

## **NIC Provides Focus to SMR Conference**

The U.S. Nuclear Infrastructure Council participated in a panel discussion on the Production of Small Modular Reactors at the October 18-20, 2010 conference 'Building the Value Chain for Commercializing Small Modular Reactors' sponsored by Infocast, Excel Services Corporation, Chadbourne & Parke LLP, Haynes and Boone LLP, and Pillsbury.

Over a period of three days, at Top of Hill near the U.S. Capitol, conference attendees participated in a series of workshops and panel discussions covering a wide variety of issues on the commercialization and development of small modular reactors, such as licensing, design potential for implementation of SMR technology, and the finances of pursuing SMR manufacturing.

On the third and final day, after a morning of panel discussions covering venture capital investment and the commercial financeability of SMRs, NIC concluded the conference by focusing the panel discussion towards the imminent needs and present realities of pursuing SMR technology.

NIC laid out two pressing needs for moving forward in SMR production: the need to cultivate both a wider private sector interest and political support in Congress in pursuing a large scale "Apollo-style" commitment for SMR development in a new nuclear build and fostering a culture of transparency and accountability in the NRC as they address a new approach towards SMR licensing procedures. These two goals are necessary first steps towards promoting the commercialization of small modular reactors, said NIC.