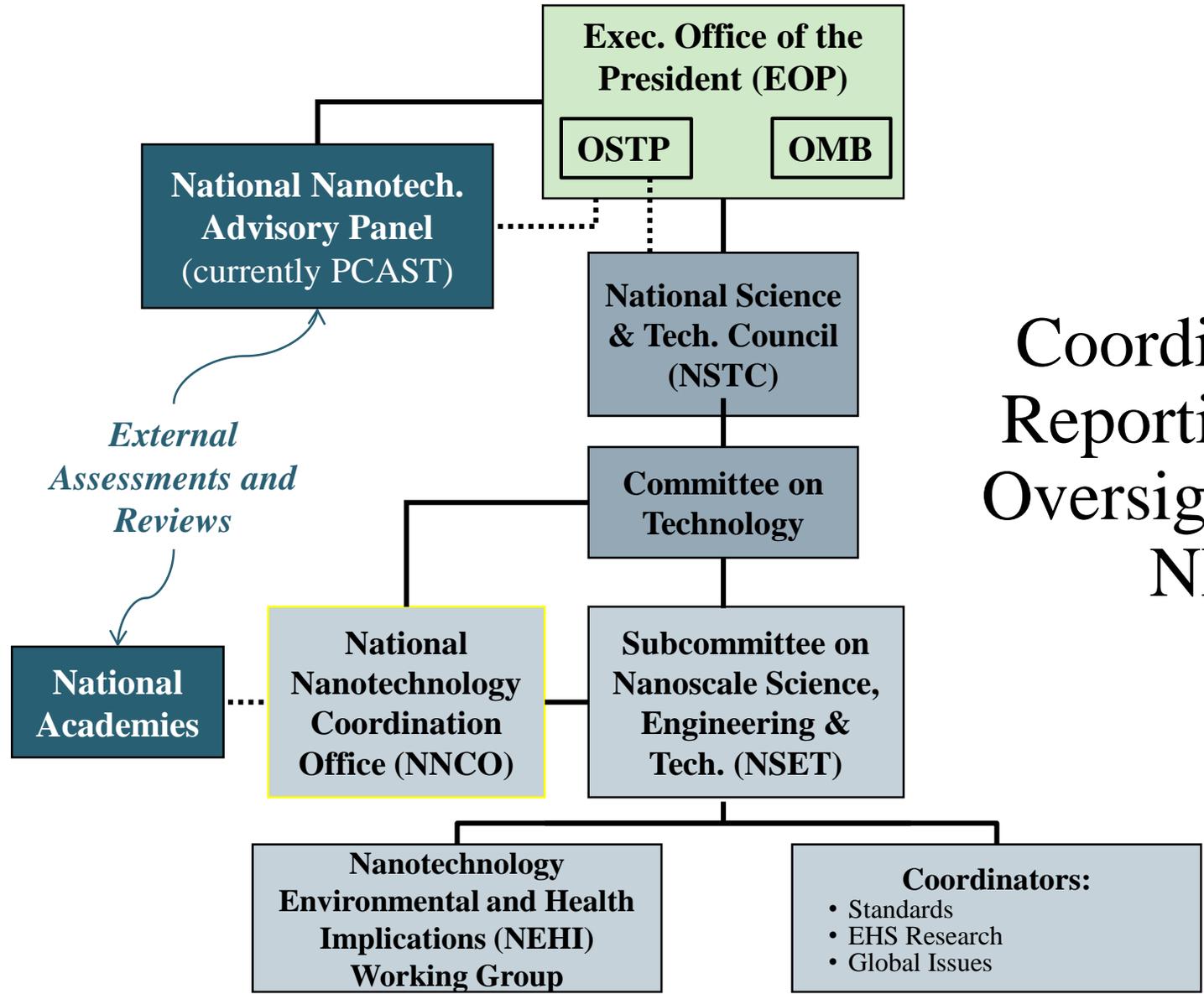


# National Nanotechnology Initiative

*Vision: A future in which the ability to understand and control matter at the nanoscale leads to a revolution in technology and industry that benefits society.*

**Goals:**

- Advance a world-class nanotechnology research and development program.
- Foster the transfer of new technologies into products for commercial and public benefit.
- Develop and sustain educational resources, a skilled workforce, and a dynamic infrastructure and toolset to advance nanotechnology.
- Support responsible development of nanotechnology.



