About the NITRD Program

The Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program[1] is the nation's primary source of federally funded research and development (R&D) on advanced information technologies (IT). The NITRD Program provides the federal IT R&D foundation and interagency coordination to ensure continued U.S. technological leadership and to accelerate development and deployment of advanced IT to meet the needs of the federal government, enhance national and homeland security, improve U.S. productivity and economic competitiveness, and improve the health, education, and quality of life of all Americans. More information is available at https://www.nitrd.gov.

The NITRD Subcommittee, under the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), administers the NITRD Program and seeks to include all agencies that fund or participate in federally funded IT R&D, to ensure the most effective coordination of agency budget requests, investments, and programs. If your agency is interested in NITRD membership, please contact Dr. Craig Schlenoff, Director of the NITRD National Coordination Office (NCO), at nco@nitrd.gov.

Benefits of NITRD Participation

All agencies that choose to participate in NITRD Program activities have the opportunity to engage in interagency coordination activities that provide a variety of benefits. These include:

- Influence national and global IT research priorities and strategies by interacting with the entire portfolio of NITRD agencies and the diverse missions they represent
- Innovate more effectively by participating in a multi-agency coordination program with a mission to accelerate the deployment of advanced and experimental IT
- Collaborate with other agencies to coordinate efforts within and across agencies, enabling participating agencies to address IT research gaps more effectively, to avoid overlapping or duplicative investments and programs, to engage in joint/collaborative multi-agency research programs or activities, and to identify and further leverage related work being done at other agencies
- Contribute to the development of multi-agency, multi-disciplinary R&D programs, national strategic plans, and research agendas
- Keep well-informed about the overall federal IT R&D portfolio by participating in timely and relevant program information-sharing activities and events
- Participate in R&D events involving external stakeholders, including academic and private sector organizations, trade associations, and the general public, in order to drive fruitful exchanges of information in critical IT areas and enable technology transfer resulting from R&D innovations

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[1] The NITRD Program was established by the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (P.L. 102-194) and reauthorized by Congress in the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act of 2017 (P.L. 114-329). See https://www.nitrd.gov/congressional/laws.

Benefits of NITRD Program Membership

While all agencies conducting (or interested in) IT-related R&D efforts are welcome to participate in NITRD Program coordination activities, we invite you to join the agencies that have undertaken a bigger commitment to the community by becoming NITRD Program members. In addition to participation benefits listed above, NITRD Program members are also eligible to the following:

- Opportunity to influence the federal government R&D priorities through review of strategic documents
- Greater visibility of the agency to OSTP and the Administration as a whole
- Shape how agency and interagency IT R&D investments and coordination activities are reported to Congress and publicly in the annual Supplement to the President's Budget for the NITRD Program
- Opportunity to provide input to Congress on the NITRD reauthorization, as needed
- Influence in setting future directions where NITRD can have the greatest impact on federal government R&D
- Receive information on NITRD Program activities and plans, as well as Administration and agency IT R&D priorities, through participation in NITRD Subcommittee of the NSTC
- Work with the Administration and other NITRD member agencies to set NITRD budget reporting priorities (Program Component Areas), initiate task groups to implement coordination activities, and review/approve key NITRD documents (i.e., annual Supplement, Strategic Plans, and Congressionally mandated)
- Serve in NCO and NITRD leadership roles (only NITRD members are eligible to fill the positions of NCO Director, NCO Deputy Director, NITRD Subcommittee Co-chair, NITRD Subcommittee Agency Representative, and IWG/FTAC Co-chairs)
- Partner with other NITRD member agencies in the vanguard of U.S. leadership in IT R&D
- Approve the NCO budget

Responsibilities of NITRD Membership

- Designate a representative and one or more alternates to serve on the NITRD Subcommittee of the NSTC, which meets three times per year
- Designate a representative to actively participate in the NITRD interagency working groups associated with Program Component Areas where agency funding is reported in the NITRD Budget Supplement, and in other NITRD groups, as appropriate
- Provide budget and program input to the annual OMB NITRD Budget Data Request (BDR) and the NITRD Supplement to the President's Budget
- Contribute to the funding that supports the NCO operations.[2] NCO professionals support the NITRD Program and interagency coordination activities by providing:
  - Technical subject matter expertise
  - Project management, technical writing and editing, and financial management
  - Development, maintenance, and security of NITRD website and NCO IT infrastructure
  - Meeting support and other administrative support services

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[2] Each member agency's funding contribution to the NCO budget is calculated in proportion to the agency's five-year average (when available) of reported NITRD investment (with a minimum of $25K). The first assessment for a new member agency will follow the first NITRD Budget Data Request after membership is approved.