5 June 2019

Idea Bank Road Show

Program Introduction

Direct – Military and Civil Works

Discussion led by Dr. Bert Davis

Process Lead:
ERDC Programs Office
   Patrick Kieffer
   601-634-3545
   Patrick.M.Kieffer@usace.army.mil

ERDC
Engineer Research and Development Center

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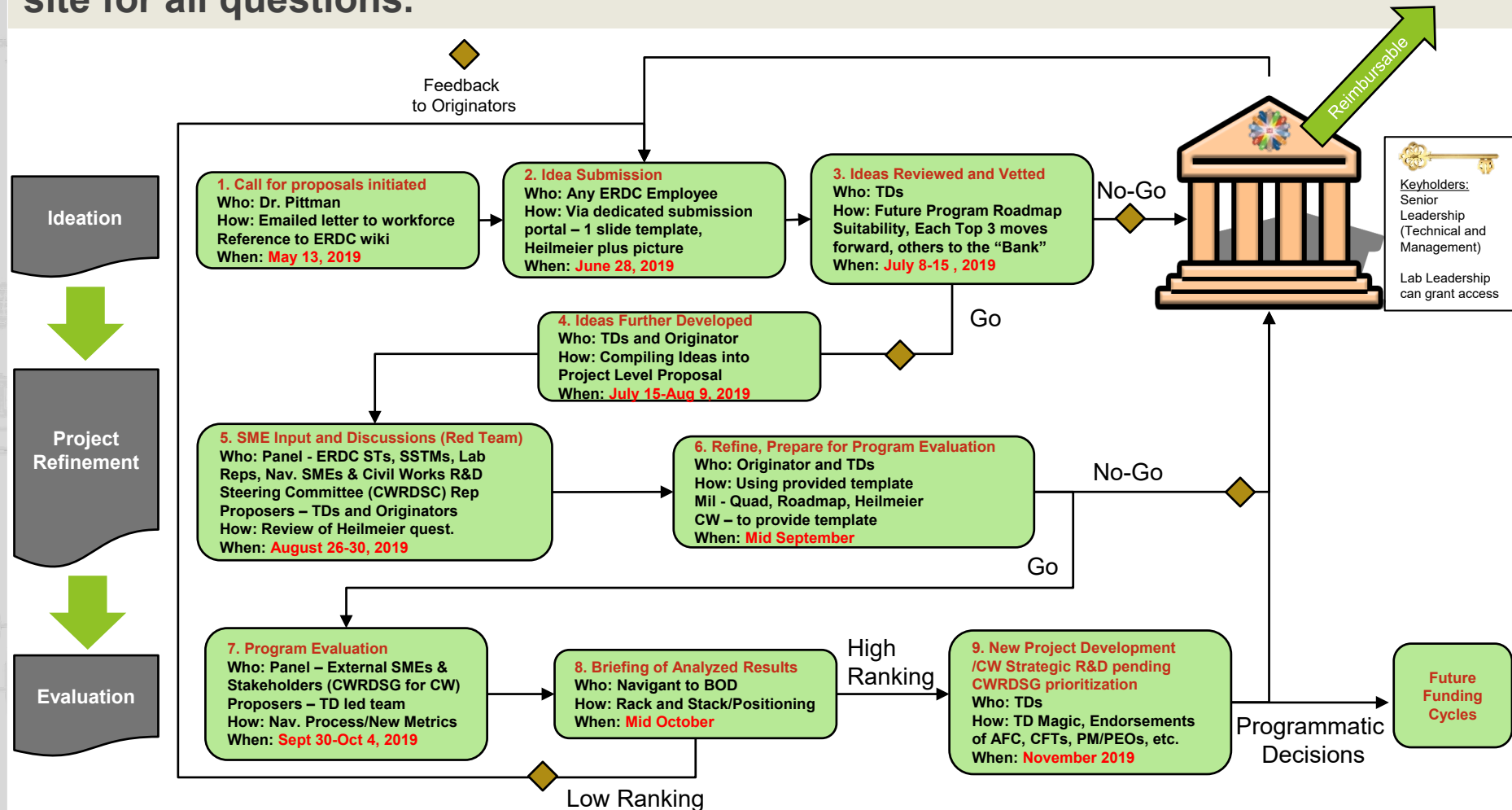
What does the Idea Bank look like ?

ERDC created a process to solicit project ideas from across the enterprise in order to maximize impact and innovation for its stakeholders – refer to Wiki site for all questions.