# Coordination, Reporting, and Oversight of the NNI

# The NNI's Nanotechnology Signature Initiatives

To Be Determined

NATIONAL NANOTECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE  
NTSC COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NANOSCALE SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND TECHNOLOGY  
**Nanotechnology Signature Initiative**  
**Water Sustainability through Nanotechnology:**  
**Nanoscale Solutions for a Global-Scale Challenge**  
Collaborating Agencies:<sup>1</sup> DDC/NST, DOE, EPA, NASA, NSF, USDA/NIFA  
March 22, 2016

**National Need Addressed**

Water is essential to all life, and its significance bridges many critical areas for society: food, energy, security, and the environment. Projected population growth in the coming decades and associated increases in demands for water exacerbate the mounting pressure to address water sustainability. Yet, only 2.5% of the world's water is fresh water, and some of the most severe impacts of climate change are on our country's water resources. For example, in 2012, droughts affected about two-thirds of the continental United States, impacting water supplies, tourism, transportation, energy, and fisheries – costing the agricultural sector alone \$30 billion. In addition, the ground water in many of the Nation's aquifers is being depleted at unsustainable rates, which necessitates drilling ever deeper to tap groundwater resources. Finally, water infrastructure is a critically important but consistently overlooked aspect of water treatment and distribution. Both technological and sociopolitical solutions are required to address these problems.

The small size and unique properties of engineered nanomaterials (ENMs) are particularly promising for addressing the pressing technical challenges related to water quality and quantity. For example, the increased surface area and reactivity of ENMs can be exploited to create precision-antidote catalysis for water purification, and the enhanced strength-to-weight properties of nanocomposites can be used to make stronger, lighter, and more durable piping systems and components. The goal of the *Water Sustainability through Nanotechnology Signature Initiative* (the "Water NSI") is to take advantage of the unique properties of engineered nanomaterials to generate significant breakthroughs in addressing our Nation's water challenges. This initiative is designed to aid in the development of technological solutions that can alleviate current stresses on the water supply and provide methods to sustainably utilize water resources in the future. The three specific thrusts of the Water NSI are as follows:

1. Increase water availability using nanotechnology.
2. Improve the efficiency of water delivery and use with nanotechnology.
3. Enable next-generation water monitoring systems with nanotechnology.

This white paper highlights key technical challenges for each thrust, identifies key objectives to overcome these challenges, and notes promising areas of research and development where nanotechnology promises to provide the needed solutions. By shining a spotlight on these areas, this NSI will increase Federal coordination and collaboration, including with public and private stakeholders, which is vital to making progress in these areas. The additional focus and associated collective efforts will advance stewardship of water resources to support the essential food, energy, security, and environment needs of all stakeholders.

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NANOTECHNOLOGY SIGNATURE INITIATIVE: NANOTECHNOLOGY FOR SENSORS AND SENSORS FOR NANOTECHNOLOGY  
09 July 2012  
NTSC COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NANOSCALE SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND TECHNOLOGY  
**Nanotechnology Signature Initiative**  
**Nanotechnology for Sensors and Sensors for Nanotechnology:**  
**Improving and Protecting Health, Safety, and the Environment**  
Cooperating Agencies:<sup>1</sup> CPSC, DOD/DTRA, EPA, FDA, NASA, NIH, NIOSH, NIST, NSF, NINFA

**National Need Addressed**

Nanotechnology-enabled sensors (nanosensors) are providing new solutions in physical, chemical, and biological sensing that enable increased detection sensitivity, specificity, and "flexing" capability in portable devices for a wide variety of health, safety, and personal measurements [1]. There are many compelling drivers for development of nanosensors. For example, the increasing size and global distribution of agricultural and manufacturing facilities has created an urgent need for sensors that can rapidly and reliably identify the source of pollutants, adulterants, pathogens, and other threat agents at any point in the supply chain. The increasing burden of chronic diseases such as cancer and diabetes among U.S. population requires improved sensors to identify early-stage disease and inform patient management. Several new high-performance nanosensors have already demonstrated improved response and increased sensitivity at reduced size. However, translation of these devices to commercial market is impeded by questions about reliability, reproducibility, and robustness.

