

**CHARTER**  
**of the**  
**SUBCOMMITTEE ON BIOMETRICS AND IDENTITY MANAGEMENT**  
**COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY**  
**NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL**

**A. Official Designation**

The Subcommittee on Biometrics and Identity Management (Subcommittee) is hereby established by action of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Committee on Technology (COT).

**B. Purpose and Scope**

Background

In recent years, electronic identities have proliferated rapidly, playing a key role in commerce, security, and many other aspects of today's highly connected, mobile world. This change has been accompanied by an increased need to ensure high-confidence identification of specific individuals, giving rise to the confluence of biometrics and “identity management” (IdM).

Biometrics are the most definitive, real-time IdM tools currently available; however, use of the technology thus far has mainly consisted of systems designed to meet narrow objectives. To fully meet federal IdM requirements, the use of biometrics technology must be made more robust, scalable and interoperable. Meeting these needs will require biometrics technology enhancements, adjustments of commercial business practices and system designs, and development of consensus on social, legal, privacy and policy considerations. Collaboration among the biometrics community—government, industry and academia—on these common challenges is essential.

Numerous identity management technologies, standards and related plans are being developed independently at the application and sector-specific levels (such as telecommunications, border security, financial services, identity theft, etc.). While these all positively contribute to advancing IdM, the technology and its potential benefits will be limited without cross-sector and cross-application coordination and a common technological foundation. At the Federal level, needs and uses vary significantly, and a one-size-fits-all technical IdM architecture cannot satisfy all agency constraints and requirements. However, there are clear commonalities that would benefit from a coordinated Federal effort, enhance agencies’ abilities to meet mission needs, ensure privacy protection, and enable individuals to exercise their identities securely.

FunctionsThe purpose of the Subcommittee is to advise and assist the COT, NSTC and other coordination bodies of the Executive Office of the President on policies, procedures and plans for federally sponsored biometric and IdM activities. The Subcommittee will facilitate a strong, coordinated, effort across federal agencies to identify and address important policy issues, as well as research, testing, standards, privacy and outreach needs.

The Subcommittee serves as part of the internal deliberative process of the NSTC. Reporting to and directed by the COT, the Subcommittee will:

- For Biometrics:
  - Provide technical leadership in the development and implementation of interoperable federal biometric systems;
  - Develop and implement multi-agency investment strategies that advance biometric sciences to meet public and private needs;
  - Develop and adopt biometric standards as specified in the *NSTC Policy for Enabling the Development, Adoption and Use of Biometric Standards*;
  - Develop consensus strategic outreach plans for biometrics, including collaboration on [www.biometrics.gov](http://www.biometrics.gov), the annual Biometric Consortium Conference and other events;
- For IdM:
  - Identify cross-sector IdM issues, and develop and implement plans to address the federal government's priority S&T needs
  - Facilitate the inclusion of privacy-protecting principles in IdM system design;
  - Promote a scientifically educated and aware public that properly understands IdM technologies, federal programs and issues;
  - Strengthen international and public sector partnerships to foster the advancement of IdM technologies.

The Subcommittee Co-Chairs, consistent with the Committee's endorsement, will recommend action on major issues to the Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy, for approval.

### Membership

The following NSTC departments and agencies are represented on the Subcommittee:

Department of Commerce  
Department of Defense  
Department of Health and Human Services

Department of Homeland Security  
Department of Justice  
Department of State  
Department of Transportation  
Department of Treasury  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
Federal Trade Commission  
General Services Administration

Intelligence Community

Internal Revenue Service  
National Science Foundation  
Social Security Administration

The following organizations in the Executive Office of the President shall also be represented on the Subcommittee:

Office of Management and Budget  
Office of Science and Technology Policy  
Office of the Vice President  
Homeland Security Council  
National Security Council

Cooperating departments and agencies shall include such other Executive organizations, departments and agencies as the Subcommittee co-chairs may, from time to time, designate.

#### Private Sector Interface

The Subcommittee may seek advice from members of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology and will recommend to the Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy the nature of additional private sector advice needed to accomplish its mission. The Subcommittee may also interact with and receive ad hoc advice from various private-sector groups as consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

#### Termination Date

Unless renewed by the Chairman of NSTC prior to its expiration, the Subcommittee shall terminate no later than July 31, 2009.

#### Determination

I hereby determine that the formation of the Subcommittee on Biometrics is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Executive Branch by law, and that such duties can best be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.