



POSITION STATEMENT

Assuring Sound Technical Leadership For the U.S. Government

*Adopted by the IEEE-USA
Board of Directors, June 25, 2021*

Since World War II, the United States has been the world's scientific and engineering leader and, consequently, its economic leader as well. However, this leadership is being challenged as other nations observe U. S technological capabilities and strive to match, and even surpass them. With science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) becoming ever more critical to national security and economic well-being, the need for well-qualified scientists and engineers at the highest levels of government has become ever greater. It is essential that each president move expeditiously to fill the positions described below, and then retain those positions filled with outstanding personnel possessing in-depth science and technology background and experience.

Specifically, IEEE-USA recommends that the executive branch:

- Appoint a highly respected scientist or engineer with strong leadership abilities, broad knowledge of technical issues, and deep ties to the nation's science and engineering community to serve as the Science Advisor and Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).

In addition, we urge the President to name the OSTP Director as the Advisor to the President for Science and Technology (APST). The APST manages the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) and co-chairs the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST). This dual role provides the President with a confidential advisor on key Science and Technology issues that are critical for the nation.

- Appoint effective technical leaders to other key science and engineering positions, including:
 - Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
 - Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology
 - Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering
 - Under Secretary of Energy for Science
 - Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Science and Technology
 - Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration
 - Director of the National Institutes of Health
 - Director of the National Science Foundation
 - STEM related senior positions in the Office of Management and Budget
 - Other presidential appointees with major science and technology responsibilities

- Appoint well-qualified scientists and engineers with diverse backgrounds to comprise the President's Council of Advisors in Science and Technology, the National Science Board, and other high-level technical advisory committees.

This statement was developed by the IEEE-USA Research and Development Policy Committee and represents the considered judgment of a group of U.S. IEEE members with expertise in the subject field. IEEE-USA advances the public good and promotes the careers and public policy interests of the nearly 150,000 engineering, computing and allied professionals who are U.S. members of the IEEE. The positions taken by IEEE-USA do not necessarily reflect the views of IEEE, or its other organizational units.