

An Overview of the Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E)

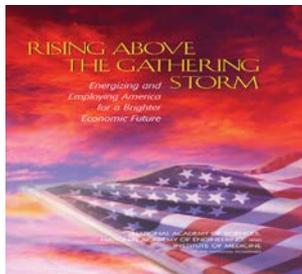
Eric Rohlfig, Deputy Director for Technology

Optical Interconnects for Data-Center Efficiency Workshop
July 27, 2015

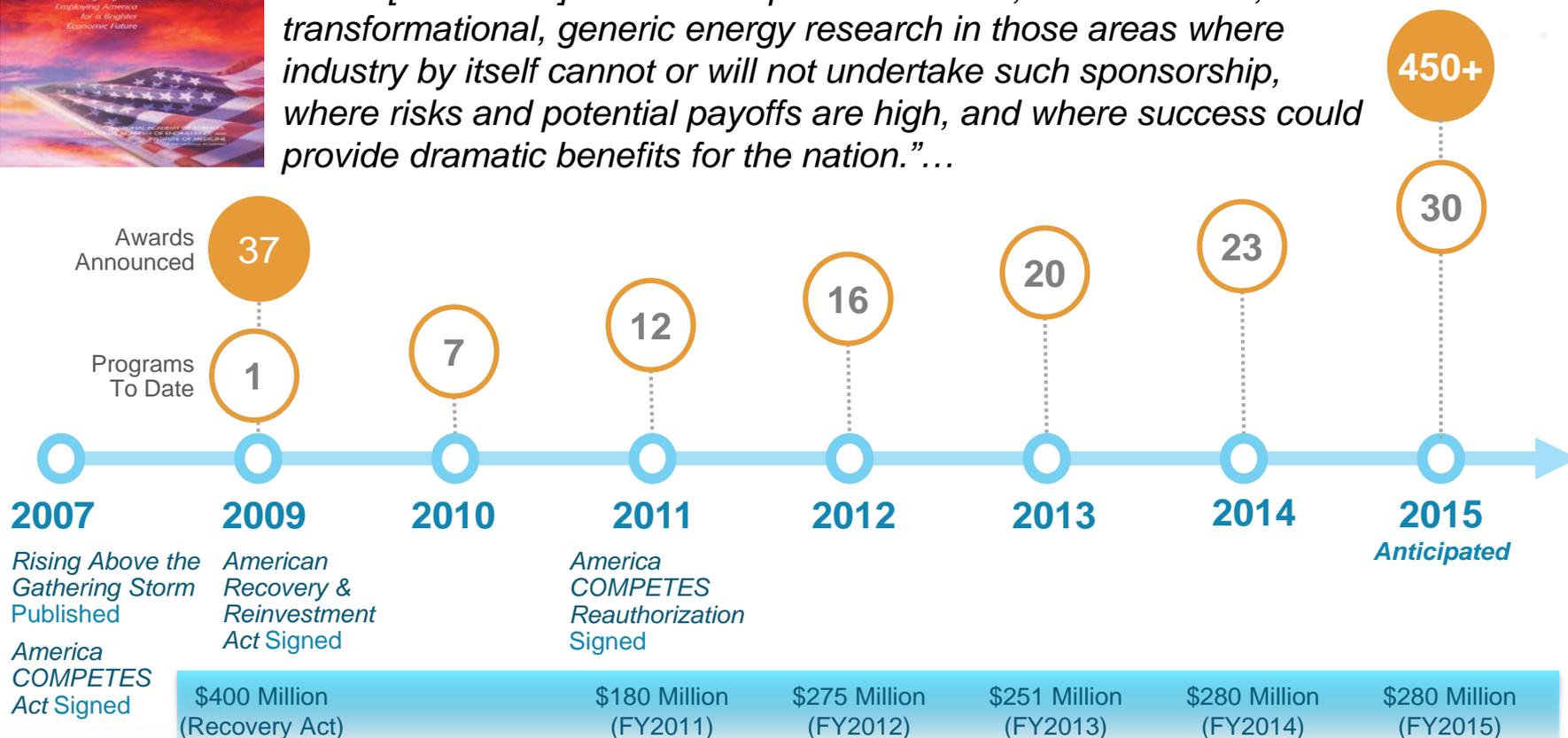


ARPA-E's History

In 2007, The National Academies recommended Congress establish an Advanced Research Projects Agency within the U.S. Department of Energy



