



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Chief Information Officer**

Washington, D.C. 20230

**MAY 27 2008**

Ms. Susan E. Dudley  
Administrator  
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
Office of Management and Budget  
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Ms. Dudley:

We are requesting an expedited review for an information collection under the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) Technology Innovation Program (TIP). The America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Sciences (COMPETES) Act of 2007 (Pub. L. 110-69) established TIP. TIP is a new competitive cost-sharing program designed to assist U.S. businesses and institutions of higher education or other organizations, such as national laboratories and nonprofit research institutions, to support, promote, and accelerate innovation in the United States through high-risk, high-reward research in areas of critical national need. High-risk, high-reward research is research that:

- a. has the potential for yielding transformational results with far-ranging implications;
- b. addresses areas of critical national need that support, promote, and accelerate innovation in the United States and is within NIST's areas of technical competence; and
- c. is too novel or spans too diverse a range of disciplines to fare well in the traditional peer-review process.

To meet the intent of the TIP legislation to address areas of critical national need, NIST/TIP plans to conduct its first competition this year. To accomplish this, the competition announcement should be published in the *Federal Register* and Grants.gov by June 30, 2008. Therefore, the information collection review would need to be completed as soon as possible but no later than June 20, 2008. NIST will then be able to announce a competition in a timely manner. This will allow sufficient time for potential proposers to prepare their proposals in accordance with the newly established TIP criteria, and for NIST to complete its proposal review and award process this year.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Hilding *for*  
Chief Information Officer