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NATIONAL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY SUMMIT EXAMINES HEALTH AND DIRECTION OF U.S. S&T ENTERPRISE

Emphasizes Renewed Call for Physical Sciences Basic Research to Drive Innovation

OAK RIDGE, Tenn.—More than 250 high-level academic, business and government leaders gathered in Oak Ridge, Tennessee today to examine the health and direction of the U.S. scientific and technological enterprise and participate in the National Science and Technology Summit. Hosted by Oak Ridge National Laboratory and convened by the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) on behalf of the President, the Summit focused on identifying the policies necessary to strengthen long-term U.S. economic competitiveness through science and technology.

“Thanks to the work of leaders like those gathered here today, policymakers no longer need convincing of the importance of S&T to America’s long-term economic competitiveness,” said Summit Chair and OSTP Deputy Director for Technology Richard Russell. “We must now transform this consensus into real progress by securing the investments called for by the President’s American Competitiveness Initiative and establishing momentum for these objectives that will carry into the next administration.”

Under the theme, "Science, Technology, and American Competitiveness: Progress and Direction Forward," participants reaffirmed the consensus regarding the essential role science and technology plays in America’s global competitiveness and sought to identify actions necessary to advance goals related to the need to prioritize and increase funding for basic research in the physical sciences and the need to strengthen science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education.

"Innovation is critical to maintaining U.S. economic and technological leadership and prosperity. Congress must act now to completely fund the America Competes Act, restore the federal R&D tax credit, ensure access to the best and brightest workforce available and provide continued incentives for renewable energy resources such as solar technology," said Brian Halla, Chairman and CEO of National Semiconductor.

Summit participants heard addresses from several industry and government leaders, including Brian Halla, Dr. John E. Kelly III, IBM Senior Vice President and Director of Research, Senator Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn), Congressman Bart Gordon (D-Tenn), and Congressman Zach Wamp (R-Tenn).

Additional information:

[Summit Website](#)

[American Competitiveness Initiative](#)

[Bush Administration R&D Funding Overview](#)

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