...“The new agency proposed herein [ARPA-E] is patterned after that model [of DARPA] and would sponsor creative, out-of-the-box, transformational, generic energy research in those areas where industry by itself cannot or will not undertake such sponsorship, where risks and potential payoffs are high, and where success could provide dramatic benefits for the nation.”...



ARPA-E Authorizing Legislation

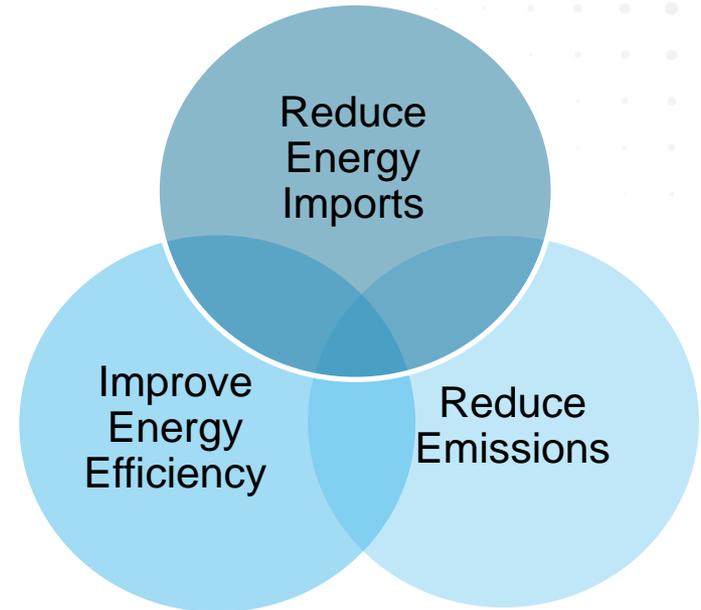
Mission: To overcome long-term and high-risk technological barriers in the development of energy technologies

