



A Guide to Nanotechnology for Colorado's Elected Officials

- **As a science, nanotechnology involves the manipulation of matter on an extremely small scale** (1 to 100 nanometers) to create structures, devices and systems with novel and unique properties and functions that become possible because of their small size. A nanometer is one billionth of a meter, about 75,000 times smaller than a human hair. At this scale, different laws of physics apply; material properties change and new material behaviors come into existence.
- **As an economic driver, nanotechnology is no 'small matter'.** Over the next 10 to 20 years, it is anticipated that nanotechnologies will change almost every product on the market today and create unique new products with features and benefits applicable to nearly every aspect of human endeavor. By 2014, nanotechnology will be incorporated into 15% of global manufacturing output totaling \$2.6 trillion. With market growth rates exceeding biotech and infotech, nanotech is forecasted to produce a \$1 trillion global market by 2015 and create 7 million U.S. jobs.
- **Nanotechnology is extremely important to Colorado's economic future.** It is a cross-cutting science with applications in many technology industries including aerospace, defense/homeland security, biomedicine, electronics, information technology, and energy. At least 75 Colorado companies are already working in nanotechnology and 32.6% of survey respondents say it will be critical to company profitability within 10 years.
- **The "Colorado Nanotechnology Roadmap"** was released in September, 2006, by the Leeds School of Business at CU-Boulder. This comprehensive report provides the state's business, academic, research, economic development and government leaders with an action plan to ensure a strong future technology-based economy that maximizes the benefits of responsible development and deployment of nanotechnology.
- **Colorado Nanotechnology Alliance (CNA)**, a not-for-profit corporation with a broad-based Board of Directors that will lead, coordinate and enable partner organizations to complete the action steps necessary to improve Colorado's competitive position in five target areas: leadership, business growth, research & technology transfer, workforce development and public education & societal change.
- **Nanotechnology is extremely important to Colorado's economic future.** It is a cross-cutting science with applications in many technology industries including aerospace, defense/homeland security, biomedicine, electronics and energy. At least 75 Colorado companies are already working in nanotechnology and 32.6% of survey respondents say it will be *critical* to company profitability within 10 years.
- **Colorado's competitive position:** The Roadmap compares Colorado to 7 peer states and 7 states that lead the nation in nanotechnology development, on measures pertinent to a technology economy. Colorado clearly has a strong technology economy but lags its peers in nano-specific research and patents. Except for Wyoming, all of these states have made significant investments in nanotechnology from New York's approximately \$750M (\$38.6 per capita) state funding; to Oklahoma's investment of \$4.63M (\$1.31 per capita). Federal, state, and local governments funded development of the "Colorado Nanotechnology Roadmap" to provide a guide for public and private efforts. It is imperative that government now recognize the importance of investing significant funds to implement the plan.
- **Colorado's elected officials are important to our success.** Other states have already increased research funding, built new research facilities, expanded businesses and created high-wage jobs through the leadership of governors, legislators and Congressional representatives. Colorado's elected officials have the responsibility to initiate and support the policy changes and public financing necessary to ensure that Colorado universities, companies and citizens share these economic benefits.

This is no small task...get involved today.