

■ About the National Science and Technology Council

The National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) was established by Executive Order on November 23, 1993. This Cabinet-level council is the principal means for the President to coordinate science, space, and technology policies across the Federal government. NSTC acts as a "virtual agency" for science and technology to coordinate the diverse parts of the Federal research and development enterprise. The NSTC is chaired by the President. Membership consists of the Vice President, Assistant to the President for Science and Technology, Cabinet Secretaries, agency heads with significant science and technology responsibilities, and other White House officials.

The NSTC Web site is: www.nstc.gov. To obtain additional information regarding the NSTC, please contact the NSTC Executive Secretariat at (202) 456-6100.

■ About the Office of Science and Technology Policy

The Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) was established by the National Science and Technology Policy, Organization, and Priorities Act of 1976. OSTP's responsibilities include advising the President in policy formulation and budget development on all questions in which science and technology are important elements; articulating the President's science and technology policies and programs; and fostering strong partnerships among Federal, state, and local governments, and the scientific communities in industry and academe. The Assistant to the President for Science and Technology serves as the Director of the OSTP and directs the NSTC on behalf of the President.

The OSTP Web site is: www.ostp.gov. For additional information about OSTP, please call (202) 456-7116.

■ Cover and Book Design

The cover, book design, historical timeline, and selected illustrations for this report are the work of James J. Caras of NSF's Design and Publishing Division. The cover illustration suggests the 21st century digital world and its metaphoric and scientific connections with the fundamental elements of earth, wind, fire and water.

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