



ACM US Public  
Policy Council



December 21, 2009

The Honorable Peter Orszag  
Director  
The Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Director Orszag:

As representatives of a computing community responsible for providing the research base that has propelled the new economy and enabled our nation's dominant position in information technology, the Computing Research Association, IEEE Computer Society, IEEE-USA, and the Association for Computing Machinery's U.S. Public Policy Committee thank the President for his support for computing research -- and science and innovation in general -- in both the FY 2010 budget and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) passed earlier this year. Our organizations join together to urge the President's continued robust support for computing research -- particularly at the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and Department of Energy's Office of Science (DOE Sci) -- in the Administration's FY 2011 budget request.

Advances in computing have changed all aspects of our lives: how we conduct commerce, how we learn, our employment, our health care, how we manufacture goods, how government functions, how we preserve our national security, how we communicate, and how we're entertained. And advances in computing continue unabated. Whether it's creating the future of networking, revolutionizing transportation, delivering personalized education, powering the smart grid, empowering the developing world, improving health care, or driving advances in all fields of science and engineering -- all national priorities -- computing has key contributions to make and key roles to play.

The innovation required to achieve these advances comes from an information technology research and development ecosystem that the National Research Council has called "extraordinarily productive." At the heart of the ecosystem is federally sponsored research. The President's Information Technology Advisory Committee and the President's Council of Advisors for Science and Technology have both emphasized the ecosystem's "spectacular" return on the federal investment in long-term IT research and development. Indeed, a 2003 NRC study identified 19 multibillion-dollar IT industries -- industries that are transforming our lives and driving our economy -- that were enabled by federally sponsored research.

And so, though we understand the fiscal constraints you face in constructing the Administration's FY 2011 budget request, we ask that federal support for science and engineering -- particularly support for the computing research -- be given high priority in the FY 2011 request. We were heartened by the President's September commitment to double the research budgets of NSF, NIST and DOE's Office of Science and agree that doing so should be

a national priority. We urge the Administration continue that commitment in the FY 2011 request. Continuing that support will help ensure the nation retains its dominant position in an information technology sector that has proven to be essential, economically and socially.

Thank you for all you have done to raise the profile of science and engineering support in the budget process. We would be pleased to answer any questions or concerns you might have, and look forward to working with you as the budget development progresses.

Sincerely,

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Chair, Computing Research Association

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President, IEEE Computer Society

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