

NATIONAL NANOTECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE Research and Development Funding in the President's 2006 Budget

President Bush's 2006 Budget provides over \$1 billion for the multi-agency National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI), bringing the total NNI investment under this Administration to \$4.7 billion. This sustained investment will advance our understanding of the unique phenomena and processes that occur at the nanometer scale and expedite the responsible use of this knowledge to achieve advances in medicine, manufacturing, high-performance materials, information technology, and energy and environmental technologies.

The NNI supports fundamental and applied research on nanotechnology by funding cutting-edge research, creating multidisciplinary centers of excellence, and developing key research infrastructure. It also supports activities aimed at addressing the societal implications of nanotechnology, including ethical, legal, human and environmental health, and workforce related issues.

The largest investments continue to be made by NSF, reflecting that agency's broad mission in supporting fundamental research across all disciplines of science and engineering; DOE, which is in the process of completing five Nanoscale Science Research Centers that will provide research equipment and infrastructure that will be broadly available to researchers from across the scientific research community; and DoD, with its emphasis on development of materials, devices and systems that address the agency's mission. The FY 2006 request by HHS includes programs at NIH emphasizing nanotechnology-based biomedical advances occurring at the intersection of biology and the physical sciences, such as the National Cancer Institute's Alliance for Nanotechnology in Cancer (http://nano.cancer.gov), and at the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) that address implications and applications of nanotechnology for health and safety in the workplace.

National Nanotechnology Initiative (Budget authority, dollars in millions)

	2001 Actual	2005 Estimate	2006 Request	Dollar Change 2001 to 2006	% Change 2001 to 2006
National Science Foundation	150	338	344	194	129
Defense	125	257	230	105	84
Energy	88	210	207	119	135
Health & Human Services *	40	145	147	107	268
Commerce (NIST)	33	75	75	42	127
NASA	22	45	35	13	59
Agriculture	0	3	8	8	N/A
EPA	5	5	5	0	0
Justice	1	2	2	1	100
Homeland Security	0	1	1	1	N/A
TOTAL	464	1,081	1,054	590	127

^{*} Includes both NIH and NIOSH funding

With the addition of NIOSH, 11 federal agencies currently fund nanotechnology research and development under the NNI, and another 11 participate in coordination. Agencies that have joined the NNI as participants over the past year include the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the Consumer Product Safety Commission, indicating the increasing importance of commercialization activities.

The NNI Strategic Plan released in 2004 articulates the vision and goals for the program, and describes activities aimed at achieving those goals as well as the overall investment strategy. It also describes where agency missions, interests, and needs intersect with the NNI areas of investment and anticipated nanotechnology applications.