



INNOVATION & COMPETIVENESS INITIATIVES

SPIE, an international optics and photonics society, **urges Congress to support development of a more coherent plan for addressing our Nation's science and technology needs over the long term including support of the America COMPETES Act.** SPIE has supported a series of past Congressional initiatives that address concerns about America's future ability to compete, maintain its standard of living, and protect its national security.

SPIE was pleased to see enactment of the America COMPETES Act of 2007, a multi-year authorization statute. Congress now needs to re-authorize the COMPETES Act and to provide appropriate funding (appropriations) for authorized levels for three key science agencies:

- National Science Foundation,
- Department of Energy's Office of Science,
- National Institute of Standards and Technology.