At the same time, the rise in the use of engineered nanomaterials in commercial products and their applications has increased the potential for nanomaterials to be released into the environment, which could pose health and environmental challenges. The impact of nanomaterials on human health and safety and the environment is not well understood, and a better understanding of basic nanomaterial properties is necessary to detect, identify, and assess potential risk from nanomaterials in the environment. Currently, a very limited suite of methods is available to monitor the release of nanomaterials across the diverse environments where nanomaterials are developed, manufactured, used, and recycled.

**Nanotechnology Signature Initiative, Nanotechnology for Sensors and Sensors for Technology: Improving and Protecting Health, Safety, and the Environment**, addresses both the potential of using nanotechnology to advance sensor development and the challenges of using sensors to keep pace with the increasingly widespread use of engineered nanomaterials. This Nanotechnology Signature Initiative will build upon existing National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI) member agency efforts to support research on nanosensor development.

1. These areas that "collaborating agencies" is meant in the broader sense and does not necessarily imply that agencies provide additional funds or have obligations to do so. Agencies are listed in alphabetical order.

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NTSC COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NANOSCALE SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND TECHNOLOGY  
**National Nanotechnology Initiative Signature Initiative:**  
**Sustainable Nanomanufacturing – Creating the Industries of the Future**  
Final Draft, July 2010  
Cooperating Agencies:<sup>1</sup> NIST, NSF, DOE, EPA, IC, NIH, NIOSH, OSHA, USDA/Forest Service

**National Need Addressed**

Interagency initiative will establish manufacturing technologies for economical and scalable integration of nanoscale building blocks into complex, large-scale systems. A decade of research under the National Nanotechnology Initiative has led to remarkable advances in nanoscale materials with unique properties, laboratory demonstrations of a range of sensitive nanoscale devices, and introduction of a limited number of nanotechnology-based products into the marketplace. For this investment to become the basis for high-value industries, jobs must be established to efficiently assemble products that integrate together billions of scale devices with disparate functions. Current manufacturing methods such as those used in semiconductor industry will not be economical at these scales; radically new approaches are needed. Moreover, for such products to be ubiquitous in the nation's future economy without long-term negative environmental or health impacts, these new approaches and the final products must be inherently sustainable by design.

Long-term vision for nanomanufacturing is to create flexible, "bottom-up" or "top-down" continuous assembly methods that can be used to construct elaborate systems: complex nanodevices. Moreover, these systems by design will reduce the overall chemical and health impacts over their full life cycle, for example, by minimizing use of harmful nanomaterials or solvents, and reducing energy consumption. To create the nation for achieving this vision, over the next decade this initiative will first establish a viable industrial-scale manufacturing of functional systems with relatively limited flexibility based on manufactured nanoparticles with designed properties. The organized abilities of nanoparticles manufactured here will be designed to control and manipulate matter, thermal energy, and electromagnetic radiation. The systems to be manufactured will be disruptive technologies for high-precision manufacturing and computation, solar energy saving, waste heat management and recovery, and energy storage. The methods developed

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COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NANOSCALE SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND TECHNOLOGY  
**National Nanotechnology Initiative Signature Initiative:**  
**Nanoelectronics for 2020 and Beyond**  
July 2010 Final Draft  
Cooperating Agencies:<sup>1</sup> NSE, DOD, NIST, DOE, IC

**National Need Addressed**

Semiconductor industry is a major driver of the modern economy and has accounted for a large share of the productivity gains that have characterized the global economy since the 1990s. One of the industry's economic imperatives is that in 2008 it was the second largest exporter of goods in the United States. Recent advances in this area have been flanked by what is known as Moore's Law, which has successfully predicted the exponential increase in the performance of computing as for the last 40 years. This gain has been achieved due to ever-increasing miniaturization of industry processing and memory devices (smaller and faster switches or transistors). However, as the physical length scales of these devices are now reaching atomic dimensions, it is widely expected that further progress will be stalled by limits imposed by the fundamental physics of devices (200).

