
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM - USA

NIH will commence construction of the National Neuroscience Research Center this year. Funding stem cell research will start in 2001, after NIH put into place a review board and strict guidelines on stem cell derivation; the final NIH budget does not contain a prohibition on stem cell research, but President Bush has stated that he may take steps to block NIH funding of such research.

- **The National Aeronautics and Space Administration(NASA)** total budget is \$14.3 billion

Despite the Mars Mission losses and the problems experienced with Russia for the International Space Station (ISS), NASA's budget is back up above \$10 billion. The Science, Aeronautics, and Technology (SAT) program (excludes ISS) at \$6.2 billion is the largest of NASA's research programs. The Space Science budget (part of SAT) is \$2.5 billion, which includes funding for the start of a completely redesigned Mars program for the next decade, and Life and Microgravity Science Applications. The ISS is funded at \$2.1 billion for continued development and construction of the Space Station. The Space Station now has a permanent three-person crew in three connected modules, with more modules on the way in 2001. NASA also funds significant university and industry research. It is second only to DOD in funding engineering research, and the leading funder of environmental research (oceanography, atmospheric and geological science). In the areas of physical sciences (astronomy, chemistry and physics), NASA is a major funder, leading in astronomy, but also second only to DOE in the funding of physics.

- **The Department of Energy (DOE)** total budget is \$8.0 billion

DOE went from crisis to crisis in 2000. In March, the DOE moved its weapons-related activities to a new semi-autonomous agency within the DOE called the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). The Weapons program (\$2.5 billion), is the cornerstone of NNSA's mission to use science-based methods to ensure the safety and reliability of the nation's nuclear stockpile. It also receives \$477 million for the Accelerated Strategic Computing Initiative. Despite controversies over ballooning project costs, construction of the National Ignition Facility (NIF) receives \$199 million. Outside of NNSA, Congress provides the DOE Science account with \$3.0 billion for a more balanced research portfolio. The big winner is Basic Energy Sciences, which receives \$1.0 billion for R&D. Most of the increase is for the Spallation Neutron Source. Advanced Scientific Computing Research gets \$168 million, a boost that will allow DOE to expand its participation in the IT R&D initiative. The DOE laboratories (except for one), are run by private contractors. These modus operandi of these laboratories depends on the management running them. Some laboratories collaborate intensively with universities and industry.

- **The National Science Foundation (NSF)** budget is \$4.4 billion

Congress provides the NSF with a large increase to balance the high level of NIH biotechnology funding. NSF's R&D funding, which excludes the NSF's education and training activities and overhead costs, totals \$3.2 billion. Two priority research