

## COMMERCE

The President's 2008 Budget will strengthen and support the foreign and domestic commerce of the United States by:

- Enhancing the ability to observe, protect, and manage Earth's resources;
- Accelerating scientific progress through the American Competitiveness Initiative;
- Gathering the most accurate demographic and economic data;
- Protecting Intellectual Property Rights; and
- Opening new markets.

**Enhancing the ability to observe, protect, and manage the Earth's resources:** Supports key programs in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), National Science Foundation (NSF), and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) that observe and predict changes in the Earth's environment and manage our ocean and coastal resources including:

- \$1.6 billion to develop new sensors and conduct research that will expand scientific understanding of the Earth system.
- Over \$800 million to improve weather forecasting capabilities by developing and acquiring geostationary and polar-orbiting weather satellites and unmanned aircraft systems to improve forecasting and our understanding of the climate.
  - *Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System:* An additional \$2 million to strengthen tsunami detection and warning capabilities..
- The Asia-Pacific Partnership (APP): Works with international partners, Australia, China, India, Japan and South Korea, to promote U.S. and partner exports in the field of clean energy and environmental goods and services.
- Ocean Action Plan: Protecting ocean and coastal resources with \$143 million in new projects to advance ocean science (\$80M), protect and restore sensitive coastal areas (\$38M), and ensure sustainable use of ocean resources (\$25M).
  - *Curbing Over-fishing:* Following the historic bipartisan commitment to end overfishing with reauthorization of the Magnuson Stevens Fisheries Management and Conservation Act, the President requests \$20 million to implement the requirements of the legislation. This includes funding to facilitate market-based approaches to fisheries management such as Limited Access Privilege (LAP) programs that reduce cumbersome and inefficient regulation that can lead to lengthened fishing seasons, improve product quality and provide safer conditions for fishermen.

**Accelerating scientific progress through the American Competitiveness Initiative:** ACI is designed to support basic research and world-leading facilities in the physical sciences to enable future breakthroughs and provide economic security benefits. The President's 2008 Budget increases funding for the ACI research agencies by 7.1 percent to \$11.4 billion in order to advance knowledge and technological capabilities with broad scientific impact to maximize economic gains. Over 10 years, the ACI proposed an increase of nearly \$50 billion in innovation-enabling research in the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology.

- National Nanotechnology Initiative: \$1.45 billion, a 4.2 percent increase, to continue to support discovery, development and application of nanotechnology through investigator-led fundamental

and applied research; multidisciplinary centers of excellence; education and training of nanotechnology researchers, teachers, workers, and the public; and infrastructure development, including user facilities and networks that are broadly available to support research and innovation.

- Networking and Information Technology Research Program: \$3.1 billion to plan and coordinate agency research efforts in high-end computing systems, cyber security, large-scale networking, software development, high-confidence systems, information management, and other information technologies.
- The Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology: \$594 million, to enhance nanotechnology manufacturing capabilities; expand a neutron facility to help characterize novel materials; construct new, high-performance laboratories; and improve our understanding of quantum information science that may dramatically improve computer processing speeds and enable more secure communications.

**Gathering the Most Accurate Economic and Demographic Data:** Accurate information about U.S. economic and demographic conditions compiled by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and the Census Bureau is necessary for well-informed business and government decisions. The President's 2008 Budget provides:

- \$797 million, a \$285 million increase over the 2007 Budget, to continue preparations for a re-engineered, short-form only 2010 Census, including the 2008 Dress Rehearsal, continued development of handheld computers and the opening of regional offices;
- \$128 million, \$46 million over the 2007 Budget, for the data collection phase of the Economic Census;
- An \$8 million initiative in BEA and Census to improve the accuracy and comprehensiveness of statistics on the U.S. economy by closing the gap in service sector coverage and better incorporation of research and development investments in GDP.

**Protecting Intellectual Property Rights:** The President's 2008 Budget furthers intellectual property protection through the issuance of patents and registration of trademarks by:

- Providing PTO full access to its fees and a \$72 million increase over the 2007 Budget in order to continue to improve the processing times and quality of patents and trademarks;
- Supporting the work of the National Intellectual Property Law Enforcement Coordinating Council in coordinating the intellectual property protection efforts across the Government and the Strategy Targeting Organized Piracy (STOP!) initiative's efforts against global piracy and counterfeiting.

**Opening New Markets:** The Budget supports the International Trade Administration's efforts to help open and expand foreign markets for U.S. goods and services. Since 2001 the Administration has actively promoted a free-trade agenda that opens new markets for American farmers, manufacturers, and service providers.