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To: Parties Interested in Participating in the
Coordination of Standards Related to Nanotechnology

Dear Colleagues:

**Response requested by August 20, 2004**

I am writing to announce the establishment by ANSI of the Nanotechnology Standards Panel (ANSI-NSP) and to invite the participation of interested parties in its coordination efforts, particularly in the areas of nomenclature and terminology. A charter of the Panel is attached for your information and review.

Nanotechnology refers to research and technology development at the atomic, molecular, and macromolecular levels aimed at creating and using structures, devices, and systems that have novel properties and functions because of their small size. As an area of research and development, this is a relatively young field and its potential is great. As nanotechnology becomes more commercially viable and progress is made in the manufacture and characterization of nanoscale materials, other standards in addition to nomenclature and terminology (e.g. materials and testing/characterization procedures) will be needed. The need to make identifiable progress – particularly with regard to standardizing nomenclature and terminology – is evident.

ANSI's coordination of standardization activities in the nanotechnology area was requested in a June 15, 2004, letter from Dr. John H. Marburger, director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) in the Executive Office of the President. An excerpt is shown below:

> "As new materials, structures, devices and systems are developed that derive their properties and function due to their nanoscale dimensions, it will become increasingly important to the researchers, manufacturers, regulators, and other stakeholders to have an agreed upon nomenclature with which to communicate. . . . . It would be preferable if, through an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) coordination of these efforts, a consensus nomenclature were developed for use by academics, various industries, the investment community and Government agencies."

ANSI welcomes this opportunity to play a central role in connection with the advancement of nanotechnology, which has far-reaching implications for our quality of life and our domestic and global economies.

The first meeting of the ANSI-NSP will be held on September 29-30, 2004, at the offices of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in Gaithersburg, Maryland. The agenda will focus on nanotechnology nomenclature and terminology. For more information or to register, please visit www.ansi.org/events (follow the link for "Upcoming Events").

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To guide the efforts of the ANSI-NSP, a Steering Committee (ANSI-NSP SC) will also be formed. Its preliminary role will be to confirm the charter of the panel and to establish a plan of work.

The ANSI-NSP SC will be composed of a balanced representation of stakeholders and co-chaired by representatives of government, industry and the academic community. The three co-chairs include: Dr. Clayton Teague, Director of the National Nanotechnology Coordination Office (NNCO); Dr. Vicki Colvin, Professor of Chemistry at Rice University and Director of the National Science Foundation-sponsored Center for Biological and Environmental Nanotechnology (CBEN); and Dr. David Bishop, Vice President of Nanotechnology Research at Lucent Technologies.

The first meeting of the Steering Committee will be held on September 28, 2004, at the NIST campus in Gaithersburg.

The September meetings are being organized in cooperation with NIST, Rice University's CBEN, and ANSI.

**Call for Participation**

Organizations interested in participation on the ANSI-NSP are invited to complete the survey accompanying this letter and return it to ANSI **no later than August 20, 2004.** [NOTE: The survey is also available electronically and may be completed online at www.ansi.org/surveybank.]

Members of the Steering Committee will be appointed from those nominated in response to this call for participation; notification of appointments to the SC will be made on or about September 3, 2004. Because ANSI will be working to ensure a balance of interests, please be reminded that volunteering to serve on the Steering Committee does not ensure appointment to the group. Again, membership on the Panel itself is open to all interested stakeholders.

Questions or comments regarding the ANSI-NSP, its Steering Committee, the nomination process, or the September 2004 meetings can be directed to ANSI's Heather Benko (hbenko@ansi.org; 212.642.4912) or Anne Caldas (acaldas@ansi.org; 212.642.4914).

We look forward to working with your organization in conjunction with others in academia, the government and the private sector on this very important initiative.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Hurwitz, CAE
ANSI President and CEO

Attachments: Draft charter
Accompanying file: Survey


**ANSI Nanotechnology Standards Panel (ANSI-NSP)**

The ANSI Nanotechnology Standards Panel (ANSI-NSP) is established by ANSI at the request of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) of the Executive Office of the President of the United States.

**Mission:**
The purpose of the ANSI-NSP is to serve as the cross-sector coordinating body for the purposes of developing standards— including, for example, nomenclature/terminology; materials properties; testing, measurement, and characterization procedures— in the area of nanotechnology. As new materials, structures, devices and systems are developed that derive their properties and function due to their nanoscale dimensions, it will become increasingly important to the researchers, manufacturers, regulators, and other stakeholders to have agreed upon standards. Such standards will include nomenclature/terminology with which to communicate, and materials properties and measurement procedures to facilitate commercialization of the many and varied applications and uses of nanotechnology. The ANSI-NSP will provide the framework within which stakeholders can work cooperatively to promote, accelerate and coordinate the timely development of voluntary consensus standards that are intended to meet identified needs related to nanotechnology research, development, and commercialization.

**Terms of Reference of Panel:**

1. Coordinate and provide a forum for academia, individual industries, standards developing organizations, and governmental entities to define needs, determine work plans and establish priorities for updating standards or creating new standards.

2. Solicit participation from nanotechnology-related sectors and academia that have not traditionally participated in the voluntary standards system, and work cooperatively to achieve the mission of the ANSI-NSP.

3. Facilitate the timely devebpment and adoption of standards responsive to identified needs in the area of nanotechnology in general and nomenclature/terminology specifically.

4. Facilitate and promote cross-sector collaborative efforts between standards developing organizations to establish work plans and develop joint and/or complementary standards.

5. Where standards do not exist, obtain agreement from a standards developer to initiate development of the standard in a timely manner.

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6. Establish and maintain liaison with other national, regional and international standards efforts addressing nanotechnology issues so as to create identical or harmonize existing standards.

7. Establish and maintain a database of nanotechnology standards, accessible from the Internet, and capable of generating updates, notices, and reports.

8. Identify any impediments preventing the timely adoption of needed American National Standards.

9. Make widely available the results of the ANSI-NSP's work.

**ANSI-NSP Members:** Open to all directly and materially affected parties.