

Media Advisory
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FIFTH ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL VISITS DAY

Scientists and industry representatives spotlight federal R&D

Over 200 science and business leaders will participate in the Science-Engineering-Technology Congressional Visits Day on April 4-5, 2000. The event will bring together a wide range of scientific and engineering disciplines and a host of technical industries to convey to Members of Congress the core message that balanced federal investment in research and development is essential and that R&D partnerships between government, industry, and universities play a critical role in our nation's prosperity.

Congressional Visits Day is organized by the Science-Engineering-Technology (SET) Work Group, a coalition of 35 professional scientific societies, and the Coalition for Technology Partnerships, a group of high tech companies and trade associations. The full day of congressional visits highlights the importance of research and development for continued US global leadership.

"Our goal is to make Congress aware of the important role that research and development plays in developing new, competitive technologies, and how essential these efforts are to the strength and growth of our nation," explained David Applegate, Director of Government Affairs at the American Geological Institute and co-chair of the SET Work Group.

Participants in Congressional Visits Day will be discussing our Nation's broad portfolio of investments in science, engineering and technology and will be providing a constituent voice to Members of Congress regarding the local value and impact these programs have. "Clearly, legislative initiatives such as H.R. 2086, the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act, and S. 296 and H.R. 3161, the Federal Research Investment Act, demonstrate that Congress is getting the message," notes Deborah Rudolph, also SET Work Group co-chair and Manager of Technology Policy at IEEE-USA.

"Congressional Visits Day is not only focused on science, engineering and technology, but also recognizes that balanced federal investment benefits all sectors of our nation's economy. This event highlights the essential role federally funded research and development plays in our nation's quality of life," adds Kathleen Kingscott, Public Policy Director for Science and Technology at IBM Corporation and chair of the Coalition for Technology Partnerships.

More than 50 percent of all industrial innovation and growth in the United States since World War II can be attributed to advances pioneered through scientific research, with publicly funded science the vital foundation for society's scientific and technological progress. Achievements from federally funded science, engineering and technology include global environmental monitoring, lasers, liquid crystal displays and the Internet.

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