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I am relatively new to the nano materials industry having joined Pixelligent Technologies only 18 months ago as SVP Manufacturing and Operations however I do have many years of experience in technology transfer and commercialization. I attended the 2013 Stakeholder Perspectives on the Perception, Assessment, and Management of the Potential Risks of Nanotechnology, organized by National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI) and based on this meeting and review of this NNI draft I have an observation.

One of the 4 key goals of this initiative is to drive the development and launch of commercial products utilizing NEMs. I believe that there is room for improvement regarding strategies to accomplish this goal. Primarily there should be more formalized and aggressive efforts around guiding potential manufacturers through the compliance process and as part of this there should be increased communication and cooperation between the regulatory agencies and manufacturers (ref page 5 lines 13-15). Also on page 17 lines 27-41 the statement is made that based on targeted interests of EPA they want to take advantage of commercially available ENMs to improve the environment but do not mention a focus on helping to get new materials through compliance in an accelerated manor. Lastly page 27 lines 16-37 discuss the goal of commercializing ENMs and NEPs but doesn't stress cooperative and proactive removal of barriers to timely commercialization.

There appears to be a lot of research dollars focused on Health Safety and Environmental issues understanding but there could be more of a focus on facilitating, guiding, and expediting companies through the compliance process. Not to short cut the process in any way from a risk stand point but to work more cooperatively to outline the steps required to gain fastest approval and to minimize que time for these applications. Lack of clarity around compliance requirements effects many parts of the commercialization process including fund raising, financial planning, and the ability to make customer commitments.

Another indicator of limited success in integrating manufacturers into this strategy was the attendance demographic at the September 2013 NNI Stakeholders meeting. It appeared to me that >>90% of the attendees were government agencies and universities and that much of the discussion was about how "X" organization can gain funding from "Y" group rather than how all aspects of the NNI strategy link to safe, timely, and predictable commercialization of technologies. Understanding the drivers of the limited attendance by the manufacturing sector at meetings like this would be helpful in understanding what to change to drive a more cohesive public and private strategy.