Fran Schrotter Senior Vice President and COO American National Standards Institute	**Brief Remarks on Nanotechnology Standards** **National Nanotechnology Initiative** **Strategic Planning Stakeholder Workshop** July 13, 2010 – Arlington, VA

Good morning, everyone.

My name is Fran Schrotter, and I am senior vice president and COO of the American National Standards Institute, often referred to as ANSI.

For those of you who are not familiar with us, ANSI is a private, non-profit organization that administers and coordinates the U.S. voluntary standards and conformity assessment system. We are also the U.S. member body to the International Organization for Standardization, or ISO, and via our U.S. National Committee, to the International Electrotechnical Commission, or IEC.

I understand that the primary goal of this Strategic Planning Stakeholder Workshop is to further refine NNI's goals and objectives for the coming years, and to identify some possible approaches to meeting those objectives. It is our firm belief that future editions of the Strategic Plan should embrace the important role of globally developed and harmonized standards in advancing both consumer confidence and the commercialization of nanotechnology.

Nanotechnology encompasses numerous industry sectors, requiring coordination and collaboration among a broad range of international stakeholders from academia, government, industry, and more. One of the primary bodies working to advance nanotechnology standardization activities is ISO Technical Committee 229. Launched in 2005, this TC today includes participation from 35 countries.

As an active participant and recognized leader in ISO/TC 229, the U.S. is strategically positioned to direct the development of science-based standards that will adequately balance potential impacts on human health and safety with economic and competitive interests.

From new medical treatments and medicine and economical and clean energy, to manufacturing and the military, nanotechnology standardization will help to support technological applications that are stronger, safer, and more reliable.

In emerging technology areas, developing and developed economies alike want to play a more significant role in standardization activities. In a publication entitled, "Towards a European Strategy for Nanotechnology," the European Commission recognizes that "metrology and standards need to be developed to facilitate rapid development of the technology as well as providing users with the necessary confidence in their process and product performance." Our own national nanotechnology strategy should go even further. Let's make sure that we take into consideration effective stakeholder engagement, which will ensure that the standards under development are consistent with U.S. industrial interests and do not stifle innovation.

For example, the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) had recently begun work on a Technical Specification concerning the labeling of manufactured nano-objects and products containing manufactured nano-objects. Since the development of such a labeling system would impact U.S. industry and government, particularly in the areas of food, cosmetics, and chemicals, it was appropriate for the U.S. to request that this document be jointly developed by CEN and ISO. Doing so ensures that the finished document is globally relevant and takes into consideration the needs of countries and regions outside of the European Union.

Just last week, ANSI and our accredited U.S. Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to ISO TC 229 hosted a webinar for U.S. stakeholders to invite their input into the creation of this technical specification. Close to 100 people participated in the discussion – a clear indicator that there is significant interest across our nation's broad stakeholder community.

The United States is a global leader in the nanotechnology industry. For 2011, NNI member agencies have requested 1.8 billion dollars for research and development, with billions more at stake in the private sector. It's vital for the U.S. to continue playing a key role in developing globally relevant, responsive standards – we simply can't afford not to be at the table where international nanotechnology standards are being set.

ANSI strongly shares the views of the NSTC Subcommittee on Nanoscale Science, Engineering, and Technology that nanotechnology has a tremendous role to play in improving our national economy and quality of life. It was for these reasons that we took steps to become actively engaged in the work of ISO/TC 229 . . . and that we continue to work hard to ensure that U.S.-based technologies and experts have a prominent voice on the global standardization stage.

But we can't do it alone. We need a strong partnership between the public and private sectors in order to continue our success with advancing U.S. nanotechnology interests. We need more active participation from government representatives in the U.S. TAG to ISO/TC 229. And most importantly, we need support from the entire stakeholder community. Countries like China, Korea, and France are actively engaged in ISO and are influencing nanotechnology standardization with the strong support of their governments. The key to our continued success is to make sure that all U.S. stakeholder needs are taken into account, and that we approach the ISO table with a clear and strong national position.

As we consider these issues over the next day and a half, I encourage you to keep the critical role of open, balanced, and consensus-based standardization in your minds. No matter which aspect of the nanotechnology industry is under consideration, ANSI will continue to promote standards-based activities that capitalize on the collaboration of all stakeholder groups – both here in the U.S. and on the international stage.

Finally, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the U.S. TAG chairman, Dr. Clayton Teague, who has been instrumental to all of this work. Truly, we are indebted to him for his solid leadership and guidance at both the domestic and international levels.

Thank you for your attention. I look forward to any questions you may have.

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