



Analysis of FY09 Science Funding – Including Stimulus As Passed in March '09 Omnibus Bill

March 12, 2009

Budget History and Current Actions

Key Research Agencies	FY 06 Funding	FY 07 Funding	FY 08 Funding	Funding in FY 09 CR	ARRA Stimulus Increments	Total Funding including Appropriation and Stimulus	
	\$ millions	\$ millions	\$ millions	\$ millions	Increase from CR levels	\$ millions	% Increase from CR levels
National Science Foundation	5,580	5,916	6,065*	6,065	\$3,000	9,065	49.5%
Dept. of Energy – Office of Science	3,600	3,796	3,894	4,018	\$1,900	5,918	47.3%
National Institute of Standards & Technology¹	433	491	549	601	\$580	1,181	96.5%
TOTAL	\$9,613	\$10,204	\$10,508	\$10,684	\$5,600	\$16,164	52%

1. Refers to NIST core accounts, consisting of the Scientific & Technical Research and Services (STRS) budget, plus the Construction of Research Facilities (CRF) budget

Funding levels with changes as Enacted in Omnibus Signed by President – March 10, 2009

Key Research Agencies	Funding Provided in FY 09 Omnibus Spending Bill			President's Budget Request FY 09 Feb 26 09	Omnibus compared to PBR	FY 09 PBR vs. Omnibus	
	Total FY09 \$ millions	Increase from CR levels	% Increase for CR Levels	Total FY09 \$ millions	Funding Difference - PBR to Omnibus	% Increase over Omnibus	PBR Increase from CR Levels
National Science Foundation	6,490	425	6.5%	6900	410	6.3%	13.80%
Dept. of Energy – Office of Science	4,773	755	15.8%	5200	427	8.9%	29.40%
National Institute of Standards & Technology	819	218	26.6%	937	118	14.4%	55.90%
TOTAL	\$12,119	\$1,398	11.54%	\$13,037	955	7.9%	22%

* The total for FY 08 does not include the effects of a \$33M rescission of funds that occurred, nor does it include the \$62.5m 'emergency funding' of NSF activities that was passed during the fiscal year. These are treated as one time impacts that would only skew the base year totals.

Perspectives on Science Funding for Fiscal Year 2009

Amid all the hoopla of the passage of the Economic Stimulus Bill, there were some other more recent budget developments that have taken place but have received relatively little notice. Part of the problem is that the Stimulus dwarfs the established trends in science funding. Take a look at the top table to see where current funding stood prior to the enactment of the FY 09 Omnibus Spending Bill that was signed by President Obama on March 10.

The top table shows the recent history of funding for the key science agencies listed. It also shows where funding stood before the Omnibus was passed – that is, the funding levels that were set under the continuing resolution (CR) that has been in effect since the beginning of Fiscal 09. What is clear are the significant increases that are put in place by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Looking at the second table above, we outline two major items. First, we show the funding levels provided in the FY 09 Omnibus spending bill. We show the differences between what would have been the case with another CR, and then show what the Omnibus did to increase all three agencies' budgets for FY 09. The dollar amounts cited in the percentage differences are in comparison to the continuing resolution levels of funding that would have been in place had the Omnibus not passed. Overall, the budgetary baselines set spending for the three agencies at roughly a 12% increase for FY 09 over FY 08. These figures, as noted, do not include the impact of the stimulus for these agencies.

The next three columns highlight the funding levels proposed by the president for FY 09. The numbers here are somewhat surprising in that they result in a combined roughly \$1 billion increase in funding for these agencies above the level set in the Omnibus bill. These robust increases above what the Omnibus provided were a surprise to many. One interpretation is that the Obama administration is following through on its campaign commitment to promote a science agenda that re-establishes US leadership in scientific research and technological competitiveness. The key point to note in these figures is that, compared to the Omnibus numbers, the increases in funding proposed by the Obama FY 09 request are roughly double the level enacted by Congress.

This is a significant sea change. While we cannot predict what FY 10 funding for these agencies ultimately will be, having Congress and the White House compete to raise the level of science investment is certainly preferable to events of the recent past. As recently as two or three years ago the competition appeared to be targeted to experimenting with how little sustenance could be provided without creating the fiscal equivalent of toxic shock.

We will be watching these developments and keep you apprised of the latest developments as they occur.