

FACT SHEET
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

On November 23, 1993, President Clinton established by executive order a cabinet-level National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) to coordinate science, space, and technology policies throughout the federal government.

Membership on the Council, which will be chaired by the President, will include the Vice President; the Assistant to the President for Science and Technology; the Secretary of Commerce; the Secretary of Defense; the Secretary of Energy; the Secretary of Health and Human Services; the Secretary of State; the Secretary of Interior; the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; the Director of the National Science Foundation; the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; the Director of the Office of Management and Budget; the National Security Adviser; the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy; and the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy.

Establishing the NSTC fulfills a key recommendation of the National Performance Review to strengthen and streamline the White House science and technology policy function. The NSTC will consolidate the responsibilities previously carried out by a number of interagency councils, including the Federal Coordinating Council for Science, Engineering, and Technology; the National Space Council; and the National Critical Materials Council.

The major functions of the NSTC will be to coordinate the interagency science and technology policy-making process, and to implement and integrate the President's science and technology policy agenda across the federal government. The NSTC will also ensure that science and technology issues are considered in the development and implementation of federal policies and programs, and will further international cooperation in science and technology.

An important objective of the NSTC is to establish clear national goals for federal science and technology investments and to ensure that science, space, and technology policies and programs are developed and implemented to effectively contribute to those national goals. To prepare coordinated R&D strategies and budget recommendations for accomplishing national goals, the NSTC will establish the following R&D coordinating committees:

- Health, Safety, and Food R&D
- Fundamental Science and Engineering Research
- Information and Communication R&D
- Environment and Natural Resources Research
- Civilian Industrial Technology R&D
- Education and Training R&D
- Transportation R&D
- National Security R&D
- International Science, Engineering, and Technology R&D

Ad hoc working groups will also be established as needed to review and coordinate specific policies and initiatives.