

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS & TECHNOLOGY

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is a non-regulatory federal agency within the Department of Commerce. NIST promotes U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards and technology in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life. The benefits from NIST research are used in innumerable products and services of our everyday lives from mammograms to semiconductors which power computers as well as LEDs.

The NIST Laboratories conduct world-class research often in close collaboration with industry that advances the nation's technology infrastructure and helps U.S. companies continually improve products and services.

Highlights of NIST research include:

- NIST-developed performance-measurement methods have accelerated the adoption of new manufacturing capabilities, such as accuracy-enhancing software for machine tools, and led to new technology, such as laser tracker measurement systems used increasingly in the aerospace, automotive, and other industries.
- Most of the standards used to specify the properties of optical fiber were developed through a partnership between U.S. industry and NIST.
- NIST measurement services underpin the safety and effectiveness of approximately 10 million medical procedures that use radioactive materials—from prostate and breast cancer treatment to diagnostic imaging.
- The U.S. national standards for determining the properties of lasers and light emitting diodes (LEDs) are located at the NIST Laboratories in Boulder, CO. and Gaithersburg, MD.

OSA urges Congress to make science research a national priority in the FY 2013 budget.



Advancing the Science
and Technology of Light

NIST Budget

FY 2012

Total FY12 budget for NIST is \$750.1 million

FY 2013 Budget Request

President Obama has requested \$857 million for FY 2013, a \$106 million increase over FY 2012 levels

More than half of the proposed increased funding would be focused on advanced manufacturing research both at NIST laboratories and through a new industry-led consortia program which will help American industry be agile, innovative and competitive.

The three major components of the NIST budget are:

- Scientific and Technical Research and Services
- Industrial Technology Services
- Construction of Research Facilities