



News from the NPI

September 26, 2023

NPI Names New Steering Committee Chair



Dr. Jim McNally, PhD, has been named Chair of the NPI Steering Committee. Dr. McNally, an innovator, investor, entrepreneur, author, inventor and long-time NPI Steering Committee Member, brings decades of experience in the optics and photonics industry, as well as a long career as an advocate and educator, to his new role. In a statement, he said:

“I am thrilled to be assuming the role of Chair of the NPI Steering Committee. The NPI has been an important force for innovation and research for a decade now. The members of the NPI and its Steering Committee have helped lawmakers understand and appreciate not just the importance of optics and photonics in our everyday lives, but its potential as well. As the NPI enters its second decade of advocacy, there is much to be done. From funding opportunities to workforce issues, the NPI will be front and center as these issues are confronted in Washington.”

[READ MORE ABOUT DR. MCNALLY HERE](#)

NPI Urges Leaders to Prioritize Research and Development Funding

As Congress continues negotiating government funding, the NPI has written to leaders urging them to prioritize critical scientific research and development funding. In a letter to Congressional leaders, NPI Steering Committee Chairman Dr. McNally wrote,

“As the end of the fiscal year draws near, I write to urge you to prioritize scientific research and development funding as Congress advances spending legislation. Stable, robust investments in science research and development (R&D) programs are critical to advancing our economy, healthcare innovation, national security, workforce development, and global competitiveness. In particular, federal support of optics and photonics – a field of science and engineering that enables an array of technologies – has led to the development of innovations that affect every aspect of our lives. As Steering Committee Chair of the National Photonics Initiative (NPI), which is comprised of academic and industry entities engaged in the study and development of optics and photonics, I strongly urge both the House and Senate to invest in discoveries that will yield the next generation technologies to improve healthcare, communications, security, and the U.S. economy. There are several key agencies that are dependent on consistent and reliable funding.”

[READ THE FULL LETTER HERE](#)

NQI Update

The NPI has been working closely with the committees of jurisdiction - House Science Committee and Senate Commerce Committee - to reauthorize the National Quantum Initiative (NQI) Act. The NQI Act, which was approved with overwhelming bipartisan support and signed into law by President Trump in December 2018, now requires a second five-year authorization. At the end of the July Congressional work period, the House Science Committee released its red-line draft language for the NQI Reauthorization and solicited feedback from multiple stakeholders, including the NPI. As policymakers consider the second authorization phase of the National Quantum Initiative, the NPI continues to engage with key staff and members about our policy recommendations to ensure the NQI's full impact is maximized. To read more about the NPI's priorities for NQI reauthorization, please visit [HERE](#).



COMPANY PROFILE

Each month we feature a company to showcase the incredible versatility and power of our field. This month we are proud to focus on Applied Energetics, a photonic and energetics technology company based in Tucson, Arizona. Learn more about Applied Energetics below!



[READ MORE ABOUT APPLIED ENERGETICS HERE](#)

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