



Office of Science and Technology Policy
Executive Office of the President
New Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20502

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Contact: Bob Hopkins
(202) 456-6098
rhopkins@ostp.eop.gov

The Office of Science and Technology Policy Announces
New Director of National Information Technology R&D Coordination Office
Dr. Simon Szykman to assume lead role in the Federal Networking and
Information Technology Research and Development Program

The Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) announces the appointment of Dr. Simon Szykman as Director of the National Coordination Office (NCO) for Information Technology Research and Development – the office that coordinates interagency planning, budget, and assessment activities for the 2+ billion dollar federal Networking and Information Technology Research and Development (NITRD) Program. As Director of this office, Dr. Szykman also serves as co-chair of the National Science and Technology Council’s 12-member Subcommittee on Networking and Information Technology Research and Development.

“Advances in Information Technology touch every aspect of science and have had a profound impact on the way science is conducted,” said Dr. John H. Marburger, III, science advisor to President Bush and Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy. “The NITRD program plays a vital role as the key driver of federal research in information technology. We’re extremely pleased to have someone of Simon’s stature, accomplishment and capability take the reins at NITRD and provide leadership for this critically important program.”

Dr. Szykman joins the National Coordination Office from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate, where he served as the Department’s first Director of Cyber Security R&D since late 2003 and was responsible for leading the development of cyber security research and development plans and programs in support of the Department’s mission. In this role he also served as co-chair for the National Science and Technology Council’s Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Interagency Working Group.

Dr. Szykman joined DHS after an 18-month assignment at the Office of Science and Technology Policy, where he served in the role of senior policy analyst and held a variety of responsibilities related to information technology research and development, including serving as the OSTP liaison to the NCO and the NITRD program. Prior to joining OSTP, Dr. Szykman was a member of the technical staff at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), where he led a program thrust in Intelligent and Distributed Product Development, and also served as a Program Manager and source evaluation board Technical Chair in the Information Technology

and Applications Office of NIST's Advanced Technology Program. Dr. Szykman received Ph.D. and Master of Science degrees from Carnegie Mellon University, a Master of Engineering Management from George Washington University, and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Rochester.

Dr. Szykman succeeds Dr. David B. Nelson, who served as National Coordination Office Director since December 2002.

About the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program

Now in its 14th year, the NITRD Program is a unique collaborative enterprise of Federal agencies engaged in long-term R&D in information technology to support Federal missions and help sustain U.S. leadership in cutting-edge science, engineering, and technology. NITRD is the Nation's primary source of fundamental breakthroughs in information technology R&D and advanced education and training for the new generations of researchers, educators, and entrepreneurs required to maintain U.S. innovation and economic prosperity. The NITRD Program member agencies coordinate their R&D activities in a variety of major research areas through the NSTC Subcommittee on Networking and Information Technology Research and Development.

About the National Science and Technology Council

The National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), a cabinet level council, is the principal means for the President to coordinate science, 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.

An important objective of the NSTC is the establishment of clear national goals for Federal science and technology investments in areas ranging from information technologies and health research to improving transportation systems and strengthening fundamental research. This council prepares research and development strategies that are coordinated across Federal agencies to form an investment package that is aimed at accomplishing multiple national goals.

To obtain additional information regarding the NSTC, contact the NSTC Executive Secretariat at (202) 456-6101

About the Office of Science and Technology Policy

Congress established OSTP in 1976 with a broad mandate to advise the President and others within the Executive Office of the President on the impacts of science and technology on domestic and international affairs. The 1976 Act also authorizes OSTP to lead an interagency effort to develop and to implement sound science and technology policies and budgets and to work with the private sector, state and local governments, the science and higher education communities, and other nations toward this end. The Director of OSTP serves as co-chair of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology and oversees the National Science and Technology Council on behalf of the President. For more information visit www.ostp.gov.

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