

Committee: Government Affairs

Date/Time: July 26, 3:00 pm Eastern

Participants: Loucas Tsakalacos, Michael Bozlar, Babu Chalamala, Daniel Becerra, Jen Nekuda Malik, Christopher Schuck, Colleen Scott, Damon Dozier, Natalie Larocco

Unable to participate: Jeffrey Aguilar, Mayra Castro, Alex Chortos, Angela Cleri, Jennifer DiStefano, Boris Dyatkin, Elias Garratt, William Hammetter, Sean Hearne, Sean Langan, Nick Moroni, Juan Claudio Nino, Suyog Padgaonkar, Linda Olafsen, Dave Parrillo, Dio Placencia, Erin Ratcliff, Clarissa May Towle, Kenon Song, David Steuerman, Steven Smith, Jeremy Ward, Stan Wong,

Next call	August 23, 2022, 3:00 pm Eastern	
Responsibility	Action Items	Due
Damon	Find out if money in the CHIPS bill is set aside for a national center for semiconductor research Send final versions of the White Papers to GAC members after the MRS Art Department finishes them	
Members	Let Damon know of any colleagues who are interested in joining GAC and are MRS members	
Babu	Send Damon the link to supply chain issue reports prepared by DOE	

AGENDA

Washington Update
CVD
Federal Agency Summit

GAC Chair Loucas Tsakalacos welcomed new member Michael Bozlar and the other GAC members taking part in today’s call. GAC MRS liaison Damon Dozier reminded GAC members to let him know if they have a colleague who would be interested in joining GAC and is an MRS member.

Washington DC Update

The Senate has whittled the original USICA/COMPETES Bill down to 3 provisions. There’s an influx of money into semiconductor production (\$50 billion) and tax credits for construction of FABS that strengthens NSF, DOE, and NIST. The bill is still currently being costed out at \$79 billion.

There are significant differences between the House and Senate version of the CHIPS bill, which passed the Senate with bipartisan support. The hope is that bipartisanship will extend to the House version.

Christopher Schuck asked whether the money going to DOE and DOD is earmarked for 6.1 funding? Damon explained that where the DOD funding will go is not delineated. The NSF, NIST and Commerce funding will likely be more on the basic side.

Babu Chalamala asked whether there's a research component supporting manufacturing. Damon explained that there's money for manufacturing and construction of FAB facilities, then for research across all three of the prongs.

Damon hasn't seen anything yet indicating a national center for semiconductor research but **will try to find out more information.**

The new technology directorate set up by NIF was using redirected funds that gave it a boost but not enough to cover the original proposal.

Appropriations Bills in the House

Energy, Water, and NDAA have moved forward. Except for DOE and NSF, the increases are modest.

The NSF is not seen as amenable to the Democratic staff on the Science Committee. They wanted something more aspirational and likely won't finish on time. There's only September and October to finish the bills, as August is lost due to the recess. Nothing is likely on appropriations until the end of the lame duck sessions.

Ambitious goals were set:

DOE over 40 billion

NSF 11 billion

Grassroots Advocacy Working Group Update

Space Materials and Fusion white papers are in development; they have been sent to the MRS Art Department. **Damon will send these to the committee members after they're finished.**

CVD Activity

A number of touch points were made with important representatives, including the Democrat and Republican Science Committee.

The next CVD will be in either September or October. Do members of GAC want to talk to their elected representatives to spread the word of MRS?

Are the elected representatives open to doing something positive? How effective is the meeting? Damon answered that CVD yields different responses depending on the staff and their level of experience. CVD is effective because the alternative is saying nothing. Successes on the advocacy front include launching quantum and increased DOD funding. It's necessary to constantly remind them, even though it's rare for someone to be anti-science.

There are also external factors; government began caring about quantum after seeing what happened in China. The security briefings that were held on Capitol Hill initiated a faster movement on the CHIPS bill. Over time, politicians begin championing things they hadn't before.

Due to the new COVID variant, both CVD and the Federal Agency Summit will be virtual. The Fall Meeting in Boston will be in person.

Damon plans a meeting for GAC prior to F22. If a number of members are attending F22 in person, Damon will plan on an in-person committee meeting.

MRS Board Secretary Dawnielle Farrar-Gaines has asked Grassroots Advocacy to work on a white paper for the supply chain issues. Damon will schedule a meeting with Chair Boris Dyatkin, GAC Chair Loucas Tsakalacos, and himself. After the meeting, a team will be assembled to begin developing the white paper. The Board wants GAC to investigate the issue.

Babu Chalamala will send Damon a link to reports assembled by DOE on some of these matters.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.