



# News from Washington

## NPI October 2018 Washington Update

October 23, 2018

The National Photonics Initiative continues to make progress advocating for expanded research and investment in the areas of quantum information science and technology (QIST) and photonics. From the White House to Rochester, New York to the Nobel Prize Committee in Sweden, the potential and promise of QIST and photonics have been widely recognized over the past three months.

## NQI Legislative Update

The National Quantum Initiative Act was approved unanimously in the House of Representatives on September 13. During the debate, House Science Committee Chairman Lamar Smith (R-TX) said, “The National Quantum Act will ensure the United States remains the global leader in science and technology. Today’s House passage is a quantum leap in the right direction.” The legislation remains under consideration in the U.S. Senate, specifically the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, which held a hearing on quantum technology on September 25. During the hearing, Chairman Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) discussed the importance of keeping pace with global investment in quantum. She said, “The potential reward from investments in quantum are tremendous and we are hardly the only ones to recognize that.” Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) echoed this sentiment. She said, “Quantum is vital not just to science but to our economic competitiveness on a global scale.” You can view the hearing in full [HERE](#).

## White House Quantum Initiative Summit



Photo Courtesy of Erik Jacobs, OSTP

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy held a Quantum Initiative Summit on September 24 at which it unveiled the National Strategic Overview for Quantum Information Science. A summary of the event can be read [HERE](#). At the event, the Department of Energy announced \$218 million in funding for 85 research awards in Quantum Information Science. Additionally, the National Science Foundation announced \$31 million in funding for fundamental quantum research. NPI was represented at the event by NPI Chairman Ed White and NQI Founding Stakeholder Chris Monroe.

## Steering Committee Activities



The NPI Steering Committee recently welcomed three new members, Jennifer Barton, Amy Eskilson and Prem Kumar. The Committee met this month in Rochester, New York to discuss achievements and challenges moving forward for the NPI. These include the ongoing effort to secure passage of the NQI Act and increasing collaboration and coordination among U.S. industry, government and academia to advance photonics-driven fields. During the gathering, attendees toured the new AIM Photonics Test, Assembly, and Packaging (TAP) Facility in Rochester. The TAP Facility is the “world’s first open 300mm State-Of-The-Art advanced ecosystem for integrated silicon photonics test, assembly, and packaging.”

You can learn more about the facility [HERE](#).

## Nobel Prize Recognizes Photonics Pioneers

The first female Physics Nobel Prize winner in over five decades is Dr. Donna Strickland, a friend of NPI and former OSA President. Dr. Strickland, along with Dr. Arthur Ashkin and Dr. Gerard Mourou, also friends of NPI, was awarded the prize on October 2. The award was given in recognition of their discoveries in the field of laser physics. Drs. Strickland and Mourou were recognized for “their method of generating high-intensity, ultra-short optical pulses.” Dr. Ashkin was recognized for “optical tweezers and their application to biological systems.” NPI congratulates Drs. Strickland, Mourou and Ashkin for winning this award and thanks them for their continued research on lasers and the application of light!

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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 Krisinda Plenkovich at [KrisindaP@spie.org](mailto:KrisindaP@spie.org).

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

