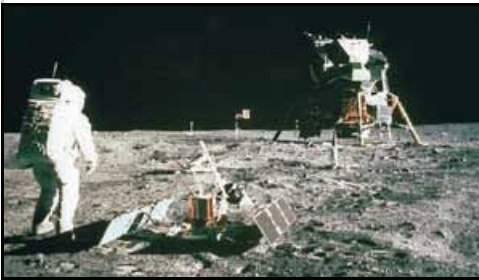




Congress Approves the NASA Reauthorization Act

On September 27, the House of Representatives unanimously passed H.R. 6063, to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.



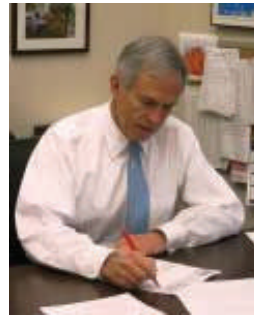
H.R. 6063 clears Congress and is sent to the White House to be considered by the President.

H.R. 6063 incorporates most of the provisions of the House bill. One change to the original legislation was to include a prohibition against NASA taking any steps before April 30, 2009 that would preclude the President from being able to continue to fly the Space Shuttle past 2010 if he and the next Congress decide to do so.

[Read more about H.R. 6063 >>](#)

H.R. 6063, authored by Subcommittee Chairman Mark Udall, passed the House by 409 to 15 on June 18, 2008. The Senate passed an amended version of the legislation on Thursday, September 25. The Senate bill incor-

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Chairman Bart Gordon introduced H.R. 6997, to implement a National Water Research and Development Initiative, on September 23, 2008.

Newsletter Spotlight

Welcome to the September 2008 edition of the House Committee on Science and Technology's E-Newsletter.

The Committee appreciates your interest in our work. Please feel free to share Science & Tech E-News with friends and colleagues. They can also sign up to receive E-News in their own mailboxes quickly and easily.

Sincerely,

Bart Gordon,
Chairman
U.S. House Committee

Subcommittee Examines Air Transportation Systems

On September 11, the Full Committee held a hearing to examine the status of the Next Generation Air Transportation System initiative, known as NextGen. Committee Members explored key issues related to the initiative and the interagency Joint Planning and Development Office (JPDO), the organization entrusted with NextGen planning and coordination.



NextGen was established by Congress in its Vision 100 FAA Reauthorization that was enacted in late 2003. In 2007, the Committee worked with the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to create a framework for NextGen, H.R. 2881.

[Read more >>](#)

Rep. Jerry Costello discuss the what the next best step for NextGen is with witnesses at the hearing on September 11, 2008.

Additional September Agenda Items

September 10 — *The Foundation for Developing New Energy Technologies: Basic Energy Research in the DOE Office of Science*
September 18 — *The Role of Social Sciences in Public Health*

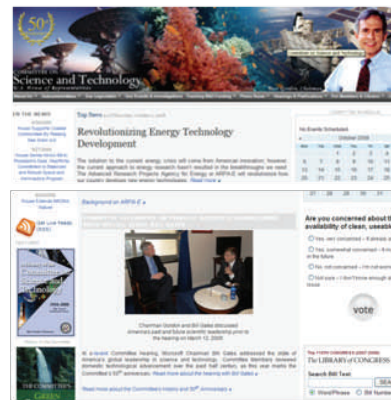
Committee Launches New Website

The Science and Technology Committee launches a new website with features to improve the navigation, usability, and functionality. One of the new features allows one to add the Committee's events to ones Outlook calendar.

Other new features include a poll, an RSS feed, and a Thomas search box, which provides bill information. Also, a History button has been added which links to a comprehensive report on the Committee's work over the past 50 years.



Old version



New version

Subcommittee Investigates the Destruction of Irreplaceable Collection of Legionella Samples

On September 9, the Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee held a hearing to investigate how the lack of coherent policy allowed the Veterans Administration to destroy an irreplaceable collection of *legionella* samples. The Subcommittee also released a Staff Report. The collection was the life's work of Drs. Yu and Stout. It was destroyed on December 4, 2006 at the Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. The set of biomedical materials that was a primary support for work on legionella, the bacterium causing Legionnaire's Disease.



Chairman Brad Miller questioning VA employees about their decision to destroy the collection of Legionella samples.

"I cannot imagine the circumstances under which a federal health agency official would unilaterally order the destruction of a human tissue collection without receiving the approval of the agency's research office and the Research Compliance Committee," stated Miller. "I am stunned that neither Pittsburgh nor national VA officials took formal action to discipline the managers involved in this case or established clear policy on the disposition of biomedical collections to make sure that this could never occur again."

[Read more >>](#)

Coming Up ...

The Committee will be renovating and "greening" more of its office space this fall. Soon the "Greening" button on the Committee's homepage will provide information and background on the office renovations and Capitol's greening recommendations.

To unsubscribe from E-NEWS updates from the S&T Committee, [click here](#).