



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 and American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI).** 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.

Last year, SPIE was pleased to see enactment of the America COMPETES Act of 2007, a multi-year authorization statute. Congress now needs 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.

The America COMPETES Act and the Administration's American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI) respond to the problems of inadequate funding for research and education in the physical sciences and engineering raised in both the National Academies' *Gathering Storm Report* of 2005 (http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11463) and ASTRA's 2008 *Riding the Rising Tide 14-Point Policy Framework* (<http://www.usinnovation.org>).

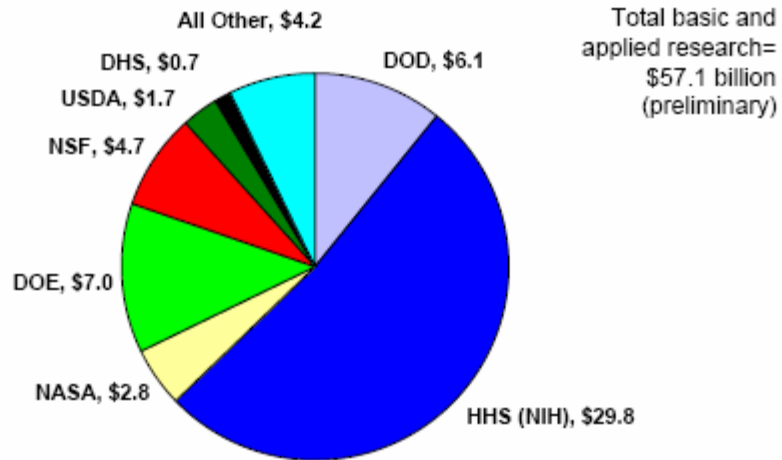
President Bush's Fiscal Year 2009 budget request to Congress includes major funding increases for the physical sciences in three key agencies as part of its American Competitive Initiative - a carryover from the FY 2008 budget message to Congress. The ACI is a multi-year proposal. Key provisions of the initiative propose doubling the NSF and DOE Office of Science budgets and core research programs at NIST over a 10-year time period.

SPIE supports an even broader vision of science & technology legislative policy over the next ten years, beyond the America COMPETES Act and suggests that Congress follow the recommendations of the *Riding the Rising Tide Report* issued by ASTRA in early 2008 as a means of developing coherent, sustainable policy initiatives. Elements of a coherent national strategy should address R&D enterprise issues, development of a better trained innovation workforce, and establishment of a pro-innovation business climate.

SPIE believes that Congress must better understand the powerful forces driving global economic transformation and work in a bipartisan manner to develop an action agenda that will support the innovation necessary to ensure U.S. competitiveness and innovation capacity in the 21st century.

SPIE is the largest international not-for-profit society in optics, photonics and imaging. Together with our 17,000 individual members and 400 corporate members, the Society seeks to build a better world with light through scientific education and innovation.
www.spie.org

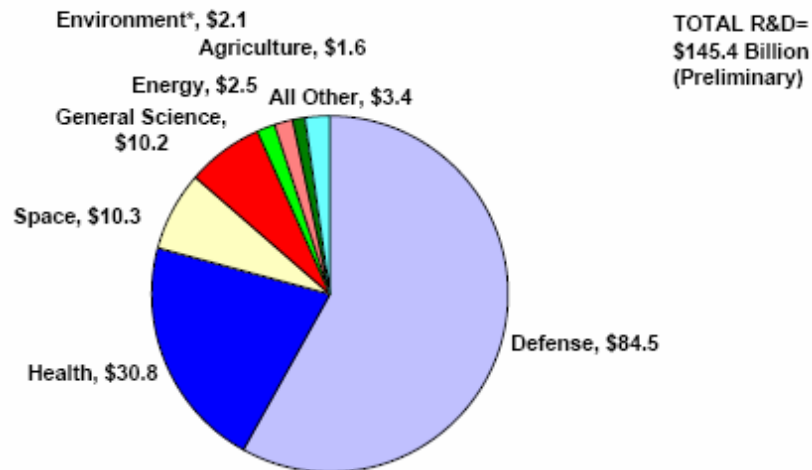
Total RESEARCH by Agency: FY 2009 Proposed
Budget Authority in billions of dollars



Source: AAAS, based on OMB R&D Budget Data and agency estimates for FY 2009.
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Major Functional Categories of R&D
FY 2009 President's Budget



* - Includes natural resources R&D
Source: AAAS, based on OMB and agency budget data.
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