INTRODUCTION

The Supplement to the President's FY 2005 Budget reports on the FY 2004 research and development (R&D) activities and FY 2005 plans of the multiagency Networking and Information Technology Research and Development (NITRD) Program. A collaborative effort of many Federal agencies (listed on pages 2-3), the NITRD Program is the Nation's principal source of long-term, fundamental information technology (IT) R&D, including advanced technologies in high-end computing systems and software, high-speed networking, software assurance and reliability, human-computer interaction, and information management, as well as research in the socioeconomic and workforce development implications of these new technologies.

Each year, the NITRD Supplement to the President's Budget, also known as "the Blue Book," seeks to illuminate the breadth of the NITRD portfolio and the impact of NITRD research advances on U.S. leadership in national defense and national security, cutting-edge science and technology, and economic prosperity, and on improving the quality of life for all Americans.

This year's Blue Book highlights the technical domains, called Program Component Areas (PCAs), in which the NITRD agencies conduct IT research and collaborate to achieve common goals. The report, based on information provided by the agencies, is structured to serve as a detailed guide to the program, including both collaborative and agency-by-agency activities in FY 2004 and plans for FY 2005. The document begins with an overview of the NITRD Program, followed by sections on each NITRD PCA. The NITRD budget request for FY 2005, by agency and by PCA, appears on page 83, along with FY 2004 estimates.