

Closing Remarks

**VCAT Meeting: October 18, 2016
Boulder, CO**

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Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology and NIST Director

Priorities Shared with VCAT in June 2014

- **Fill key senior leadership vacancies** (Directors of: PML, EL, MEP, SCO, AMNPO, and ADLP)
- **Work with the Senior Leadership Team in:**
 - Continuing to strengthen the NIST Safety (and Security) Culture
 - Completing the successful implementation of new NIST Technical programs initiated in response to pressing national needs
 - Enhancing current and developing new capabilities needed to enhance mission delivery
 - Strengthening the MEP Program
 - Addressing long-term sustainability of the Baldrige Program
 - Supporting the Secretary by leading the Innovation Goal Activities within the Department's Strategic Plan
 - Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our internal operations
 - Increasing staff engagement in the direction and implementation of NIST programs and priorities

My Ask from VCAT

In general:

- **Assistance in determining, strategies for establishing and sustaining a “Healthy NIST”**
- Helping us to determine “what we should”, rather than “what we could” be doing to address pressing national needs

more specifically:

- In the near-term
 - Help NIST ensure it can meet its responsibilities and expectations in **Disaster Resilience, Cybersecurity, and Advanced Manufacturing**
 - Assess NIST’s growing programs in **Advanced Communications** to ensure maximum relevance and effectiveness
- In the longer-term
 - Continue examination of NIST’s **measurement service programs**
 - Advise NIST on the effectiveness of its portfolio of **international engagements and programs beyond its “Treaty-of-the-meter” related responsibilities**

and:

- Identification of other areas where VCAT thinks we should focus

When you think of measurement, what comes to mind?



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Ho hum . . .

Or

WOW !!

Have you ever heard of “Metrology”?

NIST is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce



NIST Mission:

To promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing **measurement science, standards, and technology** in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life.

While the development and maintenance of standards provides the first and primary reason for NIST's existence. **This standards work must keep abreast with the expansion of the frontiers of science.**

Our deep and broad measurement expertise and competencies support expanding standard needs as well as technological innovation – e.g., new materials, advanced clinical diagnostics and therapies, advanced communications, forensic science, etc.

To scientists who work at institutions like NIST -- measurement isn't just a practice that makes science possible, **it's a science itself.**

Progress, from post-Einsteinian cosmology to the astrobiological hunt for life on other planets to understanding the functioning of the brain, depends on our ability to make ever finer measurements based on ever smaller scraps of information.

NIST has become:

- a key player on the Administration's Innovation Team
- the nation's go-to agency for **measurements, standards, and technology** in an ever increasing number of areas, such as:



Thank you for your support!