2008 Priorities for the VCAT and Response to the 2007 VCAT Report

Dr. James M. Turner

Deputy Director

VCAT Meeting

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NIST
National Institute of
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Outline

- 2008 VCAT Priorities
- NIST Response to 2007 VCAT Recommendations

NIST's 2008 Priorities for the VCAT

In 2008 we are asking you to address how NIST can best prepare for, deal with, and adapt to changes in the scientific and technological enterprise and in the global economy and society in order to continue to effectively meet our mission.

To accomplish this we will be looking at three major topics over the course of the year

1. What are the most productive kinds of interactions and relationships between NIST and other institutions (industry, academia, states) in a time of change?

2. What changes should NIST consider in order to best support the Nation's needs in manufacturing, the service sector, and sustainability?

3. What steps can NIST take to guard against technological surprise and to ensure that we continually identify and work on novel areas of technology?

NIST's 2008 Priorities for the VCAT – Topic One

What are the most productive kinds of interactions and relationships between NIST and other institutions (industry, academia, states) in a time of change? -- Focus of current meeting

Overarching Theme of the meeting is *NIST's Roles in the Innovation Ecosystem*

- Are our existing programs effective?
- Are there other opportunities and targets that NIST is missing?
- Are there other tools for enhancing coordination, creation, and use of knowledge?
- What are appropriate stakeholder roles?

What changes should NIST consider in order to best support the Nation's needs in manufacturing, the service sector, and sustainability? – Focus of Second Meeting

- Examine sectoral analysis and trends
- Is NIST looking far enough "over the horizon"
- Review programs in manufacturing, service sector, and sustainability (both for energy and environment)
- Help identify additional focus areas and emerging trends

What steps can NIST take to guard against technological surprise and to ensure that we continually identify and work on novel areas of technology?

- Assess examples of major programmatic change at NIST in past 5 years

- How do OU's evaluate trends and areas where they think investments should be increased

- Review technology assessment tools used by NIST

- Determine if NIST is missing any major technology trends

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NIST Response to FY2007 VCAT Recommendations

General Comments:

- NIST thanks the VCAT for this excellent report.

- This report is responsive to the charge of addressing NIST's FY 2009 President's Budget Request for the laboratories and NIST's Three-Year Programmatic Plan.

- By addressing priorities and high-level programs, this report is at the right level.

- NIST appreciates the supportive statements about the budget and plan and recognizes that there are opportunities for improvements in the plan. These include some earlier recommendations by the VCAT that NIST was not able to fully address regarding the need for the plan to help "promote NIST" with a solid rationale for the labs and positive impacts that NIST has achieved and/or helped to cause. NIST has been discussing these improvements internally and with the Hill staff.

- NIST agrees strongly with all of the Committee's general observations on the budget and plan.

NIST Response to FY2007 VCAT Recommendations

NIST Response to Specific Subcommittee Comments and Recommendations:

Information Technology –

- NIST will aggressively pursue the IT recommendations and utilize them as input into its strategic planning to determine the appropriate NIST role and potential future effort.

Bioscience/Healthcare –

- NIST received your message loud and clear regarding the need for a bioscience and healthcare strategy.
- We intend to develop this strategy during 2008 with key input from the October conference, "Accelerating Innovation in 21st Century Biosciences: Identifying the Measurement Standards and Technological Challenges."

Nanotechnology –

- NIST responded quickly to your recommendation regarding the need for a Nanotechnology Coordinating Council and we have established this Council under Bob Celotta's leadership.
- This Council should immediately improve communications internally and externally about NIST nanotechnology programs and eventually lead to improved collaboration, coordination, and planning internally.