

# ***NIST Policy for Strengthening Standardization***

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**March 22, 2007**

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# U. S. Government's Role in the Standards Process

- Issues regulations when necessary after Federal Register notice and adequate comment period
- Is a very large standards user
- Participates in standards development by contributing measurement expertise and technical knowledge underlying these standards
- Advocates U.S. national interests



# Legal Mandate to Use Standards

- The National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 directs NIST to coordinate with Federal agencies and report on progress to:
  - **Use voluntary consensus standards to the extent practicable**
  - **Minimize development of agency-unique standards**
  - **Participate in the development of voluntary consensus standards to meet agency needs**
  - **Reduce overlap and duplication, and increase efficiency, of conformity assessment activities**
- Coordinate public sector standards and conformity assessment activities with those of the private sector
  - **NIST signed MOU with ANSI to aid coordination between public and private sector**

# Federal Use of Standards

- In 2005, Federal agencies reported using only 68 government unique standards
- Federal agencies reported using over 15,000 private sector standards in their regulation and procurement activities
- In 2005, federal agencies reported that about 3600 staff participated in the standards developing activities of 409 standards entities, both domestic and international
- All standards referenced in regulation and procurement are available on-line and include more than 20,000 references\*
- NIST created Standards.gov as a standards resource for federal agencies

\* The same standard may be referenced more than once

# OMB Charge to NIST on Standards for e-gov

Goal: To Embed Validated E-Gov Standards into the USG Procurement Process

- NIST is:
  - Developing process to validate standards used by E-Gov Initiatives and Lines of Business (LOBs)
  - Validating that E-Gov Initiatives/LOBs are based on appropriate standards and in alignment with OMB policy (e.g. Federal Enterprise Architecture (FEA))
  - Providing a formal, streamlined process and central reference site for USG-validated E-Gov standard
  - Result for all agencies – Validated E-Gov standards will be used throughout the USG procurement process

# Strengthen U.S. Standards System and Impact on Global Arena – NIST Actions

- Participate in technical committees – about 400 staff in about 1300 activities
- Provide web-based information
  - **Notify U.S., Standards.gov, standards portal**
- Conduct training
  - **Standards workshops**
- Create effective working relationships
  - **Ensure that U.S. private sector is partner in government to government standards discussions**
  - **Work to ensure that U.S. technology and standards are accepted by regulators and procurement officials**
- Carry out specific activities
  - **Collaboration in key regions and markets**

# ANSI Standards Panels

- Government has been a strong advocate for, and participant in standards panels
  - **Bring key players and stakeholders together**
  - **Identify existing standards**
  - **Requirements for new standards**
- Examples of Success
  - **Homeland security – NFPA 1600 as base standards for US; proposed to ISO**
    - NIST co-chairs panel
  - **Healthcare Informatics – suite of standards identified for HHS use**
  - **Nanotechnology – U.S. tag to ISO... with leadership on standards for safety and health**

# Conclusion – Recommended Actions

## NIST and standards policy

- **Greater support for the measurement and standards infrastructure necessary to support innovation**
- **Increased coordination under the NTTAA**
- **Proactive Federal use of standards for regulation and procurement**
- **Guidance on participation in standards to support industry and government needs**
- **Guidance on selecting standards for use in e-gov applications**
- **Increased participation in and use of standards panels and greater use of technical workshops for developing and coordinating stakeholder input (including roadmaps)**
- **Enhanced information and training for foreign standards experts**
- **Enhanced partnership with ANSI, including standards panels**