



# SECOND INTERNATIONAL NANOTECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND COOPERATION

## Abstract

### **The Network of Nanoscale Science and Engineering Centers**

By James A. Yardley, Managing Director, Columbia University NSEC.

Within the United States, the National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI) has taken an active role in the creation and development of a set of centers to provide for leadership and direction in the development of new Nanoscale Science. In particular the NSF has created a set of 14 Nanoscale Science and Engineering Centers (NSECs). In addition to providing scientific leadership, these centers are commissioned to provide driving force for a number of other important aspects of Nanotechnology. Thus these centers maintain involvement in exploration of potential societal impact and of business opportunity in realms including materials, medicine, biology, electronics, energy, and the environment. They serve as a primary means for developing new directions and concepts in education and they play an important role in information dissemination. The NSECs also play an important role for the incorporation of international aspects of the evolution and development of nanotechnology, both in terms of scientific and technical discovery and in terms of business opportunity. In doing this the NSECs represent a network that interfaces into many other branches of the overall NNI program. Thus they support and collaborate with other centers which are focused on societal outcome and education for example. They also work closely with other scientific research centers such as the network of DOE Nanocenters. In this talk I will explore the structure of the NSEC program and examine how this program inter-relates to a myriad of other organizations to further the development and evolution of Nanotechnology. I will use many examples from the experiences of the Columbia Nanocenter.