

Spotlight – September 2009

Research, Science & Technology

Federal Research and Development Funding: FY2010. Congressional Research Service. July 15, 2009.

Congress will play a central role in defining the nation's R&D priorities, especially with respect to two overarching issues: the extent to which the Federal R&D investment can grow in the context of increased pressure on discretionary spending and how available funding will be prioritized and allocated. [ARTICLE 769](#)

[Federally Funded R&D Centers](#); Master Government List. National Science Foundation.

Federally Funded Innovation Inducement Prizes by Deborah S. Stein. *Congressional Research Service*. June 29, 2009.

The scientific and technological goals for federally-funded innovation inducement prizes include the full spectrum of research, development, testing, demonstration, and deployment. They are an alternative to more traditional ways of achieving societal objectives with S&T such as grants, contracts, fees, patents, and human or physical infrastructure investments that some think are too costly, risk-averse, and bureaucratic. [ARTICLE 770](#)

The Manhattan Project, the Apollo Program, and Federal Energy Technology R&D Programs: A Comparative Analysis by Deborah D. Stine. *Congressional Research Service*. June 30, 2009.

Some policymakers have concluded that the energy challenges facing the U.S. are so critical that a concentrated investment in energy R&D should be undertaken. The Manhattan project and the Apollo program have been cited as examples of the success such R&D investments can yield. Investment in federal energy technology R&D programs of the 1970s, in response to two energy crises, have generally been viewed as less successful than the earlier two efforts. This report compares and contrasts the three initiatives. [ARTICLE 771](#)

Robots at War: The New Battlefield by P. W. Singer. *The Wilson Quarterly*.

On the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan, robots are killing America's enemies and saving American lives. But today's PackBots, Predators, and Ravens are relatively primitive machines. The coming generation of "war-bots" will be immensely more sophisticated, and their development raises troubling new questions about how and when we wage war. [ARTICLE 772](#)

[After the Dot.com Bubble: Silicon Valley High-Tech Employment and Wages in 2001 and 2008.](#) *Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept of Labor*. August 2009.

[Science and Technology Priorities for the FY 2011 Budget.](#) August 4, 2009.

Memorandum for the heads of executive departments and agencies; Office of Management and Budget and Office of Science and Technology Policy.

[The National Nanotechnology Initiative: Overview, Reauthorization, and Appropriations Issues](#) by John F. Sargent Jr. *Congressional Research Service*. May 6, 2009.