



News from Washington

January 31, 2019

NQI Act Signed Into Law

President Trump signed the National Quantum Initiative Act into law on December 22, 2018. NPI thanked the President for his signature in a letter that stated in part: “Now signed into law, the Act will produce a world-leading industrial quantum technology workforce, advance quantum information science and technology research, and develop quantum software and intellectual property. These objectives are all essential to ensuring the U.S. advances as a global leader in this critical field.” The focus now turns to the appropriations process to ensure the quantum program receives adequate funding. NPI will be working with lawmakers and Administration officials to ensure funding is included in the 2020 appropriations bills. We will have more information on how you can support those efforts in the coming months. To read the full letter, click [HERE](#).

White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Director Confirmed by U.S. Senate

Midway through the President’s first term, a new Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy [has been confirmed](#) by the U.S. Senate. Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier, a well-regarded weather prediction expert from the University of Oklahoma, enjoyed strong bipartisan support in the Senate during his confirmation process during the summer of 2018. As director of OSTP, Dr. Droegemeier will have a significant role in coordinating the implementation of the NQI Act.

NPI Stakeholders Submit Comments on Export Control Policy

The NPI and its stakeholders recently submitted comments to the Department of Commerce regarding how Export Control policy can affect quantum information science and technology (QIST). In the formal comments submitted to Richard Ashooh, Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, the NPI stakeholders outlined how much quantum research and development has progressed and where it has potential applications. The stakeholders’ comments state, “we believe that overly restrictive export controls will impede research progress and greatly diminish the U.S. lead in this area.” They continued, “Therefore, the NPI recommends that export controls be considered only when a specific item within a given quantum technology area is deemed critical to national security, is determined to be a commercially viable product and is defined by some performance metric.” To read the comments in full and see a list of signatories, please click [HERE](#).

Government Shutdown Update

The government shutdown that began in late December finally ended late last week when the Congress passed and the President signed a temporary funding measure through mid-February. Another funding measure will need to be passed again before that date. The full impact of this unprecedented shutdown will not be known for some time but there is no doubt it will be significant. Throughout the shutdown, NPI member organizations weighed in on the effects of the shutdown and the need for a resolution. A [statement by SPIE](#) said, “In addition to personal financial hardships, work stoppage has scientific ramifications and technical costs created by restarting experiments, gaps in long-term data, and disrupted work in progress. When researchers must leave their labs for an undetermined amount of time they fall behind, lose results, and face unplanned expenses.” [OSA stated](#), “The Optical Society urges U.S. government leaders to end the partial U.S. government shutdown that is negatively affecting many federal science agencies, scientists who work at those agencies, as well as the global science community at large. Each additional day of the shutdown damages vital research efforts in the U.S. and around the world.” The NPI team continues to communicate a unified message to lawmakers and Administration officials – the shutdown must not be repeated and full funding for all agencies should be approved as soon as possible.

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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

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 or Krisinda Plenkovich at KrisindaP@spie.org.

Please visit the NPI website for more information: www.lightourfuture.org.

