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Finally, additional funds of \$12,500,000 are available for transfer to the working capital fund for equipment and other purposes related to the STRS account.

Project	Committee recommendation	Requested by
New York Center for National Competitiveness in Nanoscale Characterization (NC3), for a partnership between the National Institute for Science and Technology (NIST) and the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE), University at Albany, SUNY (UAlbany), Albany, NY.	\$1,000,000	Schumer, Clinton

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Appropriations, 2007	\$183,819,000
Budget estimate, 2008	46,332,000
Committee recommendation	210,000,000

The Committee recommendation provides \$210,000,000. The recommendation is \$26,181,000 above the fiscal year 2007 enacted level and \$163,668,000 above the budget request.

Hollings Manufacturing Extension Programs [MEP].—The Committee recommendation provides \$110,000,000 to fund MEP centers and to fund a technology deployment pilot. MEP supports a network of locally run centers that provide technical advice and consultative services to small manufacturing companies in all 50 States and Puerto Rico. Many of these firms lack the in-house technical knowledge and experience to implement cutting edge technologies and cost saving processes, which places them at risk from foreign competition. Since its inception, MEP has consistently been the program that small manufacturers could look to for assistance.

Based on a sampling of clients surveyed in fiscal year 2006, MEP clients reported that the assistance they received resulted in increased sales of \$2,842,000,000; retained sales of \$3,408,000,000; cost savings of \$1,304,000,000 and the creation and retention of 53,219 jobs. These economic impacts justify the full funding of the MEP.

The Committee is concerned with moving smaller companies toward the next phase of innovation and recommends \$4,000,000 for a pilot focused on technology deployment. The MEP Technology Deployment Pilot will move government and university research out of the laboratories and make it readily understandable and adoptable by small and medium-sized manufacturers.

The pilot will include: development of techniques and tools for translating innovative technologies into business opportunities and commercialized products, assessment of the market opportunities of new technologies, including the forecast of sales potential for product concepts, and matching manufacturer's needs with technology solutions.

Advanced Technology Program [ATP].—The Committee provides \$100,000,000 for the Advanced Technology Program. The Committee has provided a provision preventing large companies from applying for single applicant awards. The Committee is aware that a major rewrite of the NIST statute is being negotiated as part of the conference for the House and Senate competitiveness and innovation bills. The Committee will follow the direction of conferees once negotiations are completed.

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CONSTRUCTION OF RESEARCH FACILITIES

Appropriations, 2007	\$58,686,000
Budget estimate, 2008	93,865,000
Committee recommendation	150,900,000

The Committee recommendation provides \$150,900,000. The recommendation is \$92,214,000 above the fiscal year 2007 enacted level and \$57,035 above the budget request.

The recommendation funds the highest priority safety, capacity, maintenance, and repair projects at NIST. Of the amounts provided:

NIST CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendations
Boulder Building 1 Extension Project	28,000
NIST Child Care Center (Building 916)	4,000
NCNR Expansion	19,000
Safety, Capacity, Maintenance, and Major Repairs	46,900
Congressionally Directed Projects	53,000
Total Direct Obligations, CRF	150,900

The Committee directs NIST to provide quarterly reports on the status of all construction projects, and to provide an accounting of projects.

Project	Committee recommendation	Requested by
University of Mississippi, Jackson, MS, for Construction of the Biotechnology Research Park in close proximity to an academic medical center offering opportunities for scientific and commercial synergies and serving as a catalyst for economic development in Mississippi's capital city.	\$8,000,000	Cochran
Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS, for expansion of the Research, Technology and Economic Development Park to generate high technology jobs and enhance the overall economic development of the region, including additional service, construction, and retail jobs.	8,000,000	Cochran
University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS, for Innovation and Commercialization Park Infrastructure and Building Construction and Equipage. This funding will complete the construction projects at the Park located at the University of Southern Mississippi and furnish necessary equipment, which will generate high technology jobs and enhance the overall economic development of the region.	2,000,000	Cochran
Alabama State University, Montgomery, AL, for a Life Sciences Building. This facility will house the new microbiology doctoral program along with many other biological science graduate and undergraduate activities.	5,000,000	Shelby
University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL, for the Engineering and Science Center. This facility will provide state-of-the-art laboratory and research space for future engineers, scientists, and researchers, and provide laboratory and research space to facilitate the University's support of local and regional industry.	30,000,000	Shelby