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Memorandum of Understanding Between the University of Illinois and the U.S. Commerce Department's Office Technology Policy

Background:

On September 29, 2004 Under Secretary of Commerce for Technology Phillip J. Bond and University of Illinois President Jim Stukel signed a memorandum of agreement that provides a framework for the Commerce Department's Office of Technology Policy and the University of Illinois at Springfield's College of Business and Management to work together on key issues affecting U.S. leadership in the field of nanotechnology.

Nanotechnology:

One of the most promising emerging fields of science and technology, nanoscale research and development is the focus of the federal government's 21-agency National Nanotechnology Initiative. In FY 2004, the United States will invest \$961 million to push back the frontiers of knowledge and harness the power of nanotechnology to achieve its enormous potential for economic growth and job creation, national defense and homeland security, environmental protection and remediation, energy security, human health and other areas of national importance. Since its launch in January 2000, the U.S. government's total investment in nanoscale R&D exceeds \$3 billion.

Delivering on the promise of nanotechnology requires that successfully translating technological success into products and services for the global marketplace. This will require not only overcoming the technical hurdles associated with the development of this powerful and promising revolutionary technology, but addressing a variety of other critical challenges in the business, legal, international, education and workforce arenas, as well as potential societal and ethical implications. In alignment with OTP's responsibilities for conducting analysis and advocating national policies that maximize technology's contribution to the Nation, this memorandum of agreement provides a framework for collaborative activities between the two organizations to address these issues through a variety of mechanisms including joint research projects, analytical reports, seminars and conferences.

For more information, please call John Sargent, Senior Policy Analyst in the Office of Technology Policy at 202-482-6185 or Cheryl Mendonsa in the Public Affairs Office at 202-482-8321.