



Committee Applauds First Round of ARPA-E Funding Awards

On [October 26](#), Secretary of Energy Steven Chu announced the first round of funding awards for the Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy (ARPA-E). ARPA-E was part of the 2007 *American COMPETES Act* and received its first funding from the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* earlier this year.



“I am excited to see ARPA-E get off the ground. Our country desperately needs big breakthroughs—not just incremental change—in energy technologies if we are going to meet our growing need for affordable energy, lower our carbon emissions, and grow new sectors of the economy. ARPA-E is bringing together the best and brightest nationwide to work on solving these challenges. These partnerships help speed the pace of innovation and ensure that these new technologies get to the market quickly,” said **Chairman Gordon**. “I’m encouraged by the president’s decision to put Dr. Majumdar at the helm. By all accounts he has what it takes to put ARPA-E on a course to accomplish great things.”

Photo of Dr. Arun Marjumdar, ARPA-E Director. (Photo credit: DOE)

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OCTOBER 2009
E-NEWS

Newsletter Spotlight

Welcome to the October edition of the [House Committee on Science and Technology's](#) E-Newsletter.

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Sincerely,

Bart Gordon,
Chairman,
U.S. House Committee

House Passes S&T Solar Roadmap Legislation

On [October 22](#), the House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved [H.R. 3585](#), the *Solar Technology Roadmap Act*. This legislation will establish a comprehensive process to create a roadmap for solar technology research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) activities. Specifically, H.R. 3585 will focus on the RD&D programs and activities conducted by the federal government, especially the Department of Energy (DOE), and their partnerships with the private sector.



Photo of a large concentrated solar plant from [Mr. Ken Zweibel's testimony](#) from the hearing on [July 14](#).

“This country has some of the smartest, most talented people in the world working to improve the efficiency and cost effectiveness of solar cells today. But these people need a serious roadmap,” said bill author **Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee Chairwoman Gabrielle Giffords**.

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October Hearings:

[October 1](#) — *Investigating the Nature of Matter, Energy, Space, and Time*

[October 8](#) — *Investing in High-Risk, High-Reward Research*

[October 21](#) — *Biomass for Thermal Energy and Electricity Through a Research and Development Portfolio for the Future*

[October 22](#) — *Cybersecurity Activities at NIST's Information Technology Laboratory*

[October 22](#) — *Strengthening NASA's Technology Development Programs*

[October 22](#) — *Engineering in K-12 Education*

[October 27](#) — *Developing Research Priorities at DHS's Science and Technology Directorate*

[October 29](#) — *The Next Generation of Fusion Energy Research*

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Chairman Gordon Comments on Augustine Committee Report

On October 22, the Review of the U.S. Human Space Flight Plans Committee released its final report. While the Committee is reviewing the full report, Chairman Gordon offered: “Human exploration can offer many tangible benefits to our society such as driving technological innovation. We Americans fundamentally have to decide whether we want to have a human space exploration program or not—if we do, the Augustine panel makes clear that we will need to invest additional resources.”



Chairman Gordon talking with Mr. Norman Augustine before the hearing on September 15.

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House Passes S&T Legislation

On October 20, the House approved H.R. 3819, to extend the commercial space transportation liability regime, and two resolutions, H.Res. 558 and H.Res. 793.

[Read more >>](#)

On October 22, the House passed H.R. 3585, *Solar Technology Roadmap Act*.

[Read more >>](#)

S&T Bills Pass to Help Protect the Public from Fires & Natural Disasters

On October 21, the Committee passed H.R. 3791, *Fire Grants Act of 2009*. H.R. 3791, introduced by **Rep. Harry Mitchell**, supports firefighters by reauthorizing the Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program. The Committee also approved H.R. 3820, *Natural Hazards Risks Reduction Act of 2009*. This bill, introduced by **Subcommittee Chairman David Wu**, reauthorizes the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program and the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program.

[Read more about H.R. 3791 and H.R. 3820 >>](#)

Committee Passes S&T Legislation

On October 7, the Committee approved H.R. 3650, *Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2009*, H.R. 3585, *Solar Technology Roadmap Act*, and H.R. 3598, *Energy and Water Research Integration Act*.

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Committee Applauds Ares I-X Launch



Photo of Ares I-X test rocket. (Photo credit: NASA/Scott Andrews)

On October 28, NASA successfully launched its test rocket, Ares I-X, at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Ares I-X is a 327 foot tall aerodynamic model of Ares I, a key part of NASA's Constellation program.

“I want to congratulate the NASA and contractor team on a successful Ares I-X test flight. This is an important milestone in the development of the vehicles that will carry Americans into a new era of exploration,” stated **Chairman Bart Gordon**.

On October 14, the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee approved H.R. 3791, *Fire Grants Reauthorization Act of 2009*.

[Read more >>](#)

On October 21, the Committee passed H.R. 3791 and H.R. 3820, *Natural Hazards Risk Reduction Act of 2009*.

[Read more >>](#)

Looking Ahead

In November, the Committee will hold a hearing on [geoengineering](#) and markup the [Cybersecurity Coordination and Awareness Act](#). Please check the Committee's website for more information and the exact dates and times of these events.

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