Feedback to Originators

Ideation

1. Call for proposals initiated
Who: Dr. Pittman
How: Emailed letter to workforce
Reference to ERDC wiki
When: May 13, 2019

2. Idea Submission
Who: Any ERDC Employee
How: Via dedicated submission portal – 1 slide template, Heilmeier plus picture
When: June 28, 2019

3. Ideas Reviewed and Vetted
Who: TDs
How: Future Program Roadmap Suitability, Each Top 3 moves forward, others to the "Bank"
When: July 8-15 , 2019

No-Go

Go

4. Ideas Further Developed
Who: TDs and Originator
How: Compiling Ideas into Project Level Proposal
When: July 15-Aug 9, 2019

Reimbursable

Keyholders:
Senior Leadership (Technical and Management)

Lab Leadership can grant access

Project Refinement

5. SME Input and Discussions (Red Team)
Who: Panel - ERDC STs, SSTMs, Lab Reps, Nav. SMEs & Civil Works R&D Steering Committee (CWRDSC) Rep
Proposers – TDs and Originators
How: Review of Heilmeier quest.
When: August 26-30, 2019

6. Refine, Prepare for Program Evaluation
Who: Originator and TDs
How: Using provided template
Mil - Quad, Roadmap, Heilmeier
CW – to provide template
When: Mid September

No-Go

Go

Evaluation

7. Program Evaluation
Who: Panel – External SMEs & Stakeholders (CWRDSG for CW)
Proposers – TD led team
How: Nav. Process/New Metrics
When: Sept 30-Oct 4, 2019

8. Briefing of Analyzed Results
Who: Navigant to BOD
How: Rack and Stack/Positioning
When: Mid October

High Ranking

9. New Project Development /CW Strategic R&D pending CWRDSG prioritization
Who: TDs
How: TD Magic, Endorsements of AFC, CFTs, PM/PEOs, etc.
When: November 2019

Programmatic Decisions

Future Funding Cycles

Low Ranking

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What drives this change?

The Army has begun a transformation in acquisition.

The Army has taken a new approach in which soldiers might not have to wait 10 years or longer to see a new weapon or capability in the field, but instead could get modern, new systems in their hands within just a few short years.

The Army's new Futures Command — authorized to keep the service focused on six major modernization priorities, each led by cross-functional teams — or CFT:

- **Long-Range Precision Fires,**
- **Next-Generation Combat Vehicle,**
- **Future Vertical Lift,**
- **Network/C3I, plus Assured Position, Navigation and Timing**
- **Air and Missile Defense,**
- **Soldier Lethality, plus Synthetic Training Environment**

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Why are we doing this?

While ERDC's direct-funded portfolio accounts for 20% of what we do, our stakeholders depend on us. Further, it drives future prosperity, for example, by developing robust product lines and some of our key core competencies.

- The Army Futures Command (AFC) has taken responsibility of all Army direct funding and has tied that to the six major modernization priorities, and, now, how they fit into multi-domain operations.

- Research programs no longer have multi-year duration with limited oversight. AFC has taken a much more active role managing programs and projects through several deep-dive reviews, and execution stage-gates.

- Programs found to not align, not to have good positioning, or not executing as promised to impact the six priorities or other two areas have seen funding significantly cut or reprogrammed.

- The AFC has found that the ERDC's core mission and legacy S&T do not have as high a priority as other Army labs.

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Why is this new process needed?

Over the last 24 months, we have had to "sell" ERDC almost continuously, certainly frequently, with senior leadership. We get graded based on the merit of our ideas.

- The Army Futures Command and Civil Works R&D Steering Group have limited funds to address huge problems.

- All Army labs compete for resources based on their core competencies, their well-developed concepts, and their ability to deliver – those with the best ideas in their mission lanes will get the most money.

- While we plan for new programs in a well-worn traditional way through the ERDC business areas, we have seen the need for diversity in thought and want to make available opportunities to create and contribute.

- Organizations must put their best foot forward in order to stay relevant

Doing things the same way is not an option

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What do we need from you?

Your creativity. Dr. Pittman announced this new process as an organizational call to action. You get situational awareness, plus feedback at every key step!

Ideas can come from anyone in the organization
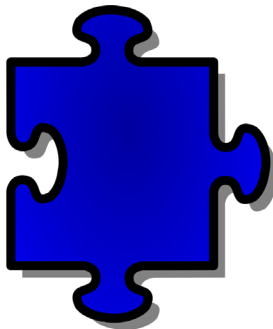
Different ideas can be vetted and combined to form bigger concepts

Concepts can then be turned into projects that support ERDC's future

Ideas create a spark…a spark creates a fire

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Idea Name

1. **What is the problem you are trying to solve (describe without using jargon)?**
   -

2. **If successful in solving the problem, what difference will it make and why? Who cares?**
   -

3. **What are the technical and/or structural challenges that need to be resolved to solve the problem? Why are they difficult?**
   -

4. **What is your approach to solve the technical and/or structural challenges?**
   -

5. **How is your approach different from that previously tried?**
   -

6. **What are the quantitative or qualitative milestone criteria that must be achieved to solve the problem?**
   -

7. **What is the priority order for the criteria such that if the first and each succeeding priority cannot be solved there would be no need to tackle the next criteria?**
   -

8. **How long will it take to achieve each milestone criteria and why?**
   -

9. **How much will it cost to achieve each milestone criteria and why?**
   -

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What do you need to get started?

We placed a significant amount of background and contextual material in an ERDC Wiki space on the intranet.

https://insideerdc.erdc.dren.mil/ERDC_Direct_Program

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