



Science and Technology Innovation: A Challenge in Leadership

05 October 2020
Vice Adm Mat Winter, US Navy (Ret)
President
Winter Strategic Solutions, LLC



My Strategic Leadership Experiences

People



Organization



Mission





S&T Innovation: Challenges and Opportunities

- Large, bureaucratic organizations – very effective, yet inefficient
- Internal Policies and External Statutes create barriers
- Decision Makers turnover/leave frequently
- Shifting demands/requirements with volatile funding commitments
- NATO/Nations defense very complex business – increasing demands
- Very talented, resourceful and capable teams / workforce
- Strong, viable stakeholder partnerships – Gov't/Industry/Academia
- Effective technical/business/operational outcomes – daily!

But is the S&T Enterprise Considered “Innovative?”



Be Innovative: What does that really mean?

- **Technical and Business Reforms.....**
 - I have been “reformed” 9 dedicated times in my US Navy Career
- **Implement Agile Principles.....**
 - usual outcome: work harder on the same work
- **Incorporate Best Commercial Practices.....**
 - Most Government “Board of Directors” are finicky and politically motivated
- **Charter an Independent Group to “Help”**
 - Meet the boss’s deadline with budget to spare

“Bring the best and brightest individuals, with measured diversity of thought/experience, together in an open, inclusive environment working on our Nation’s toughest challenges to frame viable solution space through high-velocity-learning that generates disruptive, innovative outcomes.” – Vadm Winter



High Velocity Learning

Enables Successful Outcomes

(Technical, Business, Programs, Operations)

