



Research and Innovation Transition Team



Purpose



-
- Response to action from September 2008 CB meeting to develop a solution to manage field innovation transition to operations.



Issue



-
- Frustration with slow transition of research and innovation into NWS enterprise-wide operations



Background



- Innovation is vital for operations process improvement
 - Line Office Labs
 - Academia
 - Centers, Regions, and Weather Forecast Offices
- Field generally innovates to address unmet needs
- Transitioning innovation to operations is slow
- Poor transition management creates budget year crises and difficult to sustain programs
- OST Fall Technology Day highlighted depth of frustration and causes



What are the causes?



- NWS has processes to work innovation into operations but....
 - OSIP is intimidating and not well understood (e.g., OSIP exploratory research phase)
 - No single help desk to support innovators
 - No single executive-level process owner
- Poor mechanisms for early identification of innovations with enterprise-wide potential
 - Need time to work programmatic and funding solutions to reduce costs and risk
- Too many projects and not enough resources results in unmet promises



Solution



-
- Establish a **customer-focused** Research and Innovation Transition Team (RITT) **accountable** for facilitating the transition of agreed-upon innovation projects into NWS operations; key duties:
 - Maintains awareness of innovations with enterprise potential
 - Identifies promising projects for OST seed funding
 - Connects field innovators and labs to synchronize efforts
 - Coaches innovation teams through OSIP – templates, checklists
 - Champions projects and works to find funding/resource vehicles
 - Oversees and arranges for formal work agreements



Solution (cont.)



- Establishes a process for innovation and research transition
- Coordinates activities with:
 - NWS Uniformity of Services Committee
 - NOAA Programs and Testbeds
 - NOAA Social Sciences Working Group
 - NOAA Research Council
 - NOAA Goal Teams
- Measures it's performance and briefs OST/D monthly



The Research and Innovation Transition Team



Team Mission: To Transition Innovation and Research
Projects into NWS Operations

Defines, tracks and monitors NWS Innovation Projects
at four stages:

- Incubation – through Innovation Advisory Board
- Prototyping – through close ties with testbeds
- Demonstration
- Implementation

Plus....staffs NWS Line Office Transition Manager
(OST/D)



The Research and Innovation Transition Team



Vision:

A customer-service organization that fuses knowledge of field innovations with PPBES and OSIP to support the field in expediting research and innovations into operations

Resources:

- OST offering 4 positions to staff RITT
- OAR may contribute one position
- Rotational Assignment for field personnel?
- OST working to acquire \$500K annually to seed innovation projects



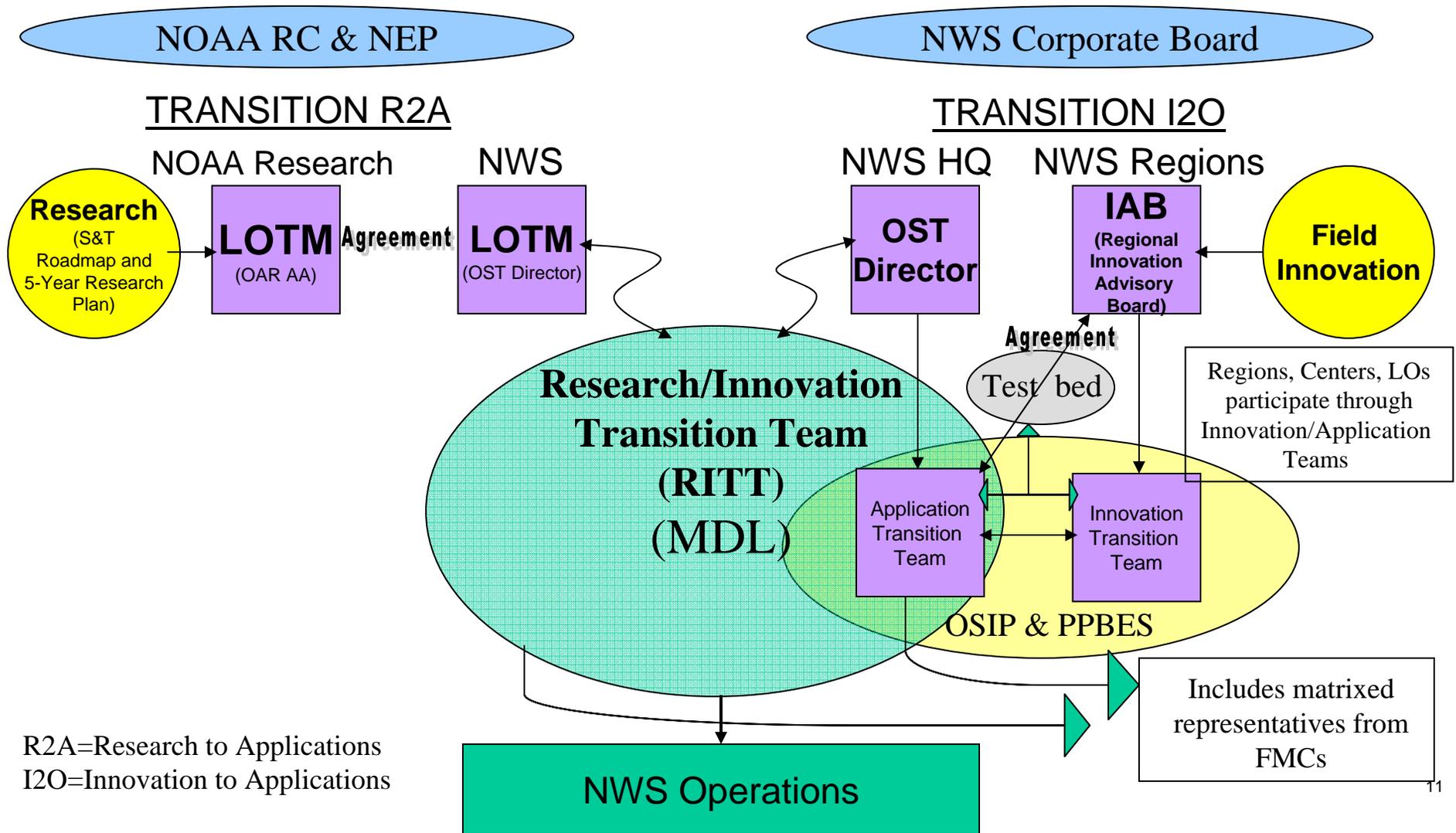
Key Points



- Regional SSDs agreed to stand-up an Innovation Advisory Board (IAB) that will validate and prioritize regional innovation projects going enterprise-wide.
- The RITT:
 - does not do the OSIP paperwork and carry out the transitions...but supports project teams and coordinates, facilitates and tracks
 - will ensure validated innovation projects DO NOT LANGUISH
 - will champion and leverage technical and budgetary tools to expedite projects
 - will assist in aligning innovation/research with existing programs
 - will not treat transition as “one size fits all”
 - will be flexible to stakeholder needs and responsive to changing requirements and priorities
 - will not manage innovation at the regional level or below, but will strive to maintain situational awareness to identify opportunities
- As the RITT, the S&T Roadmap and the NOAA test beds mature, OAR and other line offices will hear a clear and consistent voice coming from NWS and be better positioned to respond to our needs



Research/Innovation Transition Team CONOPS





Challenges



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- How does the RITT deal with innovation that is not strictly science and technology related (e.g., policy or service related)?
 - How does the RITT interface with other NWS processes (e.g., OHD/HOSIP, PPBES, NCEP)?



Questions