Goals: Ensure America's

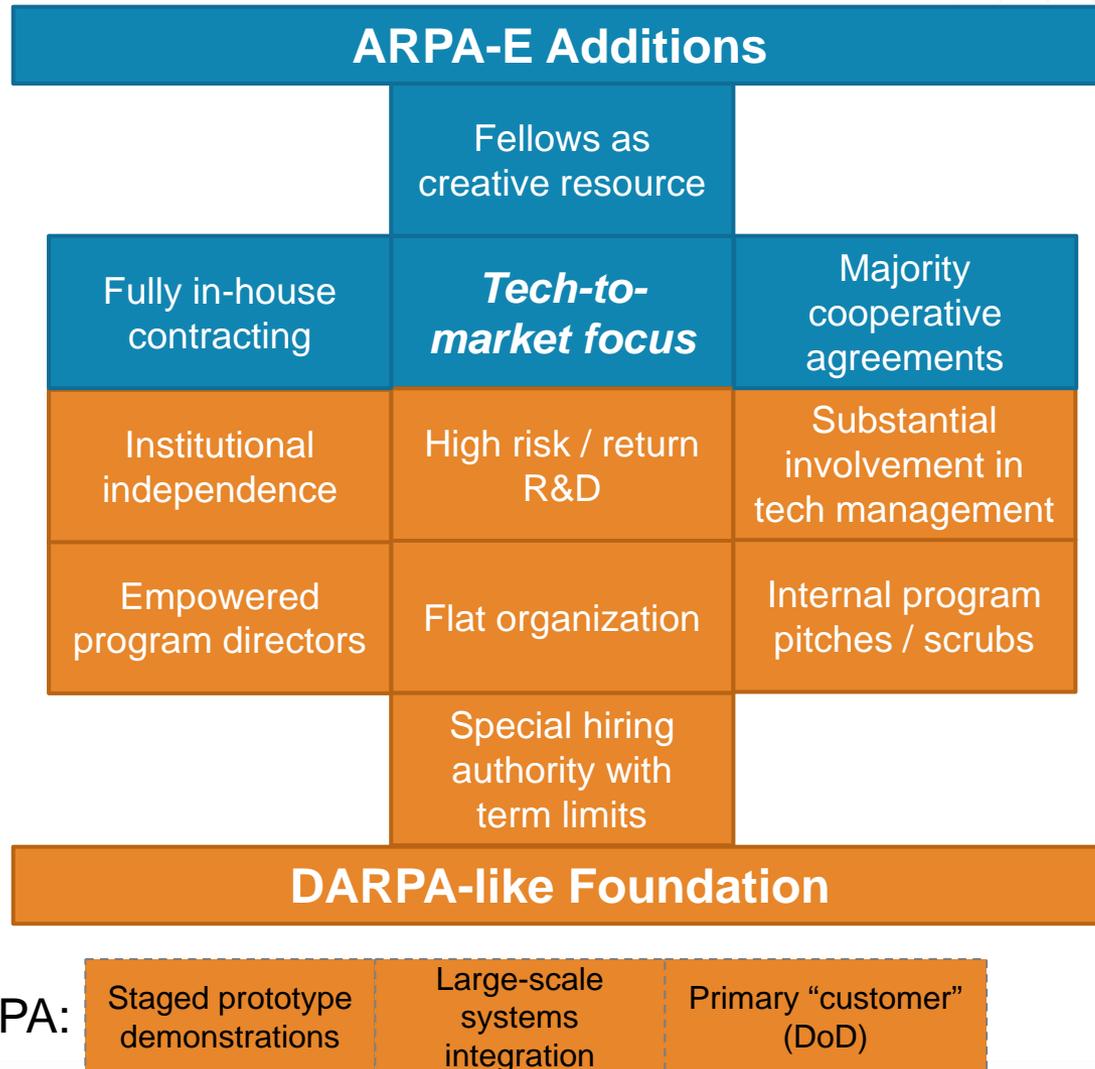
- ▶ Economic Security
- ▶ Energy Security
- ▶ Technological Lead in Advanced Energy Technologies

Means:

- ▶ Identify and promote revolutionary advances in fundamental and applied sciences
- ▶ Translate scientific discoveries and cutting-edge inventions into technological innovations
- ▶ Accelerate transformational technological advances in areas that industry by itself is not likely to undertake because of technical and financial uncertainty



Built on DARPA foundation, but still evolving...



Programs

OPEN programs support the development of potentially disruptive new technologies across the full spectrum of energy applications.

- Complement focused programs
- Support innovative “one off” projects
- Provide a “snapshot” of energy R&D

