



# News from Washington

October 30, 2019

## Budget Update from Washington

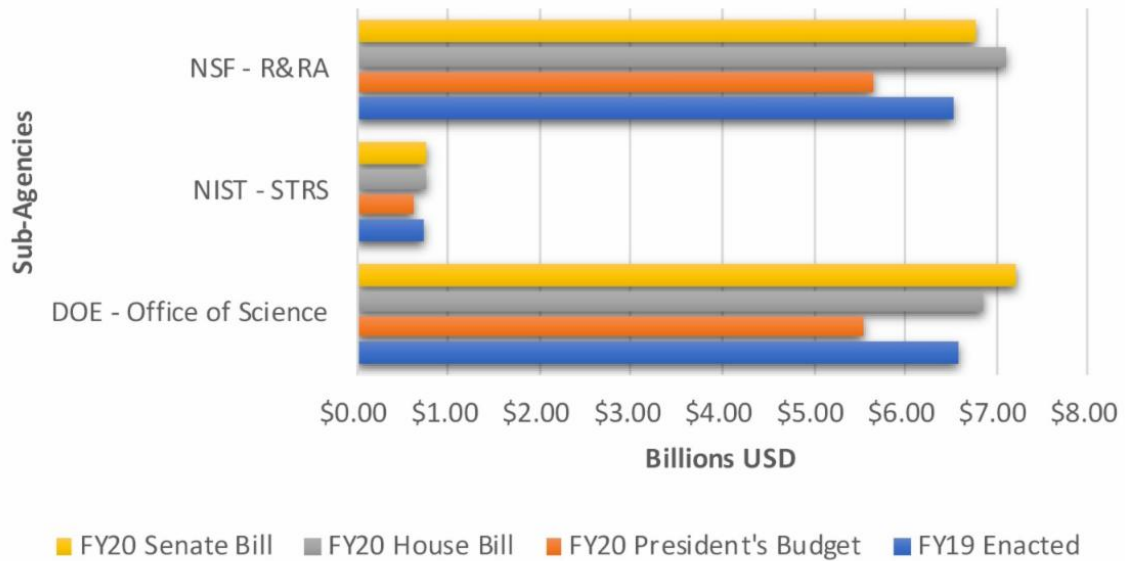
Lawmakers are working to reach an agreement on federal spending priorities ahead of a November 21<sup>st</sup> deadline. Currently, federal agencies are operating on a temporary measure known as a continuing resolution (CR). All annual appropriations bills must be finalized or extended by late November when the current funding legislation expires. The House and Senate Appropriations Committees have prepared differing versions of the 12 spending bills but final agreements have yet to advance through both chambers. If an agreement cannot be reached on some or all of the bills before the November deadline, another continuing resolution will be needed to keep the government running. Another continuing resolution would keep the government running but funding levels will remain the same for the time period specified in the CR.

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## NPI Advocating for Additional Quantum, Optics and Photonics Resources

As lawmakers continue their work on spending measures, the NPI has been advocating for additional resources for the National Quantum Initiative and optics and photonics in general in the Energy and Water and Commerce Justice and State Appropriations bills, which include funding for key agencies like the Department of Energy, the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The House and Senate have taken differing approaches to funding for the National Quantum Initiative but the NPI has taken a position in favor of the Senate report language which accompanies the appropriations bills and can provide this type of funding direction. In letters to the House and Senate Appropriations Committee Chairs, the NPI wrote: 'Quantum Information Science is critical to our nation's economy and national security and will help develop current quantum research into real world applications. These scientific and technological breakthroughs will stimulate economic growth and help U.S. researchers and developers keep pace with accelerating global competitiveness. Additionally, the funding provided in this bill will help bridge significant workforce gaps that currently exist between the leading quantum researchers and industrial product developers. What's more, it will catalyze a new sector in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) workforce.' To read the full letters please click [HERE](#).

## Proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Spending



## NPI Steering Committee Members Hit the Hill



Professor Prem Kumar, Director of Center for Photonic Communication and Computing, Northwestern University

Following up on the letters to appropriators, representatives from the NPI Steering Committee recently met with Congressional offices from Illinois, Arizona, and Washington to thank them for their leadership during the appropriations process and support for increasing resources for optics and photonics. Academic and government leaders in quantum information science and technology met with staff in the offices of

Senators Duckworth and Durbin and Representatives Schakowsky and Foster of Illinois, Senator Sinema and Representatives Grijalva and Kirkpatrick of Arizona and Senators Murray and Cantwell and Representative Beutler of Washington. In the meetings, NPI shared information about exciting breakthroughs in optics and photonics and found broad support for our ongoing efforts.

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## **NPI Hosts Collaborative Workshops on Quantum Information Science, Extreme Light Infrastructure**

Academic and government leaders in photonics and quantum information science and technology from the U.S. and Europe met earlier this fall in Washington, D.C. for workshops facilitated by the NPI and designed to explore opportunities for collaboration. The first workshop focused on U.S.-EU collaboration on Quantum Information Science. The gathering included an ongoing discussion of many cooperative trans-Atlantic opportunities across quantum computing, networking/communications, and sensing. A community-written workshop report will be prepared and shared later this year.



The second joint workshop focused on cooperation between the United States and the Czech Republic-, Hungary-, and Romania-based Extreme Light Infrastructure facility. The event was facilitated by NPI and also hosted by the U.S. Department of State and partially funded by National Science Foundation Division of Physics and the Department of Energy Office of Fusion Energy Science. A follow-up workshop will be hosted in February at the ELI-Beamlines facility outside Prague, exploring the fundamental research done at ELI and potential mechanisms for collaboration between the United States and European laser communities.

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## **IN CASE YOU MISSED IT**

News from the Administration:

[President Donald J. Trump Announces Appointment of Individuals to be Members of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology](#)

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Thank you for all you do to advance the study and application of quantum and photonics!

Sincerely,



Ed White, Chair, National Photonics Initiative

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**Contact Us:**

The NPI wants to hear from you! Are you interested in joining our efforts? Do you have questions? Need additional information? Please contact David Lang at [Dlang@osa.org](mailto:Dlang@osa.org) or Jennifer O'Bryan at [JenniferO@spie.org](mailto:JenniferO@spie.org)

Please visit the NPI website for more information: [www.lightourfuture.org](http://www.lightourfuture.org).

