

NIST RFP

*Study on People's Republic of China (PRC) Policies and Influence in the Development of International Standards for Emerging Technologies*

I have been involved international machinery safety standards development for over 20 years. During that time, I have seen an increased interest in international standards development from the PRC, particularly in last 10 years.

I understand that the PRC has an explicit goal to achieve as many, or more, leadership positions in standards efforts as the US. The result has been a plethora of new work item proposals on a variety of topics for which it could be argued (and has in several cases) that no standard is needed. For example, the PRC proposed a series of standards for desiccants. The US voted negative as it did not see a need for standardizing the terminology, the means, and methods of producing desiccants.

I have seen the US and other western countries navigate the standards waters to try to preempt the PRC from gaining a leadership position in certain industry standards development. This was a defensive play that is still ongoing.

My experience has been that PRC involvement in international standards has been primarily based on benefiting the PRC and less so on the common good. While all countries do this, the PRC may not yet have the global experience with machinery technical standards to lead these groups in order to arrive at consensus.

Mitigating the influence of the PRC and promoting the interests of the US will depend on the US members being engaged and involved in the plethora of standards activities that currently exist, and those that will be forthcoming. If you are not at the table, someone else will write the rules. The only way to mitigate the PRC from writing rules heavily in their favor is to be at the table and participate in the messiness of standards development.

I would be happy to discuss my experiences in international standards development with NIST at your convenience.

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