SECOND INTERNATIONAL NANOTECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE
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Abstract

EPA's Nanotechnology Programs: A Focus on Research

By Stephen A. Lingle, Director of the Environmental Engineering Research Division in the National Center for Environmental Research

With the initiation of the National Nanotechnology Initiative in the U.S. in 2001, EPA began a program of research on the environmental applications and implications of nanotechnology. The research was conducted through EPA's STAR (Science to Achieve Results) program that funds competitive extramural research from top academic scientists. The initial phases of the program focused on applications of nanotechnology to support prevention, monitoring, treatment and remediation of new environmental technologies. The effort then turned to research on the health and environmental implications of nanotechnology, including toxicity, fate and transport, exposure and life cycle characteristics of manufactured nanomaterials. To date EPA has supported 65 research projects totaling over $22 million. EPA has also developed partnerships with other federal agencies such as the National Science Foundation and components of the National Institutes of Health who have collaborated on joint research solicitations with EPA. The President's budget request for fiscal year 2007 includes an additional $3 million to expand EPA's nanotechnology research program by creating new research capabilities in EPA's laboratories. In addition, EPA is considering a voluntary "stewardship" program for reporting information pertaining to existing chemicals that are engineered nanoscale materials.