

Call for Increased Research Funding

The Electrochemical Society has joined Federation of Materials Societies (FMS) members in calling for "a decade of investment" in the U.S. research budget to secure the nation's quality of life and economic prosperity. At a press conference at the U.S. Capitol this past fall, American Chemical Society (ACS) President Paul S. Anderson, and FMS member society presidents, urged Congress and the Administration to double the nation's research budget during a ten-year period beginning in 1999. In a letter to Congress and the Administration, Anderson said,

There is now a global consensus recognizing that science and technology fuel economic growth. Our nation's technology-based economy has catapulted us to a position of world leadership. The competitive global marketplace, however, has little sympathy for a nation's historic triumphs. The mantle of leadership is not guaranteed by past reputation, rather it must be constantly earned.

Investing in research is the price of admission to world leadership and to the societal improvements that leadership enables. Every great leap of technology is prefaced by many small steps of research—some forward, some merely negating other paths, but all combining to develop a body of knowledge critical to new discoveries.

The FMS societies were joined by over 100 scientific, mathematics, and engineering societies, organizations that collectively represent over 3 million men and women dedicated to the discovery and application of knowledge that will propel this nation into the next millennium.

The text of the Unified Statement on Research, is reprinted below.

To secure the economic health and prosperity of the United States as the next century approaches, our national investment in research must be strengthened. The increased competitiveness of the global economy

makes such an investment even more important now than in the past. To that end, we call upon the U.S. Congress and the Administration to double the current level of federal investment in research within the next ten years, starting with fiscal year 1999.

The United States has a critical and long-standing interest in advancing engineering, mathematics, and scientific research and education. The reasons for this are well accepted by industry leaders and public policy makers alike:

- Research provides the basis for the nation's productivity and economic growth, sustains its high standards of living and quality of health, and ensures its security.
- Research conducted today generates the knowledge from which the future is built and helps develop researchers for the future.

Our nation has developed a dynamic, comprehensive, interdependent research system that has enabled the United States to assume global leadership and enjoy a high standard of living. The research efforts of the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy, Interior, and Transportation; the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; the National Institutes of Health; the National Science Foundation; and others have provided countless scientific and technological innovations that have formed the foundation for our nation's prosperity.

Even during this time of extraordinary economic growth, it must not be forgotten that tomorrow's health, economic, environmental, and national security depends on the choices that are made today. As leaders of the science, engineering, and mathematics communities, we maintain that doubling the nation's research budget during a ten-year period strikes a responsible balance between near-term fiscal goals and long-term economic growth and productivity.

Members of the FMS, in addition to The Electrochemical Society, include:

American Association for Crystal Growth
The American Ceramic Society, Inc.
American Chemical Society
American Physical Society
American Society for Nondestructive Testing
ASM International
ASTM

American Vacuum Society
American Welding Society
Materials Research Society
NACE International
North American Catalysis Society
The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society

To learn more about the FMS and its programs, contact them at (202) 296-9282, visit their home page at <http://www.foms.org>, or follow the links from the ECS home page at <http://www.electrochem.org>.