Scaling to shrink device dimensions is important in order to further increase processing speed, reduce switching energy, increase system functionality, and reduce manufacturing cost per bit. But as the atomic critical elements of devices approach atomic size, quantum tunneling and other quantum effects degrade and ultimately prohibit conventional device operation. Researchers are therefore pursuing that radical approaches to overcome these fundamental physics limitations. Candidate approaches include different types of logic using cellular automata or quantum entanglement and superposition, 3-D architecture, and information-carrying variables other than electron charge such as photon spin, electron spin, and position and states of atoms and molecules. Approaches based on solid science, engineering, and technology are the most promising for realizing these radical changes. It is expected to change the very nature of electronics and the essence of how electronics are fabricated. Rapidly maturing domestic R&D resources in these areas could establish a U.S. manufacturing base that will dominate 21st century electronics commerce.

Multi-agency R&D initiative is aimed at discovering and using novel nanoscale fabrication processes and innovative concepts to produce revolutionary materials, devices, systems, and architectures to be the field of nanoelectronics. The initiative has five thrust areas:

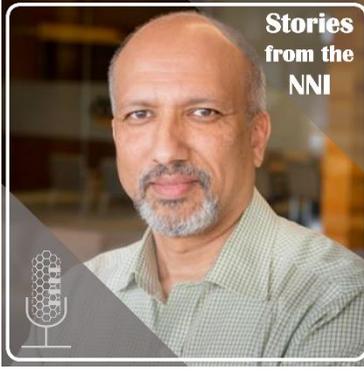
- Exploring new or alternative "state variables" for computing.
- Designing nanomanufacturing with nanoelectronics.
- Tailoring carbon-based nanoelectronics.
- Exploring nanoscale processes and platforms for quantum information science.

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# Stories from the NNI



# Engaging with the NNI

The promise of nanotechnology can only be achieved through community involvement.

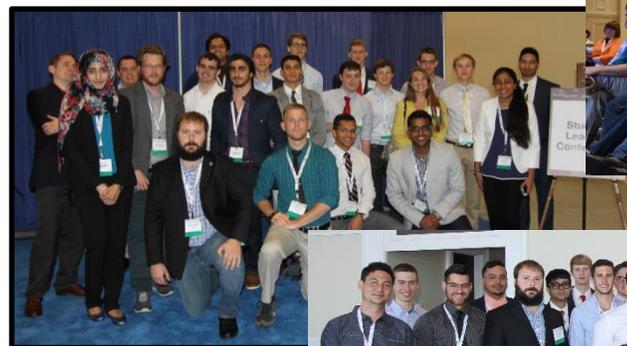
How to engage?

- Webinars
- Workshops
- Respond to RFIs
- Share news and highlights
- Podcasts
- Communities of Research
- Contact the NNCO!

# U.S. Nano and Emerging Technologies Student Network



## Student Leaders Conference



# Collaboration to Address Emerging Contaminants

## Nanoplastics Interest Group

- Leveraging advances in nanotechnology
- Building on relationships and mechanisms for collaboration
- Focus on addressing current concerns and preventing future contamination



# Opportunities to Leverage International Collaboration

Collaborative Platforms for  
Converging Technologies

U.S. Advanced Materials Case Study



National Nanotechnology Coordinated Infrastructure



# Project 1: Collaborative Platforms for Converging Technologies

## Advanced Materials U.S. Case Study: NNCI

This case study will use the following framework:

1. Platform Name and Description
2. Parent policy initiative
3. Stated Aim or Mission
4. Funding
5. Access
6. Intellectual Property Terms
7. Data (ownership and sharing)
8. Public Private Collaboration
9. Education
10. Standardization
11. Measures of activity
12. Stage of research, development, or commercialization
13. Safety/ regulation
14. Role of digitalization in the convergence enabled by the platform (if pertinent to the case)
15. Other

# Follow NNI on Social Media!



**Twitter: @NNInanonews**



**LinkedIn: National Nanotechnology Initiative**

# THANK YOU.

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