

House Report 110-862

(accompanying bill HR 6947)

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INNOVATION

The Committee recommends \$38,660,000 for innovation, \$6,340,000 below the amount requested and \$5,660,000 above the amount provided in fiscal year 2008. A reduction to this program has been made due to a lack of budgetary details on the initiatives that will be funded in 2009.

NEW TECHNOLOGIES

New technologies may significantly help the Department as it seeks to secure our homeland. The Committee encourages S&T to assess technologies such as gallium nitride-based multi-mission phased array radar; gunshot detection and classification systems; passive and active biological chemical sensors at seaports; handheld x-ray imaging devices; mono-energetic gamma resonant imaging and detection systems; technologies to thwart radio-controlled improvised explosive devices using geospatial analysis tools; smart sensor and microsystem technologies for high threat problem-solving; remote border intrusion sensing technology; blast mitigation modeling and simulation tools; maturation of existing command and control systems using modular, distributable, standards-based and information-centric decision architecture; enhanced three dimensional backscatter x-ray for use in cargo container inspection; near real-time interactive tools for mapping flood hazards; and enzyme-based technology for explosive detection.



LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Committee recommends \$151,940,000 for laboratory facilities, \$5,000,000 above the amount requested and \$48,126,000 above the amount provided in fiscal year 2008. The Committee funds 124 existing FTEs within the laboratory facilities account, as requested, because these individuals work directly for S&T laboratories. In the past, these FTEs have been funded within the Management and Administration appropriation. Within this appropriation, \$35,600,000 is included to begin detailed design for the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility (NBAF) and its supporting infrastructure in 2009 and \$15,000,000 is included for ongoing construction at Area 300 of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, pursuant to the multi-agency memorandum of understanding.



The Committee is concerned about a recent GAO report that DHS has neither conducted nor commissioned a study to determine whether work on foot-and-mouth disease can be done safely on the U.S. mainland. Instead, DHS relied on a 2002 Department of Agriculture study that addressed a different question and did not assess the past history of releases of this virus or other dangerous pathogens. New bill language prohibits the obligation of funds for the new NBAF facility design and construction until S&T completes a risk analysis of whether foot-and-mouth disease work can be done safely on the mainland, and GAO reviews this risk analysis.

MULTI-FUNCTION PHASED ARRAY RADARS

The Committee remains aware that many of the surveillance radars used by a number of Federal agencies around the country will near the end of their design life during the next decade. The multi-