

National Science and Technology Council

Committee on Technology and Committee on Homeland and National Security Infrastructure Subcommittee

Interagency Working Group on Physical Structures and Systems Charter

Name and Preamble

The Physical Structures and Systems Interagency Working Group (IWG) is established as a body of the Infrastructure Subcommittee (IS), which reports to the Committee on Technology and the Committee on Homeland & National Security, standing committees under the authority of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC). This IWG serves as a part of the internal deliberative process within NSTC, which provides overall guidance and direction.

Purpose

The purpose of the Physical Structures and Systems IWG is to coordinate and focus federal construction and buildings R&D in partnership with the private sector to achieve greater safety, security, efficiency, and global competitiveness. The IWG will build on construction goals identified through collaborative efforts with industry that reflect the needs of public and private sectors of the construction industry - residential, commercial, institutional, industrial, and highways and public works – and specifically the needs of owners, occupants, contractors and suppliers. The IWG will also build on the National Strategy for the Physical Protection of Critical Infrastructures and Key Assets.

Functions

As an IWG of the Infrastructure Subcommittee, the Physical Structures and Systems IWG will perform five basic functions as follows:

1. Define Research and Development Needs and Priorities. The IWG members will review the state of the art of technology and technical issues within and between their programs to identify common R&D needs and to recommend priorities. The IWG will work with related private sector bodies in identifying and developing potential strategies for addressing R&D needs associated with physical infrastructure structures and systems, including their performance and security.
2. Formulate R&D Policy, Program and/or Legislative Proposals. Based on identified needs and assessments of agency and private sector capabilities and activities, the IWG will recommend policy and/or program proposals to the Infrastructure Subcommittee for consideration.

3. Plan, Develop, and Coordinate Multi-Agency R&D Programs. When warranted, the IWG may be called upon to draft strategic plans or program implementation plans for carrying out programs approved through the Infrastructure Subcommittee. Usually such programs will be led by one agency and funded directly through the budgets of the participating agencies. In some instances, the IWG may continue to provide a level of oversight or coordination of multi-agency programs within the scope of Physical Structures and Systems, and maintain liaison with key private sector bodies.
4. Support the National Strategy for the Physical Protection of Critical Infrastructures and Key Assets. Support federal planning to identify and prioritize R&D needs to develop and protect the Nation's infrastructure, in part by gaining input from the private sector.
5. Support and/or Participate in Private Sector Initiatives. The IWG may support and/or participate in private sector initiatives associated with priority needs/issues of interest to the IWG. Also, the IWG may support and participate in public-private technology road mapping efforts.

In support of these functions the IWG may:

1. conduct meetings of the IWG;
2. establish ad hoc task or coordination groups;
3. coordinate planning activities with OSTP and OMB;
4. solicit inputs from other agencies of government or the private sector;
5. coordinate activities with the NSTC Interagency Working Group for Critical Information Infrastructure Protection and with related NSTC subcommittees and IWGs.

Membership

Membership includes individuals selected by the Chairs of the Physical Structures and Systems IWG and the Infrastructure Subcommittee in consultation with the respective agency principals of those Committees. Members will include representation from the following entities:

- a) Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- b) Department of Commerce (DOC)
- b) Department of Defense (DOD)
- d) Department of Energy (DOE)
- n) Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- e) Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- f) Department of the Interior (DOI)
- g) Department of Transportation (DOT)
- h) Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
- f) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- g) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- h) General Services Administration (GSA)

- i) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- j) National Science Foundation (NSF)
- j) Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
- o) Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- p) White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)
- q) White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

Public, Private and International Sector Interface

As a working group of the Infrastructure Subcommittee, the Physical Structures and Systems IWG carries out approved activities in close collaboration with a number of public, private and international sector bodies. Within the federal government, the IWG will coordinate with related NSTC IWGs and the Federal Facilities Council (FFC) which identifies and advances technologies, processes, and management practices that improve the performance of federal facilities. The IWG may collaborate with the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS), National Association of Homebuilders Research Foundation (NAHBRF), Construction Industry Institute (CII), Civil Engineering Research Foundation (CERF), FIATECH (a consortium devoted to fully integrated and automated life cycle construction project processes), American Public Works Association (APWA), Owner Association Alliance (including International Facility Managers Association (IFMA), and Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA), etc.), the International Council for Building Documentation and Research (CIB), and others. The IWG may interact with and receive ad hoc advice from these and other private-sector groups as consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Termination Date

Unless renewed by the chairs of the Infrastructure Subcommittee prior to its expiration, the Physical Structures and Systems Interagency Working Group shall terminate no later than December 31, 2004.

Determination

I hereby determine that the formation of the Physical Structures and Systems Interagency Working Group is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Executive Branch by law, and that such duties can best be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.

Approved:

Sharon L. Hays, OSTP (Co-Chair, IS)

Date

William A. Jeffrey, OSTP (Co-Chair, IS)

Date

John C. Cummings, DHS (Co-Chair, IS)

Date