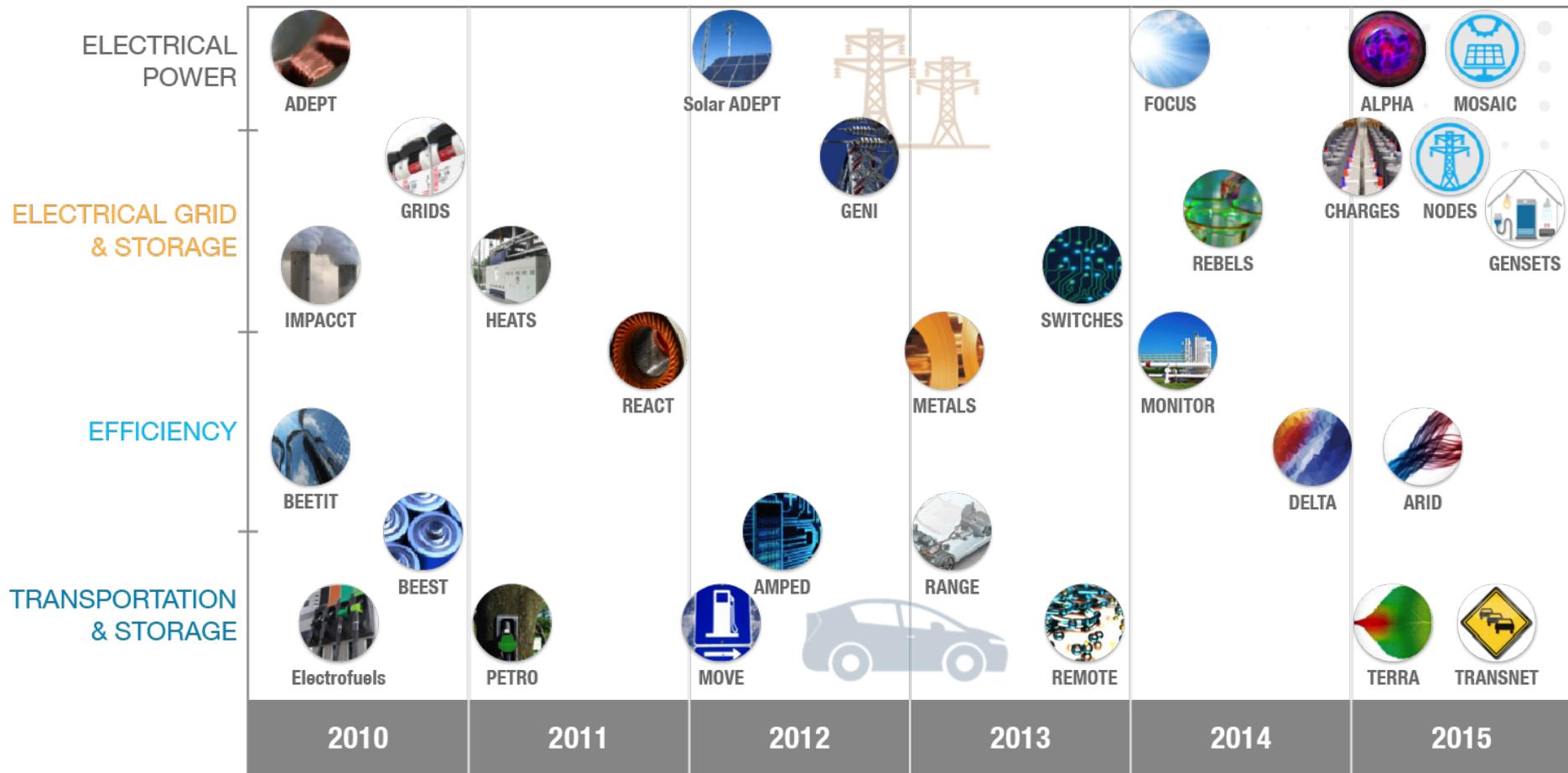


Focused programs prioritize R&D topics by their potential to make a significant difference in ARPA-E’s mission space.

- Size of the potential impact
- Technical opportunities for transformation
- Portfolio of projects with different approaches



Focused Program Portfolio



What Makes an ARPA-E Project?



IMPACT

- ▶ High impact on ARPA-E mission areas
- ▶ Credible path to market
- ▶ Large commercial application



TRANSFORM

- ▶ Challenges what is possible
- ▶ Disrupts existing learning curves
- ▶ Leaps beyond today's technologies



