# Institutionalizing Innovation Management: A Case Study from the Utility Industry

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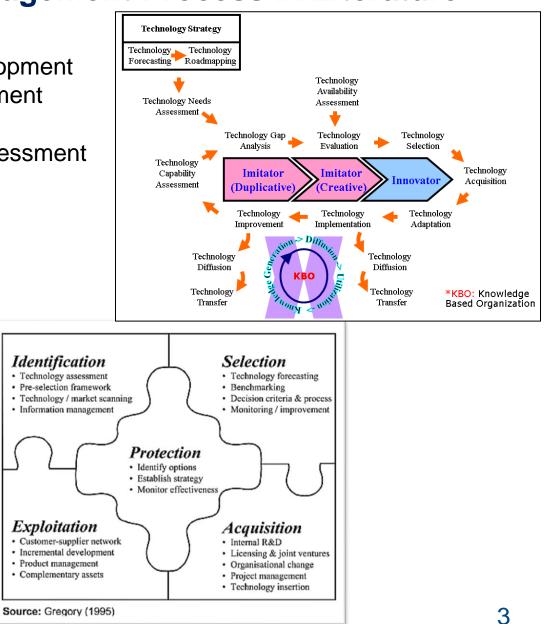
# Introduction

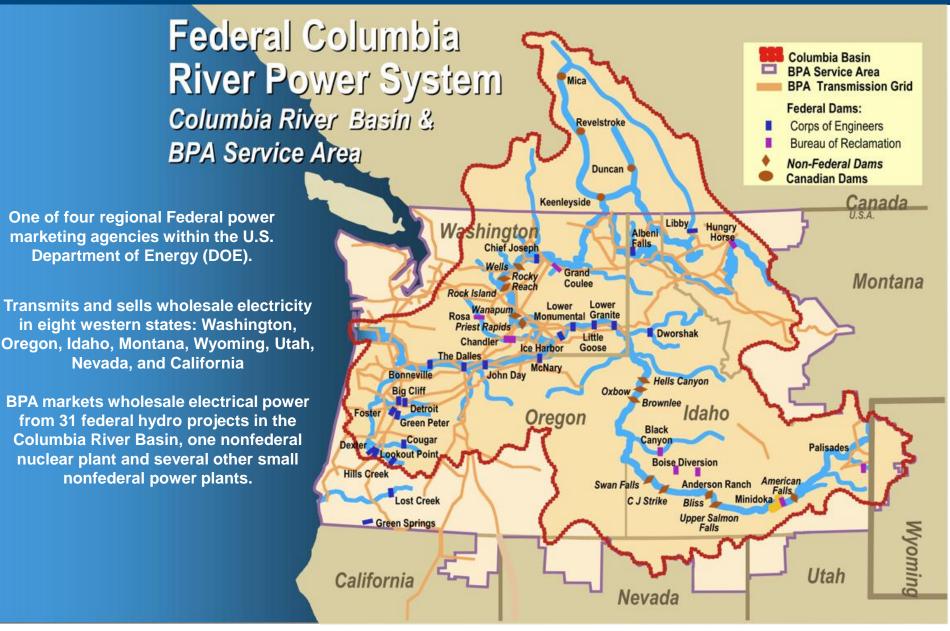
- Technology Management Process in Literature
- Overview of the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) transmission system
- Managing Research and Development at BPA
  - Roadmapping
  - Portfolio management
  - Project management
  - Technology transfer
- Application to others industries
- Lessons learned
- Conclusions

# **Technology Management Process in Literature**



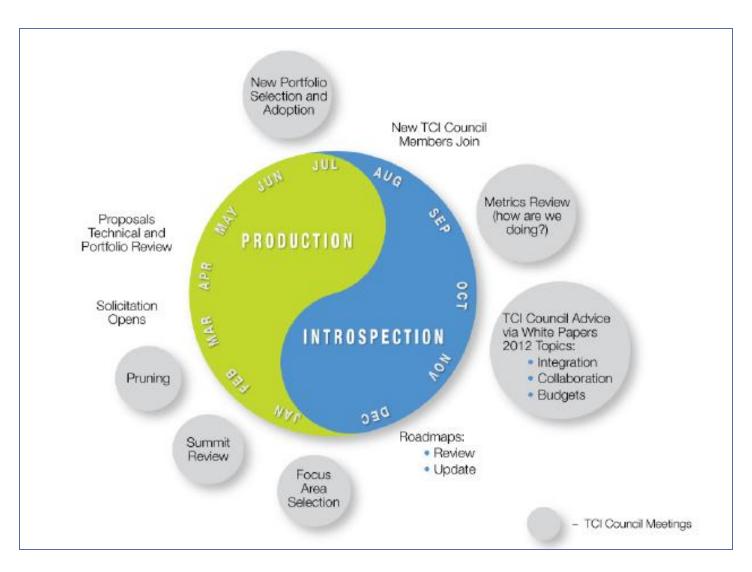
- Technology Needs Assessment
- Technology Gap Analysis
- Technology Availability Assessment
- Technology Evaluation
- Technology Selection
- Technology Acquisition
- Technology Adaptation
- Technology Implementation
- Technology Improvement
- Technology Imitation
- Technology Innovation