Correct: adjust and reengage

Assess: what we learned so far

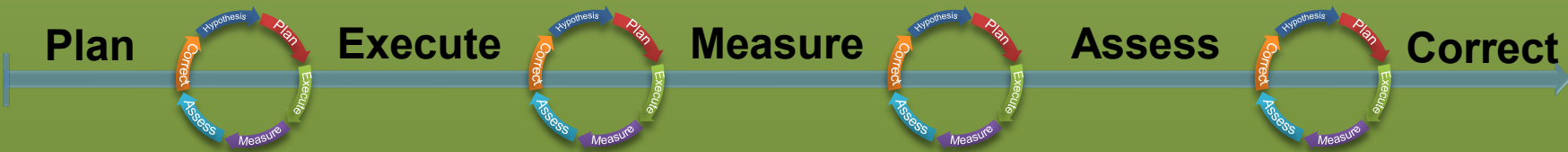
Measure: progress on predicted results



Hypothesis: proposed solution

Plan: strategy for way ahead

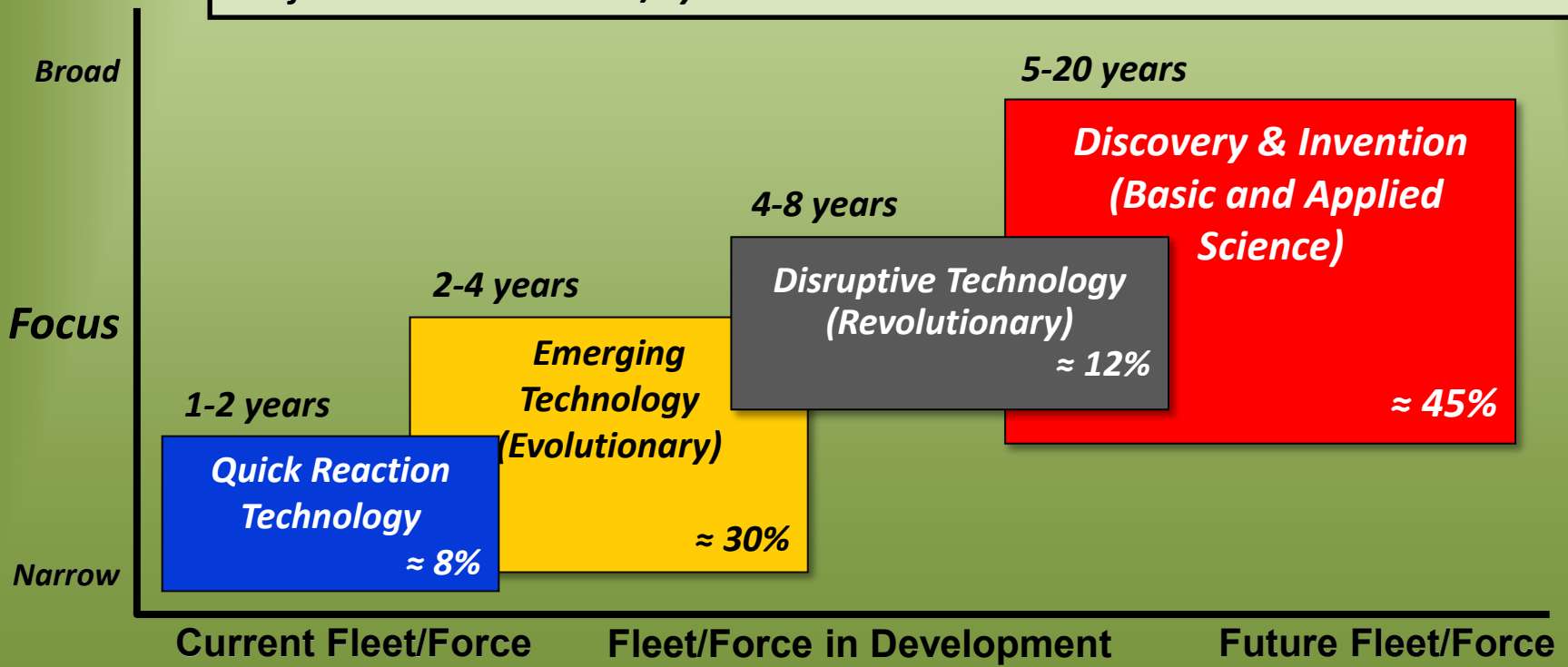
Execute: details of implementation





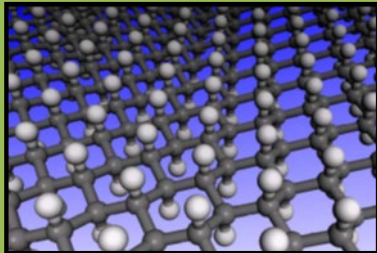
S&T Investments Phased to Enable Capability Deliveries

- *Assure Access to Maritime Battlespace*
- *Autonomy & Unmanned Systems*
- *Electromagnetic Maneuver Warfare*
- *Expeditionary & Irregular Warfare*
- *Information Dominance/Cyber*
- *Platform Design & Survivability*
- *Power & Energy*
- *Strike & Integrated Defense*
- *Warfighter Performance*



Balanced and Phased S&T Investment Portfolios are Most Effective

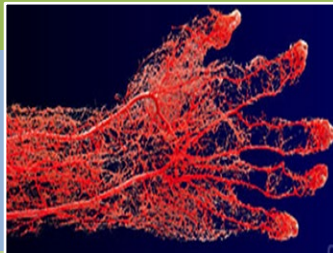
S&T Innovation Life Cycle: From Test Tubes to Launch Tubes



