

# [***Biden Tech Agency Grapples With Lab Flooding And Funding Woes Amid AI Regulation Push***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6BGR-BPN1-JBFB-H115-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Body**

[*Link to Image*](https://cdn01.dailycaller.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/GettyImages-1765553853-scaled-e1709735158645.jpg)

President Joe Biden's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), which is tasked with overseeing artificial intelligence (AI) regulation, is dealing with lab and funding issues, The Washington Post reported on Wednesday.

Biden's [*sweeping*](https://dailycaller.com/2023/10/30/biden-admin-unprecedented-ai-executive-order-safety-equity/) AI [*executive order*](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2023/10/30/executive-order-on-the-safe-secure-and-trustworthy-development-and-use-of-artificial-intelligence/) tasks the NIST with ensuring AI is safely deployed, including by establishing guidelines and goals for reviewing the capabilities of the technology to mitigate its negative impacts. The agency's lack of funding has led to its campuses in Maryland and Colorado experiencing black mold, repeated blackouts, inconsistent internet connections, leaks, floods and minimal staff, [*according*](https://archive.is/JdAke) to over a dozen former and current employees, Biden administration officials and others the Post interviewed, some of whom commented anonymously because of lack of authorization to speak with media. [***(RELATED: Kamala Harris Enlists Liberal Megadonors To Combat 'Disinformation' And Safeguard 'Democracy' From AI)***](https://dailycaller.com/2023/11/01/kamala-harris-ai-liberal-megadonors/)

Today, [*@CommerceGov*](https://twitter.com/CommerceGov?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) announced the formation of the NIST-administered U.S. AI Safety Institute Consortium, which will unite government and industry with AI developers and users. Read more: [*https://t.co/Gqn3vZ4um6*](https://t.co/Gqn3vZ4um6) [*pic.twitter.com/8FwAHSXXHa*](https://t.co/8FwAHSXXHa)

- National Institute of Standards and Technology (@NIST) [*February 8, 2024*](https://twitter.com/NIST/status/1755638466979959007?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

“If we knew rain was coming, we'd tarp up the microscope,” James Fekete, who until 2018 was chief of NIST's applied chemicals and materials division, told the Post. “It leaked enough that we were prepared.”

NIST is currently working on establishing an [*AI Safety Institute*](https://www.nist.gov/artificial-intelligence/artificial-intelligence-safety-institute), which is backed by over 200 [*entities*](https://www.nist.gov/artificial-intelligence/artificial-intelligence-safety-institute/aisic-members), including Big Tech companies. Certain individuals in the AI sector worry that Big Tech will have an outsized influence on the regulatory agency because the tech giants are helping to provide it with resources, according to the Post.

Amazon is [*contributing*](https://www.aboutamazon.com/news/policy-news-views/amazon-joins-us-artificial-intelligence-safety-institute-to-advance-responsible-ai) $5 million in computing resources to the institute while [*Microsoft*](https://dailycaller.com/2024/02/26/microsoft-president-visited-white-house-dozens-of-times-amid-effort-to-influence-biden-on-ai-policy/) is offering engineering teams, according to the Post.

“You see dust everywhere because the windows don't seal,” former acting NIST director Kent Rochford, who left the agency in 2018, told the Post. “You see a bucket catching drips from a leak in the roof. You see Home Depot dehumidifiers or portable AC units all over the place.”

The NIST is [*part of*](https://www.commerce.gov/bureaus-and-offices/nist) the Commerce Department.

“While the administration has been clear that additional resources will be required to fully address all of the issues posed by AI in the long term, NIST has been effectively carrying out its responsibilities under the [executive order] and is prepared to continue to lead on AI-related research and other work,” Commerce Department spokesman Charlie Andrews told the Post.

The White House hosted a [*meeting*](https://dailycaller.com/2024/01/23/white-house-huddles-groups-funded-left-wing-orgs-craft-fair-ai-policy/) in January with representatives from several organizations backed by left-wing entities to mold AI policy. They discussed the Biden administration's commitment to policies that foster “fair, open, and competitive markets,” [*according*](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2024/01/20/readout-of-white-house-meeting-on-competition-policy-and-artificial-intelligence/) to a readout.

Moreover, the administration [*collaborated*](https://dailycaller.com/2023/11/01/kamala-harris-ai-liberal-megadonors/) with some of the same left-wing philanthropies in November on an AI initiative to combat “disinformation” and shield “democracy” from AI threats, [*according*](https://www.fordfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Philanthropies-Launch-New-Initiative-to-Ensure-AI-Advances-the-Public-Interest-1.pdf) to a project document.

The White House pointed the Daily Caller News Foundation to a [*post*](https://twitter.com/RMPatterson46/status/1765403738179555599) asserting the Biden administration “has so far met every single one of the milestones laid out by @POTUS ' EO. And the groundbreaking AI work being done by NIST is not being carried out in any of the facilities described below,” in reference to the Post's report.

The NIST and Commerce Department did not immediately respond to the DCNF's request for comment

Editor's note: This article has been updated to include a response from the White House on the Post's report.

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**Graphic**

WASHINGTON, DC - OCTOBER 30: U.S. President Joe Biden delivers remarks about his administration's approach to artificial intelligence during an event in the East Room of the White House on October 30, 2023 in Washington, DC. President Biden issued a new executive order on Monday, directing his administration to create a new chief AI officer, track companies developing the most powerful AI systems, adopt stronger privacy policies and "both deploy AI and guard against its possible bias," creating new safety guidelines and industry standards.

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