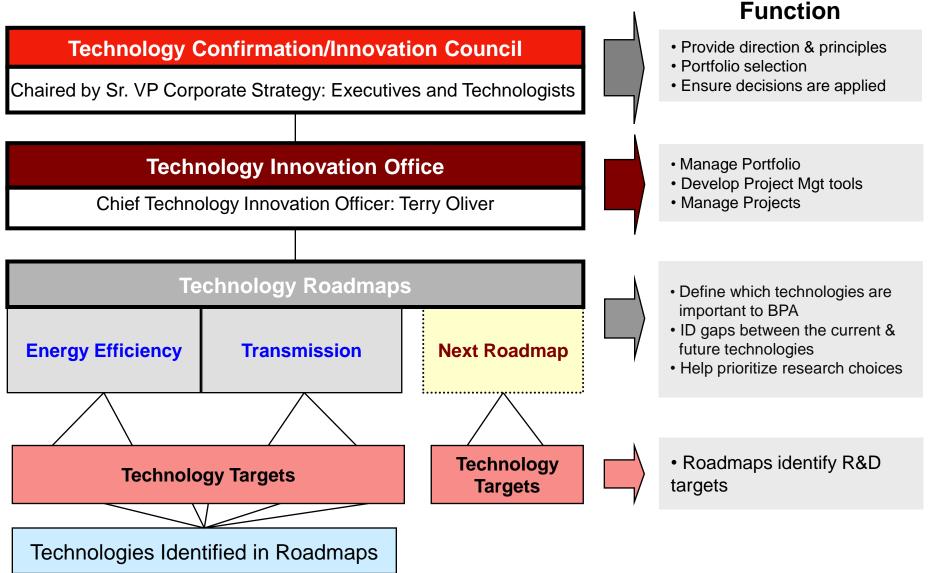


The BPA has more than 15,000 miles (24,000 km) of electrical lines and 300 substations in the Pacific Northwest and controls approximately 75 percent of the high-voltage (230 kV and higher) transmission capacity in the region

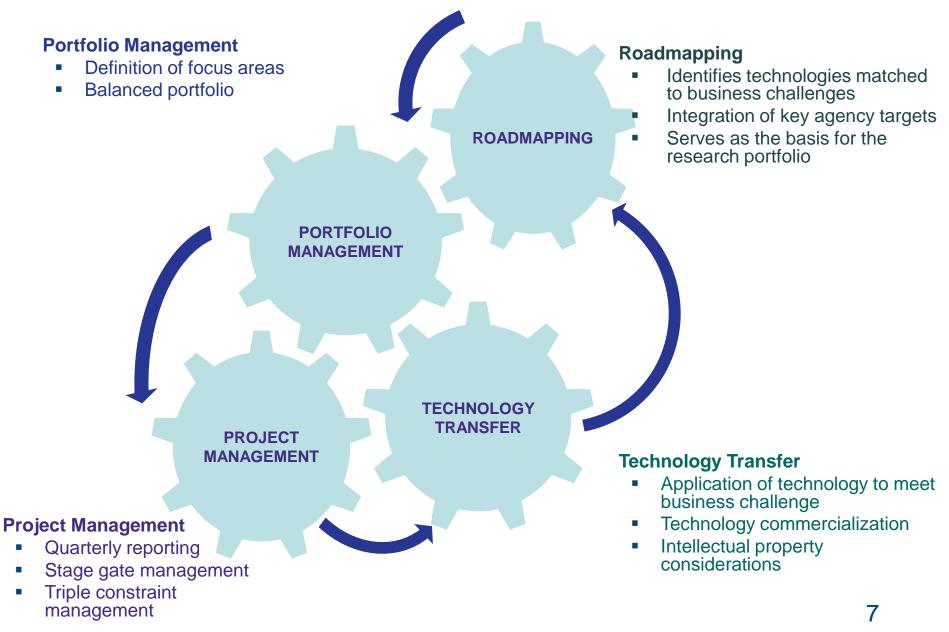
#### **Technology Innovation: Cyclical Process**



