

Archived Material

Historical Purposes Only

PITAC Review of the [Information Technology for the Twenty-First Century Initiative](#), September 8, 1999

Transmittal Letter to the President

About PITAC and updates Transmittal Letter to the President

September 8, 1999

The President of the United States
The White House

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with your request we are pleased to submit the President's Information Technology Advisory Committee's (PITAC) review of the Information Technology for the 21st Century (IT2) initiative and its Implementation Plan. We find that the research agenda and agencies' plans proposed for the IT2 initiative respond directly to the findings and recommendations of the PITAC as stated in our report "Information Technology Research: Investing in Our Future" and consequently the PITAC strongly supports the IT2 initiative.

Both the Administration and the Congress have responded to PITAC's recommendation to increase federal funding for fundamental research in information technology (IT). The Information Technology for the 21st Century initiative included in the President's budget request to Congress and The Network and Information Technology Research and Development Act (NITRD) introduced by Chairman Sensenbrenner in the House both directly address the recommendations in the PITAC report.

The IT2 initiative, in the FY2000 budget, proposes \$366 million in increased investments in computing, information, and communications research and development (R&D). This expands the knowledge base in fundamental information science, advances the Nation's capabilities in cutting edge research, and trains the next generation of researchers who will sustain the Information Revolution well into the 21st Century. The proposed \$366 million for FY 2000 is less than the PITAC recommendation of \$472 million, but is a promising start. In our report the PITAC recommended a strategic initiative in long-term information technology R&D. We feel strongly that the federal investment must necessarily be long term and hope that the Administration will support increases for future budgets.

PITAC is now especially concerned about the present budget process and proposed cuts to government agencies central to information technology research and development. We would like to continue working with the Administration and members of Congress to ensure adequate funding so critical to our nation's progress.

Sincerely,

Raj Reddy
Co-Chair

Irving Wladawsky-Berger
Co-Chair