



November 30, 2022

The Honorable Arati Prabhakar
Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Dr. Prabhakar,

Congratulations on your confirmation as Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). As a scientific and engineering-focused society, we are excited that someone with your professional background and education will be leading such an important office. We look forward to working closely with you in your new role, particularly regarding OSTP's recent Memorandum¹ relating to public access to Federally funded research results.

The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society (TMS) is a U.S.-based professional society that represents more than 12,000 professionals and students, connecting mineral, metals, and materials scientists and engineers who work in industry, academia, and government positions around the world. Materials scientists and engineers participate in the research, development, and application of materials used to create a range of products, from everyday consumer products to complex systems in areas such as energy, manufacturing, defense, automotive, aerospace, biomaterials, and more. TMS is committed to enabling innovation in these areas, as well as advanced manufacturing, sustainable engineering, and energy.

TMS supports strengthening advanced materials manufacturing through federally sponsored partnerships with universities, industry, and national labs. We also support industry-government-academia collaborations in the materials and manufacturing domains. TMS has a strong dedicated history of advancing scientific communication, including through the society's development and sponsorship of multiple peer-reviewed archival journals.

Unfortunately, OSTP's memorandum for the heads of executive departments and agencies that seeks to ensure free, immediate, and equitable access to federally funded research is misguided. We are concerned that eliminating the optional 12-month embargo from free public access and requiring immediate public access to publications resulting from federally funded research would undermine the ability of our organization and researchers in our fields to support the integrity of materials science and engineering research and undercut the public's interest in scientific and scholarly integrity.

¹ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/08-2022-OSTP-Public-Access-Memo.pdf>

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Along with these concerns, it is unclear from OSTP's August 25th memorandum how federal agencies will collaborate with stakeholders to ensure implementation of the memorandum's guidance, how OSTP will address who can afford to submit their research for publication, or how to ensure the quality of research publications.

We have previously supported policy language that provides for free online public access to federally funded research "not later than 12 months after publication in peer-reviewed journals." We view this as a balanced approach to ensure the highest quality and validated research output from the peer review process while providing open access to taxpayer-funded research.

We look forward to continuing to work with OSTP on this issue. Please do not hesitate to utilize TMS as a resource as you continue to work on issues of importance to the scientific and engineering communities.

Very Respectfully,



W. Jud Ready
President
The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society



James Robinson
Executive Director
The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society