# **Technology Innovation Structure**

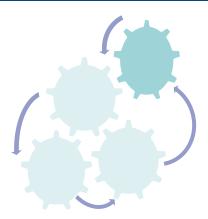


# **Technology Innovation Operations: Integrated Process**



# Roadmapping

- Synthesis of internal and external expert opinions
- Links business, operational and technical challenges
- Guides R&D efforts
- The roadmapping process:
  - Workshops to identify BPA challenges and drivers
  - Identify technologies that address the challenges
  - Identify technology gaps
  - Determine how technologies will be acquired or developed
  - Consider alternative solutions



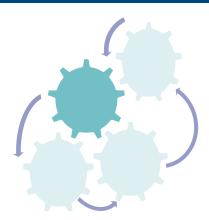
# Roadmapping

- Current technology roadmaps
  - Transmission Operations and Planning
  - National Energy Efficiency
- Roadmap framework

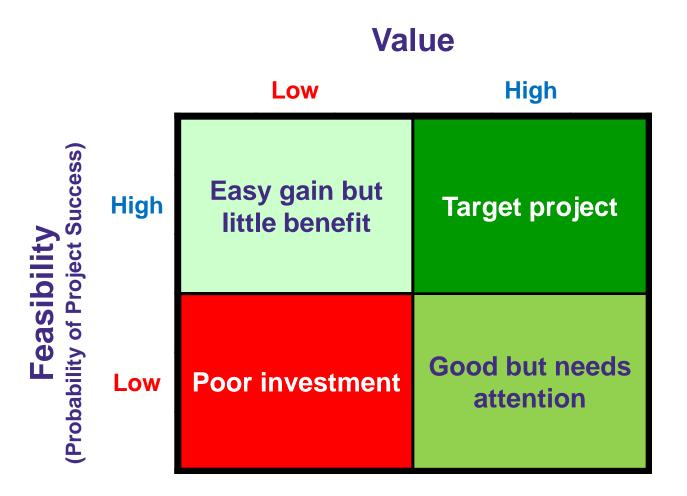
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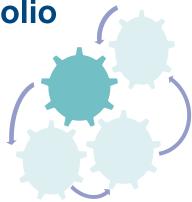
# **Portfolio Management**

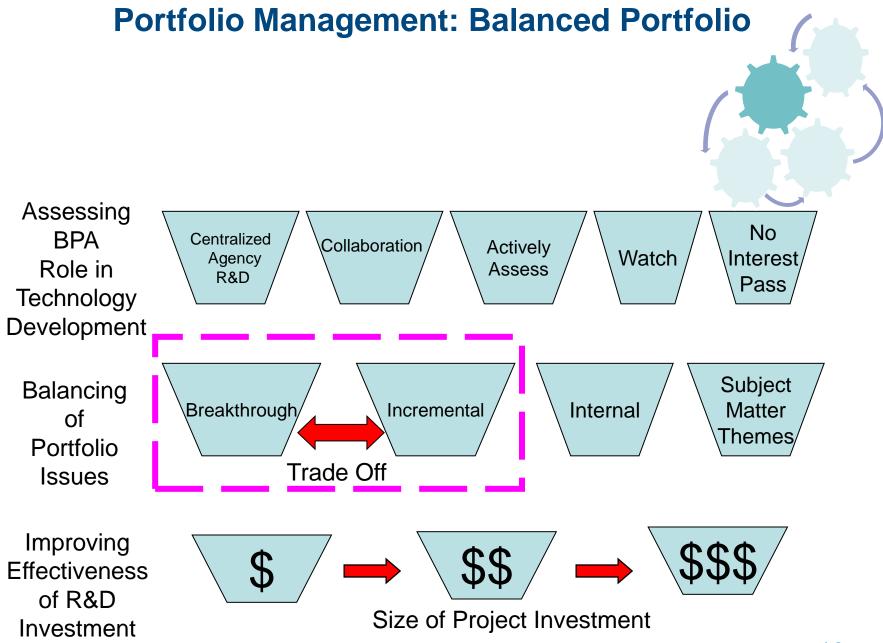
- Define focus areas
  - Alignment with key agency targets
- Balance portfolio
- Manages annual portfolio solicitation
- TI publishes annual reports on the performance of the portfolio
- Cyclical process
  - Solicitation
  - Portfolio selection
  - Summit review/prune

