

## NIST Celebrates its First Century of Service

*For 100 years, the National Institute of Standards and Technology has helped to keep U.S. technology at the leading edge. Over the years, NIST has made solid contributions to metrology, image processing, DNA diagnostic "chips," smoke detectors, and automated error-correcting software for machine tools. NIST also has had major impact on atomic clocks, X-ray standards for mammography, scanning tunneling microscopy, pollution-control technology, law enforcement equipment standards and high-speed dental drills. Consumers trust the mass or volume on package labels and in their other purchases thanks in large part to NIST, which convened the first meeting of U.S. weights and measures officials in 1905. NIST's work to ensure fairness in the marketplace continues today through activities such as support of state, federal, and international legal metrology activities such as OIML.*

**F**ounded on March 3, 1901, NIST was the federal government's first physical science research laboratory. NIST's major accomplishments of the past 100 years and their impact on industry, science and technology, the nation's economy, and the public are described in NIST at 100: Foundations for Progress, an extensive, illustrated web site at

<http://www.100.NIST.gov>

Special events and meetings are planned throughout the year to celebrate the occasion. In July, the National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWM) will hold its 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., in honor of the NIST centennial celebration. Special commemorative activities are planned during the meeting to recognize NIST's leadership role in maintaining the quality and integrity of the nation's measurement system and the 96 years of cooperation between NIST and NCWM in working toward uniformity in weights and measures laws, regulations, and practices.

The success of the joint efforts of NIST and NCWM are recognized in a new NIST publication SP 958, "A Century of Excellence in Measurements, Standards, and Technology." The publication contains vignettes describing some of the classic publications from NIST's first century. One section entitled "Uniformity in Weights and Measures Laws and Regulations" describes the history of NIST's collaboration with NCWM to develop such significant publications as NIST Handbooks 44, "Specifications, Tolerances, and Other Technical Requirements for Weighing and Measuring Devices" and 130, "Uniform Laws and Regulations." Also recognized are the Reports of the NCWM, which serve as a legislative history of the requirements in the uniform laws adopted by the NCWM. A complete copy of the publication is available on the Internet at

<http://nvl.nist.gov/pub/nistpubs/sp958-lide/cntsp958.htm>

On March 6, 60 representatives of industry associations, embassy science counselors, and directors of other countries' National Measurement Institutes attended an industry open house in Gaithersburg. That evening a Gala Celebration was held at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C. The approximately 830 attendees dressed in their finest for the auspicious occasion, which featured an elegant dinner and entertainment. VIP speakers included U.S. Secretary of Commerce Don Evans, Visiting Committee Chair Thomas Manuel, and Representative Sherwood Boehlert, chair of the U.S. House of Representative's Science Committee. Also attending were former Secretary of Commerce Barbara Hackman Franklin; Senator Debbie Stabenow and Representatives Mark Udall, Gil Gutknecht, and Sheila Jackson Lee; and past NIST Directors Lewis Branscomb, Ernest Ambler, John Lyons, Arati Prabhakar, and Ray Kammer. Forty-nine organizations, including OIML presented plaques in honor of NIST's centennial to Acting Director Karen Brown.

On March 7, more than 200 people attended a Symposium on Standards in the Global Economy at NIST Gaithersburg. The event focused on past accomplishments, present activities, and future trends in standards for several sectors of importance to the U.S. economy. Attending were corporate VIPs; directors of professional societies, standards organizations, and other national standards laboratories; and all five living past NIST directors. A business meeting of the National Metrology Institute (NMI) directors was held at NIST Gaithersburg, followed by laboratory tours. Nearly 60 NMI representatives attended.

OIML joined NIST in celebrating its first 100 years through its delegation that included Gerard Faber, Dr. Manfred Kochsiek, Jean-François Magaña and Lev K. Issaev, Deputy Director, VNIIMS Gosstandart who attended the NIST Centennial festivities. ■