

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Neutron-Based Materials Characterization (nMat) Consortium

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of research consortium.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), an agency of the United States Department of Commerce, announces the establishment of the Neutron-Based Materials Characterization (nMat) Consortium (Consortium). The Consortium will bring together industry, academia, and other stakeholders to identify and address measurement and standards needs related to neutron-based characterization methods for manufacturing materials.

The Consortium will support pre-competitive research to advance the development and application of neutron-based measurement techniques, expand industrial access to advanced neutron tools, and accelerate the translation of measurement science into manufacturing impact. Consortium activities will leverage the capabilities of the NIST Center for Neutron Research (NCNR) and the Materials Science and Engineering Division (MSED).

Participation in the Consortium will require the execution of a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with NIST. At NIST's discretion, entities that are not permitted to enter into CRADAs pursuant to law or other governmental constraint may be allowed to participate in the Consortium pursuant to a separate non-CRADA agreement.

DATES: The Consortium is currently accepting letters of interest for participation, and its activities will commence on April 1, 2026. NIST will

accept letters of interest on an ongoing basis.

ADDRESSES: Letters of interest or requests for additional information about the Consortium may be submitted to Dr. Jonathan E. Seppala, Consortium Manager, via email to nmat@nist.gov, or by hardcopy to Materials Science and Engineering Division, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 8542, Gaithersburg, MD 20899.

Additional information about the Consortium is available at <https://www.nist.gov/nmat>. Organizations whose letters of interest are accepted in accordance with the process set forth in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice will be asked to sign a consortium CRADA or similar agreement with NIST. A consortium template will be made available to qualifying applicants.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: J'aime Maynard, Consortia Agreements Officer, Technology Partnerships Office, National Institute of Standards and Technology, by mail to 100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 2200, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, or by email to agreements@nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For more than 50 years, neutron-based measurement methods have provided unique insights into material structure and properties that cannot be obtained through other techniques. Neutrons are highly sensitive to light elements, including hydrogen; they can penetrate deeply into many materials; and they possess a magnetic moment, enabling characterization of magnetic structures. These properties make neutron-based techniques powerful tools for understanding materials across multiple length scales and under realistic processing and operating conditions.

Despite these capabilities, industrial access to neutron-based measurement techniques remains limited due to barriers including specialized expertise requirements, limited facility familiarity, and challenges in translating neutron data into actionable manufacturing insights. The nMat Consortium is intended to address these challenges by establishing a collaborative framework through which participants (Consortium Members) may leverage NIST's neutron facilities and materials expertise to advance

measurement science relevant to manufacturing.

The Consortium will focus on pre-competitive research and the development of measurement methods and best practices. Initial technical areas of interest may include, but are not limited to:

- *Structural Characterization:* Application of neutron scattering techniques to analyze material structure across multiple length scales.
- *Interface Analysis:* Investigation of surfaces, interfaces, and thin films in manufactured components.
- *Stress and Defect Analysis:* Measurement of internal stresses and identification of defects in materials.
- *Process Monitoring:* Development of methods to study materials during processing or under operating conditions.
- *Magnetic Analysis:* Characterization of magnetic materials and interfaces relevant to data storage, energy conversion, and emerging technologies.

Consortium activities may utilize capabilities including Small-Angle Neutron Scattering (SANS), neutron imaging, neutron diffraction, and neutron reflectometry, complemented by materials characterization expertise within MSED.

Consortium Members may, subject to NIST approval and appropriate amendment to their CRADA, propose additional targeted research activities that complement and enhance the core Consortium research plan.

Participation Process

Eligibility to participate in the Consortium will be determined by NIST based upon the information provided by prospective participants in response to this notice. Prospective participants should submit a letter of interest to the Consortium Manager via email or hardcopy (for reference, see **ADDRESSES** section above). Letters of interest must not include business proprietary information. NIST will not treat submissions in response to this notice as proprietary information.

Letters of interest should include:

1. A description of the organization's experience or expertise in materials manufacturing and characterization, particularly as related to neutron-based measurement techniques; and
2. Identification of anticipated project team members and a legal point of contact for CRADA execution.