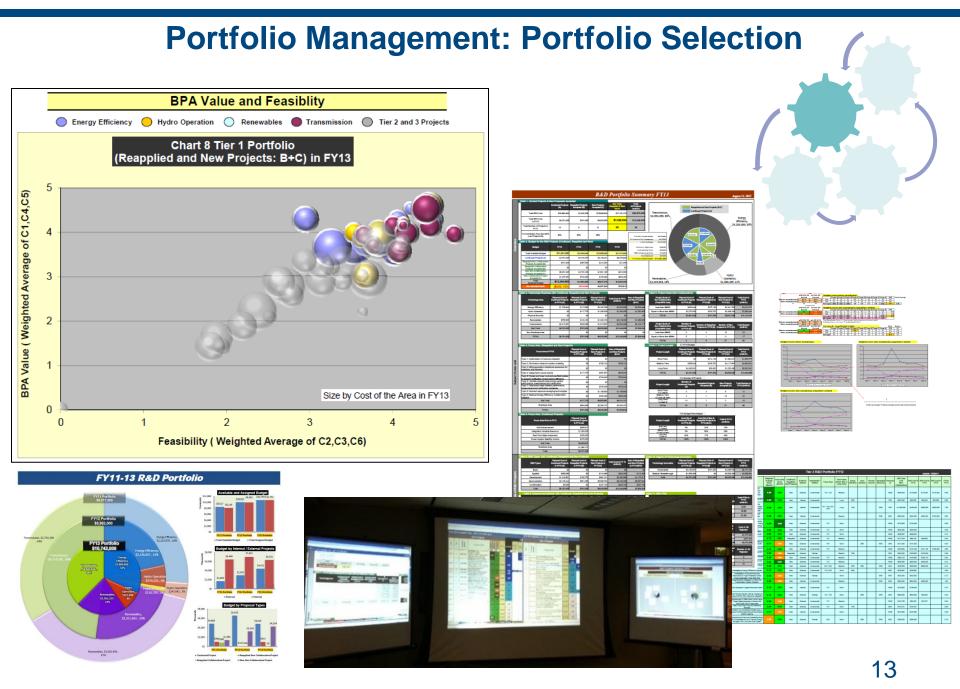


## **Portfolio Management: Balanced Portfolio**



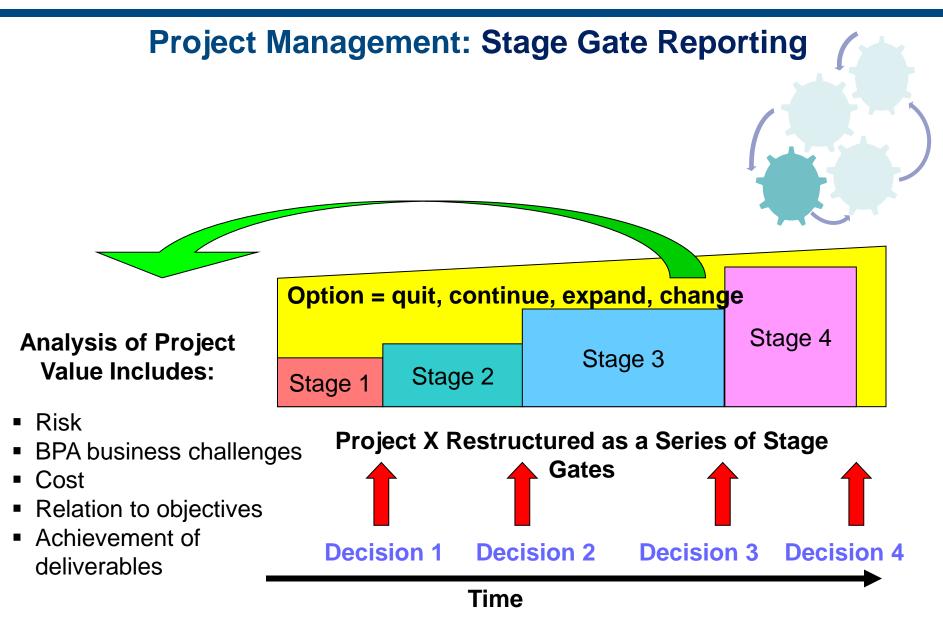






#### **Project Management**

- Provide oversight and guidance
- Implement the Project Management Maturity Model (PM3) to advance R&D project management skills and practices
  - Develop and maintain comprehensive tools, templates and documentation for the TI PMs
- Establish methods to monitor, influence, and appropriately control project performance
  - Require stage gate
  - Informal monthly meetings
  - Formal quarterly reports
  - Provide PM training and development opportunities
  - Implement financial reporting tools
- Facilitate collaborative engagement