BRIDGE

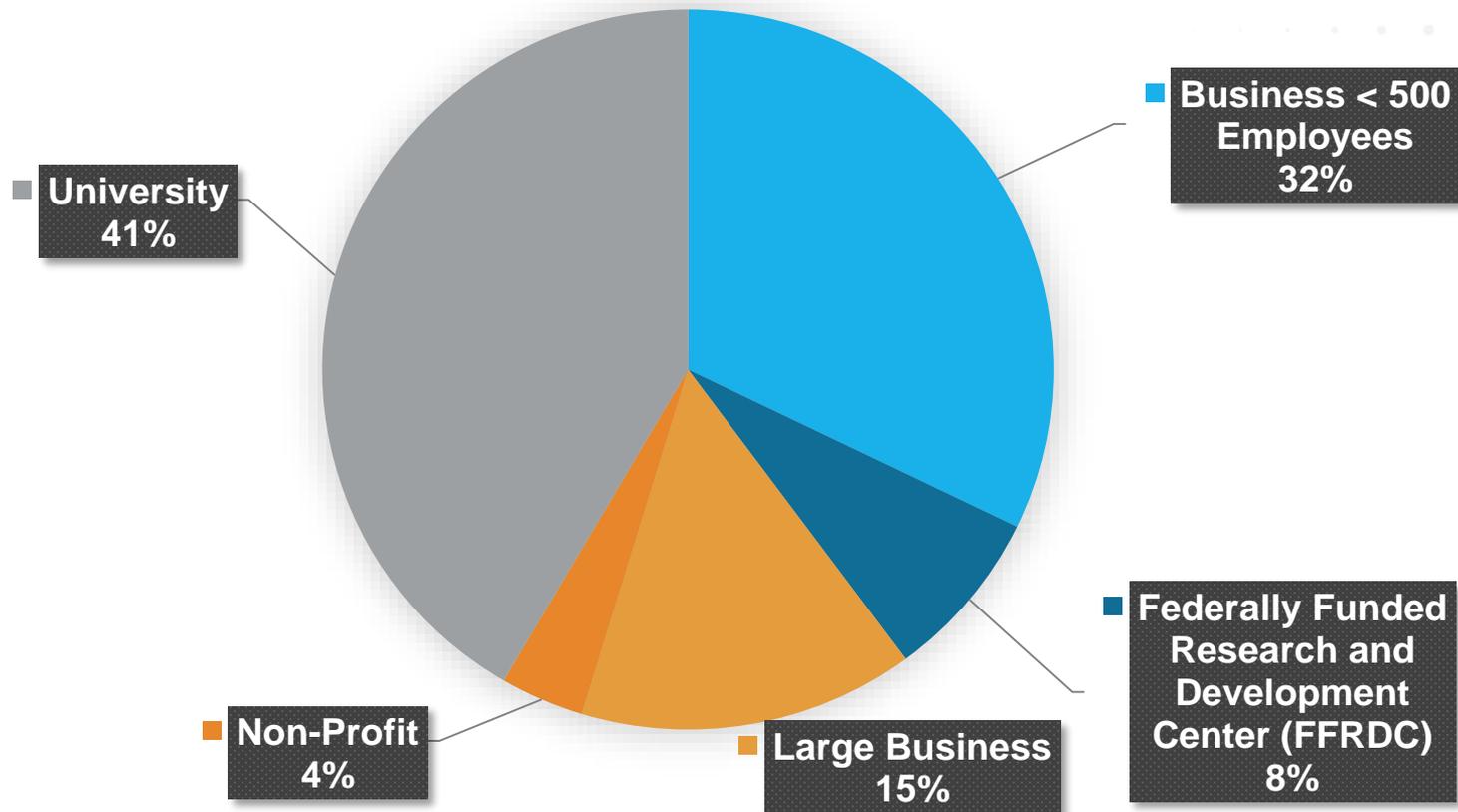
- ▶ Translates science into breakthrough technology
- ▶ Not researched or funded elsewhere
- ▶ Catalyzes new interest and investment



TEAM

- ▶ Comprised of best-in-class people
- ▶ Cross-disciplinary skill sets
- ▶ Translation oriented

