

NANOSYSTEMS AND MICROSYSTEMS: A STRATEGIC POSITION FOR A NEW ECONOMY

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In the last ten years, nano and microsystems technology has evolved from an academic and laboratory curiosity to a viable technology with widespread applications in many industrial and consumer areas. Significant advancements are being made to package, to manufacture, and to assemble microsystem products in large volumes. As we look to the next few years and beyond, we will find that nano and microsystems will have a tremendous impact on our communications, our health, our travel, and on every aspect of our lives. Nano and microsystems will have an equally significant affect on how we manufacture products. The manufacturing facilities, processes, clean environments, and equipment will be designed specifically for the fabrication of nano and microsystems products. These products will be smaller, smarter, higher performing, and much lower in cost than the products of today. In addition, nano and microsystems technology will enable new products that are not possible using current technologies. They will have a disruptive effect on every industry in the way products are made and delivered to the consumer.