# *The World Is Flat:* Making Materials Matter

# **National Policy Implications**

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## Key policy facts

- There is no US "national materials policy"
  - No industrial policy or technology policy, either
- Government programs affect materials R&D in a number of ways
  - R&D funding (amount and direction)
  - Regulations and laws
- The big picture is difficult to understand
  - Data is lacking
  - Interdependencies are not modeled





#### **Situation analysis**

- National security is a priority
  - Drivers for both global and homeland applications
  - Warfighters and first providers are increasingly reliant on new technology
- Economic security is a priority
  - Outsourcing, offshoring, and offsets are proliferating
  - Difficult national "make/buy" decisions
    - Competition is the basis of the US economic system
    - Others factors complicate "competition" subsidized research, currency values, labor rates, etc.
- The interdependence of national security and economic security is not well understood
  - Complexity is a particular concern



# **Tipping scales**

Implications of new materials

- Technology <u>convergence</u> leading to new concerns
- Mounting evidence of negative environmental and health impacts (e.g., nanoparticles)
- Continued flow of new nano/bio-based products into the marketplace (30-50/month)
- Existing regulatory frameworks prove inadequate in addressing risks and boosting public confidence (e.g., MSDSs)
- Continued low trust in government by the public undermines interventions













### Where government plays a role

- Materials sources and transactions
  - Raw materials
  - Processed materials
  - Scrap and recycled materials
- Materials uses and technologies
  - Transportation
  - Energy
  - Construction
  - Consumer products (health care, electronics)
- Materials education and workforce
  - Collaborations
  - Transit







### **Traditional policy perceptions**

- Progress in materials research, development, and production has been the basis for economic growth and national security for centuries
- Jobs in the materials industries have been the most stable and highest paying
- Many of the largest companies in the world are materials producers and suppliers



#### **Perceptions today**



- Progress in materials research and production nano-, bio- and information technology is the basis for economic growth and national security
- Jobs in the materials industries have been the most stable and highest paying polluting and unsafe; globalization will reduce wages.
- Many of the largest companies in the world have been materials producers and suppliers; <u>but these aren't</u> <u>important to have in the U.S.</u>

#### **Possible actions**

- More "upstream" education
  - General public, public figures, and vocal scientists
  - Tie potential costs to potential benefits
- More funding for research on environmental and health implications
- Global agreements on responsible research, development, and use of new technologies
- Standards for labeling for consumer products, foods, etc.
- Better tools for understanding drivers



#### What's missing



- Tools to facilitate systems-level decision making
- Tools to evaluate and prioritize design alternatives early in the design process
- Tools that incorporate life-cycle costs and environmental impact
- Tools to validate component effectiveness



#### More missing links

- Data that is
  - accessible and peer-reviewed for new materials
- Tools that are
  - interoperable and composable, and span multiple fields
- Best practices that
  - define ownership rights to models, simulations, and data

#### Models for Linking Design, Manufacturing, and Materials



#### Moving forward

Where could the US lead (or not lag)?

- ? Comprehensive models and methods
- ? Materials databases
- ? Implementation and infrastructure



#### **Ultimate goals**

- The reward for use of new materials will be clear
- The risk will be mitigated



#### **The National Academies**

- What are the National Academies?
  - Not a government agency
  - Established by Congress to 'advise the nation' on science, technology and health policy issues
  - Academies consist of
    - National Academy of Sciences (NAS)
    - National Academy of Engineering (NAE)
    - Institute of Medicine (IOM)
    - National Research Council (NRC)

#### **Recent reports**



- Accelerating Technology Transition: Bridging the Valley of Death for Materials and Processes in Defense Systems (2004)
- Capturing the Full Power of Biomaterials for Military Medicine (2004)
- Retooling Manufacturing: Bridging Design, Materials, and Production (2004)
- New Directions in Manufacturing (2003)
- Materials Research for 21st Century Defense Needs (2002)
- Modeling and Simulation for Manufacturing and Defense System Acquisition: Pathways for Success (2002)
- Equipping Tomorrow's Military Force: Integration of Commercial and Military Manufacturing (2002)



#### http://www.nap.edu