ARPA-E Project Portfolio by Lead Organization

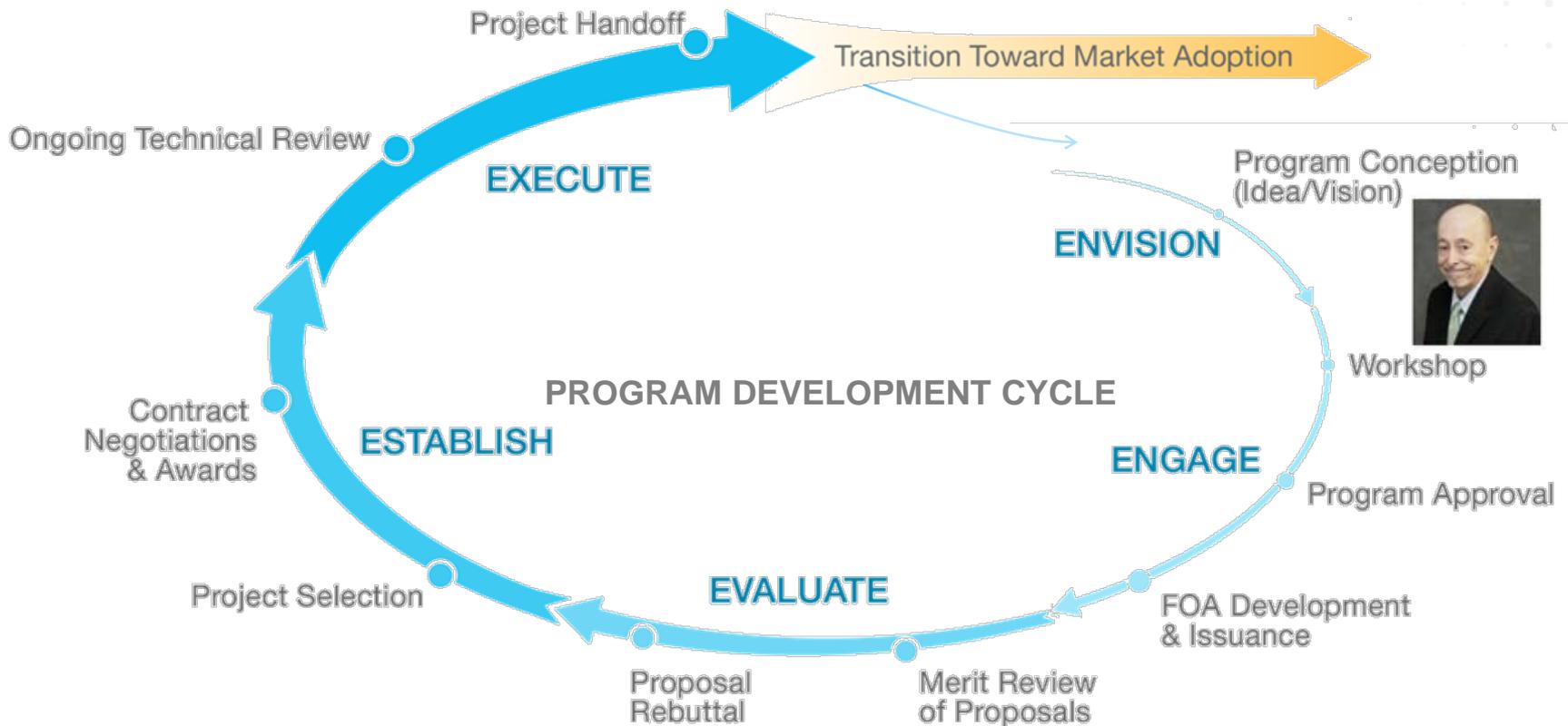


ARPA-E supports multi-institutional teams with substantial involvement from the private sector:
74% of projects involve more than one institution
79% of projects include the private sector, as leads or partners

