



AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL
AND BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING

CONTACT: Benjamin Corb
Manager, Public Affairs
202.496.9660
bcorb@aimbe.org

**AIMBE APPLAUDS THE ADMINISTRATIONS DECISION TO AMMEND THE
FY2009 FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION BUDGET**

June 11, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington, D.C. – The American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) applauds the efforts of the Bush Administration to change course in their funding proposals for the FY2009 budget for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). On June 9, the Administration amended its FY09 ask to increase FDA funding by \$275 million, to nearly \$2.9 billion, an 18% increase for the FY08 FDA budget.

The proposed increase, as outlined by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) would allow the FDA to aggressively extend its reach beyond American borders by establishing a presence in five countries or regions, globally, in an effort to ensure greater international compliance with FDA standards and regulations. Other uses for the increase in funding include modernizing critical infrastructure, and increasing the number of foreign and domestic inspections of food and medical production facilities.

“The Administration, and FDA Commissioner Von Eschenbach specifically, should be commended for taking this rare and bold move to make a mid-year course correction on funding,” said AIMBE President Dr. John Watson. Dr. Watson added, “While this increase will go a long way towards helping to appropriately fund the FDA, its important to realize this is only a temporary fix. The Administration must do more to correct the FDA budget so it can meet the regulatory goals Congress has established and protect American’s health and foster innovation.”

The proposed increase still needs to be passed by Congress, an action AIMBE strongly supports.

###

*American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
1901 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW – Suite 401
Washington, D.C. 20006
www.aimbe.org*