



CHARTER of the
COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

A. Official Designation

The Committee on Technology (CoT) is hereby reestablished by action of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC). The CoT serves as part of the internal deliberative process of the NSTC and provides overall guidance and direction. The NSTC, a Cabinet-level council, is the principal means for the President to coordinate science and technology (S&T) policies across the Executive Branch.

B. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the CoT is to advise and assist the NSTC, under Executive Order 12881,¹ to improve the overall effectiveness and productivity of Federal research and development (R&D) efforts. The Committee will address significant national and international policy matters that cut across agency boundaries and shall provide a formal mechanism for interagency policy coordination and the development of Federal technology activities.²

The CoT will act to improve the coordination of all Federal efforts in technology. This includes creating balanced and comprehensive R&D programs, establishing structures to improve the way the Federal government plans and coordinates R&D, and advising the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget on R&D budget crosscuts and priorities.

C. Functions

In accordance with Executive Order 12881,¹ and to the extent permitted by law, the principal functions of the CoT are:

1. to facilitate technology planning, coordination, and communication among Federal departments and agencies;
2. to help identify, define, and advise the NSTC on Federal priorities and plans for technology, and recommend options for Federal priorities;

¹ Executive Order 12881 of November 23, 1993, *Establishment of the National Science and Technology Council*, Title 3, Federal Register, **58**, No. 226, Friday, November 26, 1993.

² For purposes of this charter, technology includes basic and applied research, technology development, demonstrations, engineering, and education and training.

3. to review and advise on Federal policy, programs and issues in international technology development and transfer, including planning, communication, coordination, and technical assistance;
4. As deemed necessary and as permitted by law, to address technical programmatic and operational issues that affect two or more Federal agencies;
5. to support technology programs and initiatives that enhance global, national, regional, State and local competitiveness and foster long-term economic growth and job creation; and,
6. to coordinate with other NSTC committees and facilitate NSTC clearance of documents generated by interagency groups that are established under its aegis.

The CoT shall take such actions as may be necessary or appropriate to implement such functions.

D. Membership

The following NSTC departments and agencies are represented on the CoT at the Undersecretary, Deputy Undersecretary, or Assistant Secretary level:

Department of Agriculture;
Department of Commerce;
Department of Defense;
Department of Education;
Department of Energy;
Department of Health and Human Services;
Department of Homeland Security;
Department of Interior;
Department of Justice;
Department of Labor;
Department of State;
Department of Transportation;
Department of Treasury;
Department of Veterans Affairs;
United States Agency for International Development;
Central Intelligence Agency;
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau;
Environmental Protection Agency;
Federal Communications Commission (ex officio member);
National Aeronautics and Space Administration;
National Science Foundation;
National Security Agency;
Office of the Director of National Intelligence; and
Social Security Administration.

The following organizations in the Executive Office of the President shall also be represented on the CoT:

Council of Economic Advisers;
Council on Environmental Quality;
Domestic Policy Council;

National Economic Council;
National Security Council and Homeland Security Council;
Office of Management and Budget;
Office of Science and Technology Policy (Chair)
Office of the United States Trade Representative; and
Office of the Vice President.

Cooperating departments and agencies may include other Executive organizations, departments, and agencies when designated by the Co-chairs.

E. Private-Sector Interface

The CoT may work with the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology to secure appropriate external stakeholder advice and will recommend to the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy the nature of additional private-sector³ advice needed to accomplish its mission. The CoT may also interact with and receive *ad hoc* advice from various private-sector groups as consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

F. Termination Date

This charter shall terminate no later than December 31, 2015, unless renewed by the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

G. Determination

I hereby determine that the formation of the Committee on Technology 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:



John P. Holdren
Assistant to the President for Science and Technology and
Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy

12-02-11
Date

³ The Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., as amended, does not explicitly define "private sector," but the phrase is generally understood to include individuals or entities outside the Federal government such as, but not limited to, the following: non-Federal sources, academia, State, local or Tribal governments, individual citizens, the public, non-governmental organizations, industry associations, international bodies.