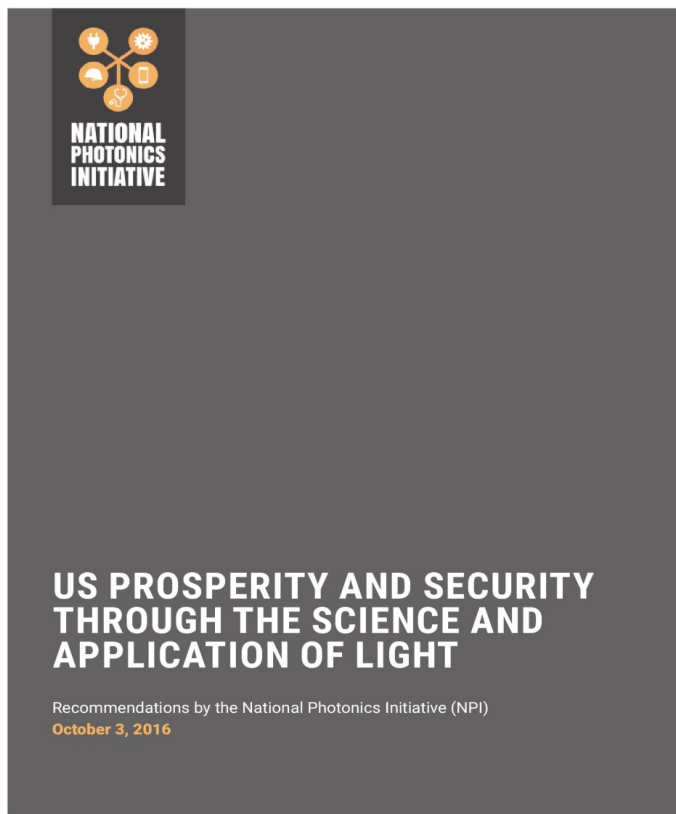




Now that fall is in full swing and Election Day is drawing near, the National Photonics Initiative (NPI) wanted to update our community on our work over the past several months to collaborate with Congress and the administration on joint priorities, and position optics and photonics with the next administration.

A New White Paper for a New Administration



In 2013, the NPI was launched alongside the publication of its first white paper. "Lighting the Path to a Competitive, Secure Future" detailed initial recommendations by the NPI to guide funding and investment in key photonics-driven fields. Over the past three and a half years, the NPI has worked closely with the current administration and Congress to promote public-private collaborations that will spur commercialization of cutting-edge photonics research. While the NPI has made great strides in demonstrating the value of optics and photonics technologies across economic sectors and contributed to national initiatives in health and medicine, defense and advanced manufacturing, and information technology, our

work is not yet done. The NPI is committed to working with the next administration and the 115th Congress to achieve breakthroughs in research commercialization and technology transfer to improve our nation's competitiveness.

The success of the NPI and our policy priorities for 2017 and beyond are captured in our latest white paper, "[US Prosperity and Security Through the Science and Application of Light](#)," published on October 3 and distributed to both Secretary Clinton and Donald Trump's presidential transition teams to tee up our priority issues before the next administration takes office. Priorities include:

- * Establish pathways for the US photonics industry and federal government to collaborate on future technology goals;
- * Work with the US private sector to accelerate photonics research, technology development and commercialization;
- * Increase US technical training in optics and photonics to fill workforce demands;
- * Inventory photonics-related R&D and solicit joint industry projects; and
- * Enable photonics-developed applications across federal agency missions and programs.

We look forward to working with you to advocate for these priorities in Washington, and advance the work of the optics and photonics community across the country in the year ahead.

NPI Cancer Moonshot Workshop Set for April 2017

Since its participation in and support of the Cancer Moonshot Summit hosted by the White House in late June, the NPI Cancer Moonshot Taskforce has continued to support the work of the administration to eliminate cancer through investments in new and existing optics- and photonics-enabled technologies. Through the leadership of the NPI's newest Steering Committee Member and new NPI Cancer Moonshot Taskforce Chair [Eva Sevick](#) and the guidance of the Office of the Vice President (OVP) and other agency officials, the Taskforce is planning a workshop for April 2017 in Washington, DC. The NPI will host leading researchers from clinical research hospitals, government agencies, technology innovators from the medical device industry and academia to discuss current medical challenges in early cancer diagnosis, existing state of the art early diagnosis technologies and new approaches to achieving earlier detection of the most deadly cancers. The expected outcome of this meeting will be a technology roadmap summarizing recommendations for public and private investments in key areas of technology development and clinical studies to accelerate the translation and implementation of early detection methods into clinical practice. More to come on this exciting workshop!

In the meantime, news of the Taskforce's contributes to the Cancer Moonshot were recently captured in [an article](#) for BioPhotonics authored by past NPI Steering Committee member and NPI Cancer Moonshot Taskforce Chair Tom Baer, and two additional articles published by [Optics & Photonics News](#) and [KNKX Seattle](#).

Election Time!

Election Day – November 8 – is almost here and with it ushers in a new political landscape – a new Congress and an entirely new administration. Under the Obama Administration, the NPI has flourished – the BRAIN Initiative, AIM Photonics, Cancer Moonshot and our guidance on next generation High Performance Computing architectures are prime examples of the way we have advanced optics and photonics through joint collaboration. Congressionally speaking, we have also worked successfully across the aisle and with the committees that have jurisdiction over defense and national security; health and medicine; science and technology innovation; and education and the workforce.



The results of the election will undoubtedly have effects on the upcoming political agenda for the NPI. Fortunately, the NPI's work is non-partisan; everyone benefits from advances in optics and photonics, and we are eager to prove it! Please vote on November 8 and look for post-election information from the NPI on upcoming opportunities to educate the newly elected administration and Congress in Washington, DC and in your home district.

Contact Us

The NPI is interested in hearing from you. Are you interested in joining our efforts? Do you have questions? Need additional information? Please contact Laura Kolton at (202) 416 1499 or lkolto@osa.org, or Krisinda Plenkovich at (360) 685 5518 or krisindap@spie.org.

Please visit the NPI website for more information: www.lightourfuture.org.



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