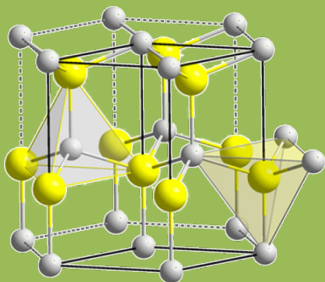
Graphene



Crack & Failure Prediction



3D Printing of Veins

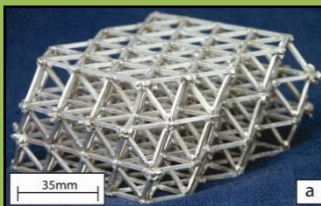


Gallium Nitride

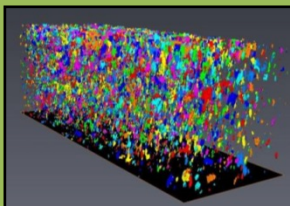


Microbial Fuel Cells

**Chemistry,
Physics &
Engineering**



Blast/Energy Absorbing Structures



Mesoscale Characterization



Enabling the Future Generation of Warfighting Capabilities



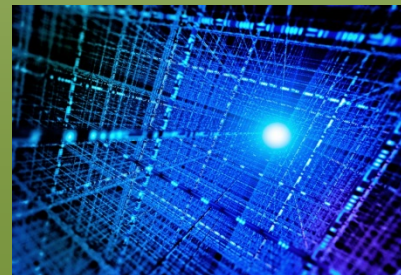
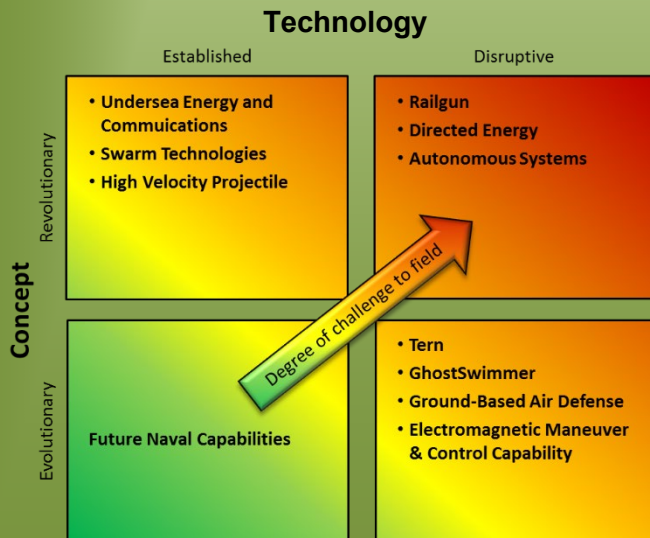
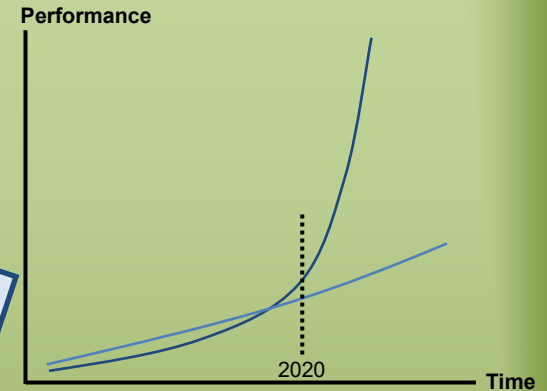
Leveraging Partnerships: Innovative Research & Business Outcomes

Solving the Innovator's Dilemma

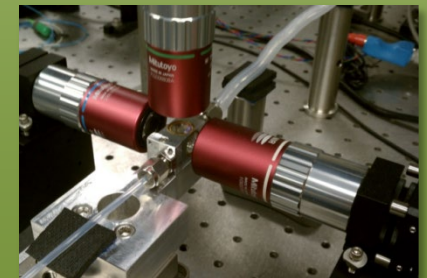


Microbial Energy
Bio-Sensors
Synthetic Biology

- Synthetic Biology/Bio-Inspired
- Nano-Scale Technologies
- Photonics
- Quantum Sensing / Computation
- Big Data Analytics
- Hypersonics
- Social Sciences/Medical Advances



Quantum Computation



Photonics



Innovation Enabled By.....

(My Experience)

- **Leadership Advocacy.....then get out of the way.....**
- **Culture of learning, failure, empowerment, growth**
- **Workforce Pedigree aligned, competent, capable**
- **Full Resources – tools, facilities, funding**
- **Flexible, Executable Timelines.....focus on SCALE and SPEED**
- **Clear Communications and Sound Decision Making**
- **Accountable Leadership Follow-Through – everywhere!**

***Strong NATO/Nations' Partnerships
With Bold, Visionary Leadership***

Thoughts?

