

***“Creating a national initiative: National Nanotechnology Initiative at 20 years”***  
*in brief “Creating NNI” (retrospective video in preparation by TV Worldwide)*

*Synopsis*

Nanotechnology is a megatrend in science and technology at the beginning of the 21 Century. The National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI) has played a key role in advancing the field after it was announced by President Clinton in January 2000. M.C. Roco proposed the initiative at the White House in March 1999 on behalf of the Interagency Working Group on Nanotechnology. NSF led the preparation of this initiative together with other agencies including NIH, DoD, DOE, NASA, and EPA. The scientific and societal success of NNI has been recognized in the professional communities, National Academies, PCAST, and Congress. This brief retrospective video is made for the 20th NNI grantees conference at NSF. It is focused on creating and implementing NNI, by using interviews. The interviews will focus on three questions on: (a) Motivation and how NNI started; (b) The process and reason for the success in creating NNI; (c) Outcomes of NNI after 20 years, and how the initial vision has been realized. The video is estimated to be finalized in the first quarter of 2022.

*Selected references at the beginning of NNI:*

- The first *report* formulating the motivation and vision of NNI, which was adopted as an official White House/National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) document, and then used as key report for advancing NNI support at OMB and Congress:

***Nanotechnology Research Directions: Vision for the Next Decade (1999)***, Roco MC, Williams RS, Alivisatos P (eds). WH/NSTC Report, Washington, DC; Also, published by Springer (2000). Available on [https://www.nano.gov/sites/default/files/pub\\_resource/research\\_directions\\_1999.pdf](https://www.nano.gov/sites/default/files/pub_resource/research_directions_1999.pdf)

- The first evaluations of NNI by National Academies: NRC (National Research Council):

***Small Wonders, Endless Frontiers: A Review of the National Nanotechnology Initiative (2002)***, NASEM, Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. Available on <https://doi.org/10.17226/10395>

- The first evaluation by the WH Presidential Council of Advisors on Science and Technology:

***The National Nanotechnology Initiative at five years: assessment and recommendations of the National Nanotechnology Advisory Panel (2005)***. PCAST, Washington, DC: Office of Science and Technology Policy. Available on <https://www.nano.gov/node/708>