NIST will evaluate submissions to determine eligibility to participate in the Consortium. Participation will require the execution of a CRADA or similar agreement. Participation may include financial and/or in-kind contributions consistent with the Consortium research plan. All participants legally eligible to enter into a CRADA will be bound by substantially similar terms and conditions.

NIST does not guarantee participation in the Consortium to any organization submitting a letter of interest.

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 3710a; 15 U.S.C. 272(b) and (c).

Alicia Chambers,

NIST Executive Secretariat.

[FR Doc. 2026-14801 Filed 7-21-26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

National Construction Safety Team Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Construction Safety Team (NCST) Advisory Committee (Committee) will hold an open virtual meeting via web conference on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Thursday, September 24, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time. The primary purposes of this meeting are to update the Committee on the progress of the NCST investigation focused on the impacts of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, progress of the NCST investigation focused on the Champlain Towers South partial building collapse that occurred in Surfside, Florida, and provide responses to the Committee's 2025 recommendations. The final agenda will be posted on the NIST website at <https://www.nist.gov/topics/disaster-failure-studies/national-construction-safety-team-ncst/advisory-committee-meetings>.

DATES: The NCST Advisory Committee will meet on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on Thursday, September 24, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time. The meeting will be open to the public.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held via web conference. For instructions on how to attend and/or participate in the meeting, please see the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tanya Brown-Giammanco, Director of the Disaster and Failure Studies Program, and Acting Chief of the Disaster Impact Reduction Office, Engineering Laboratory, NIST. Tanya Brown-Giammanco's email address is tanya.brown-giammanco@nist.gov and her phone number is (301) 975-2822.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee was established pursuant to Section 11 of the NCST Act (Pub. L. 107-231, codified at 15 U.S.C. 7301 *et seq.*). The Committee is currently composed of five members, appointed by the Director of NIST, who were selected on the basis of established records of distinguished service in their professional community and their knowledge of issues affecting the National Construction Safety Teams. The Committee advises the Director of NIST on carrying out the NCST Act; reviews the procedures developed for conducting investigations; and reviews the reports issued documenting investigations. Background information on the NCST Act and information on the NCST Advisory Committee is available at <https://www.nist.gov/topics/disaster-failure-studies/national-construction-safety-team-ncst/advisory-committee>.

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, 5 U.S.C. 1001 *et seq.*, notice is hereby given that the NCST Advisory Committee will meet on Wednesday, September 23, 2026 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on Thursday September 24, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time. The meeting will be open to the public and will be held via web conference. Interested members of the public will be able to participate in the meeting from remote locations. The primary purposes of this meeting are to update the Committee on the progress of the NCST investigation focused on the impacts of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, progress of the NCST investigation focused on the Champlain Towers South partial building collapse that occurred in Surfside, Florida, and provide responses to the Committee's 2025 recommendations. The agenda may change to accommodate Committee business. The final agenda will be posted on the NIST website at <https://www.nist.gov/topics/disaster-failure-studies/national-construction-safety-team-ncst/advisory-committee-meetings>.

This meeting will be recorded. Individuals and representatives of organizations who would like to offer comments and suggestions related to items on the Committee's agenda for this meeting are invited to request a place on the agenda. Approximately

twenty minutes will be reserved for public comments and speaking times will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. The amount of time per speaker will be determined by the number of requests received. Questions from the public will not be considered during this period. All those wishing to speak must do so by registering by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at the link provided below, and selecting "yes" to the public comment question in the registration. Any member of the public is also permitted to file a written statement with the advisory committee; speakers who wish to expand upon their oral statements, those who wish to speak but cannot be accommodated on the agenda, and those who are unable to attend are invited to submit written statements electronically by email to disaster@nist.gov.

Anyone wishing to attend the National Construction Safety Team Advisory Committee meeting via web conference must register by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at: <https://www.nist.gov/news-events/events/2026/09/national-construction-safety-team-advisory-committee-meeting-fall-2026>. Once successfully registered, attendees will receive a link to join the meetings by September 22, 2026. Individuals requiring special accommodations to attend virtually should contact Judy.Bowie@nist.gov no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 16, 2026 so that NIST can make the appropriate arrangements.

Alicia Chambers,

NIST Executive Secretariat.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Highly Migratory Species Tournament Registration and Reporting

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. We invite the general public and other Federal agencies to