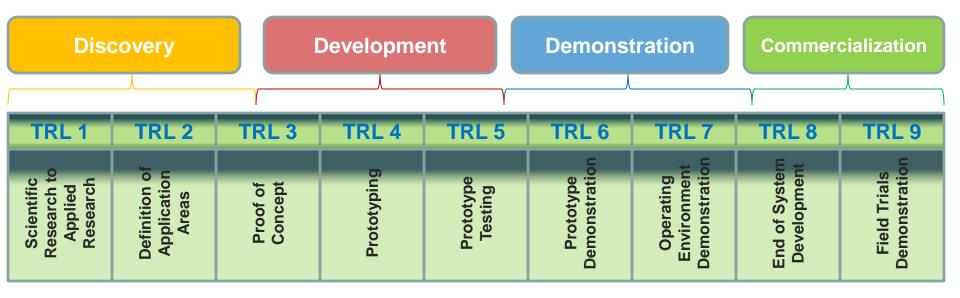
### **Technology Transfer: Intellectual Property**

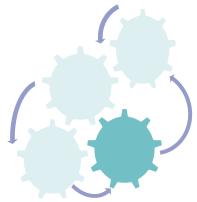
- Dissemination of knowledge and research results to maximize value of R&D investments
- Intellectual Property incentivizes technology development
- Externally Research partners have elective rights. BPA receives licenses
- Internally-BPA can develop IP and utilize for a variety of purposes consistent with our mission
  - Defensive use
  - Leadership in sector
  - Reasonable returns on investment

# **Technology Transfer: Application**

- Structured approach
- Consider implementation strategy at project inception
- Next steps based on Technology Readiness Level (TRL)
  - TRL<7
    - Development continues through
      - Direct BPA investment or
      - Reference to outside institutions (National Labs or Academia)
  - TRL≥7

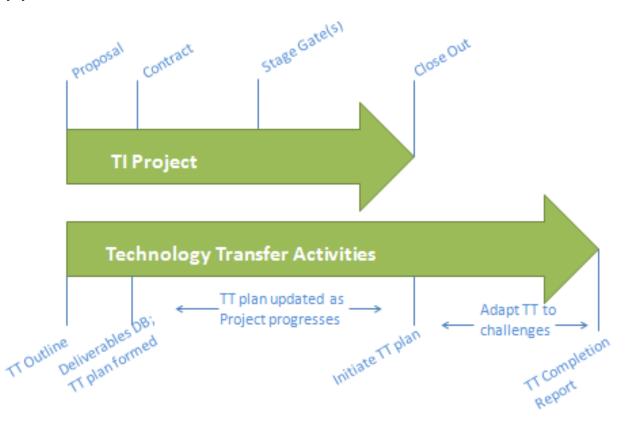
#### Ready for implementation in real-world application!





# **Technology Transfer: Application Planning**

- Application planning begins at project inception, and continues past project completion.
- A Technology Transfer plan matures throughout the course of project and is to be used to pro-actively addresses challenges to eventual technology application.



# **General Application to Industry**

- Innovation investment is a requirement for success and relevancy
  - Choice: Managed process or 'chaotic' funding and missteps'
- Innovation is messy most R&D fails
  - Embrace a balance
  - Fail early = fail cheap
- Structured R&D program
  - Manage the investments
  - Appropriately timed stage gates
  - Integrated to support business objectives and corporate strategy
- Road maps and technology transfer are the bookends of innovation
  - Road Maps show *innovation* can achieve the vision and mission of your business.
  - Technology transfer starts when the project is awarded
    - Know who will 'own' the innovation (and when they need to prepare)
    - Plan for the implementation strategy and funding
- Change is the Constant: Innovation is Essential!

#### **Lessons Learned**

- Council of Peers
  - The Technology Council provides a forum for executives and subject matter experts to exchange ideas
  - Ensures diverse opinions are considered.
- Pruning is a necessity
  - Otherwise, complacency is a risk
  - Makes funding available for more relevant projects
- Summit review requires objective data
  - Implement rigorous review process
  - Use quantified criteria
  - Improves the clarity of project's value

# Conclusions

- Demonstrated success with R&D
  - Provides a framework for selecting and managing a portfolio >\$12M and 50 projects annually
- Framework serves as a model for other utilities
  - There are some common themes that can be applied to all industries
- Money is not enough! The process requires:
  - Clarity of purpose
  - Clarity of choice
  - Clarity of the system

# **Disciplined R&D = \$000 Millions in Value**

#### References

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