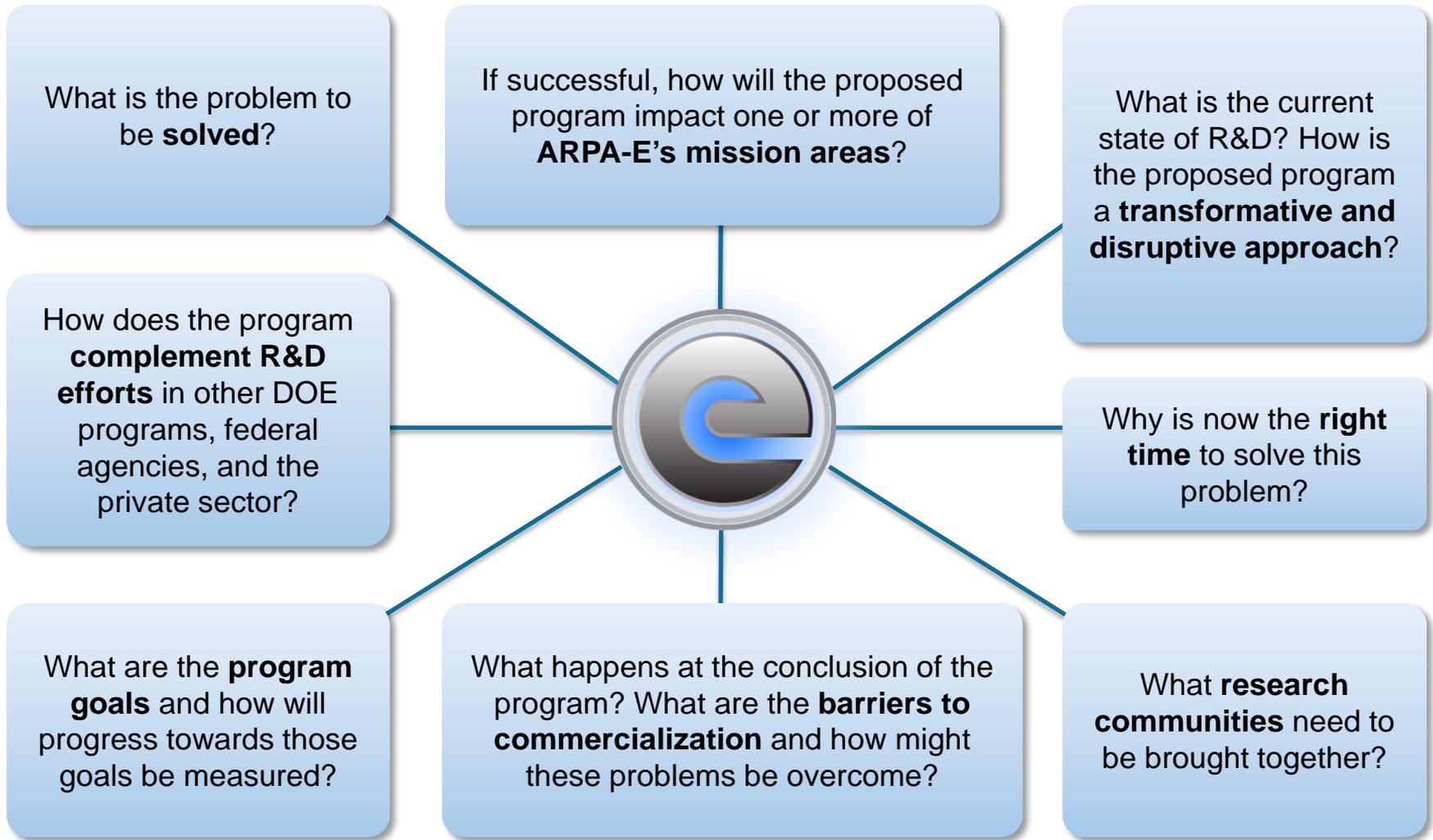
Developing ARPA-E Focused Programs



ARPA-E Program Directors



ARPA-E Program Framing Questions

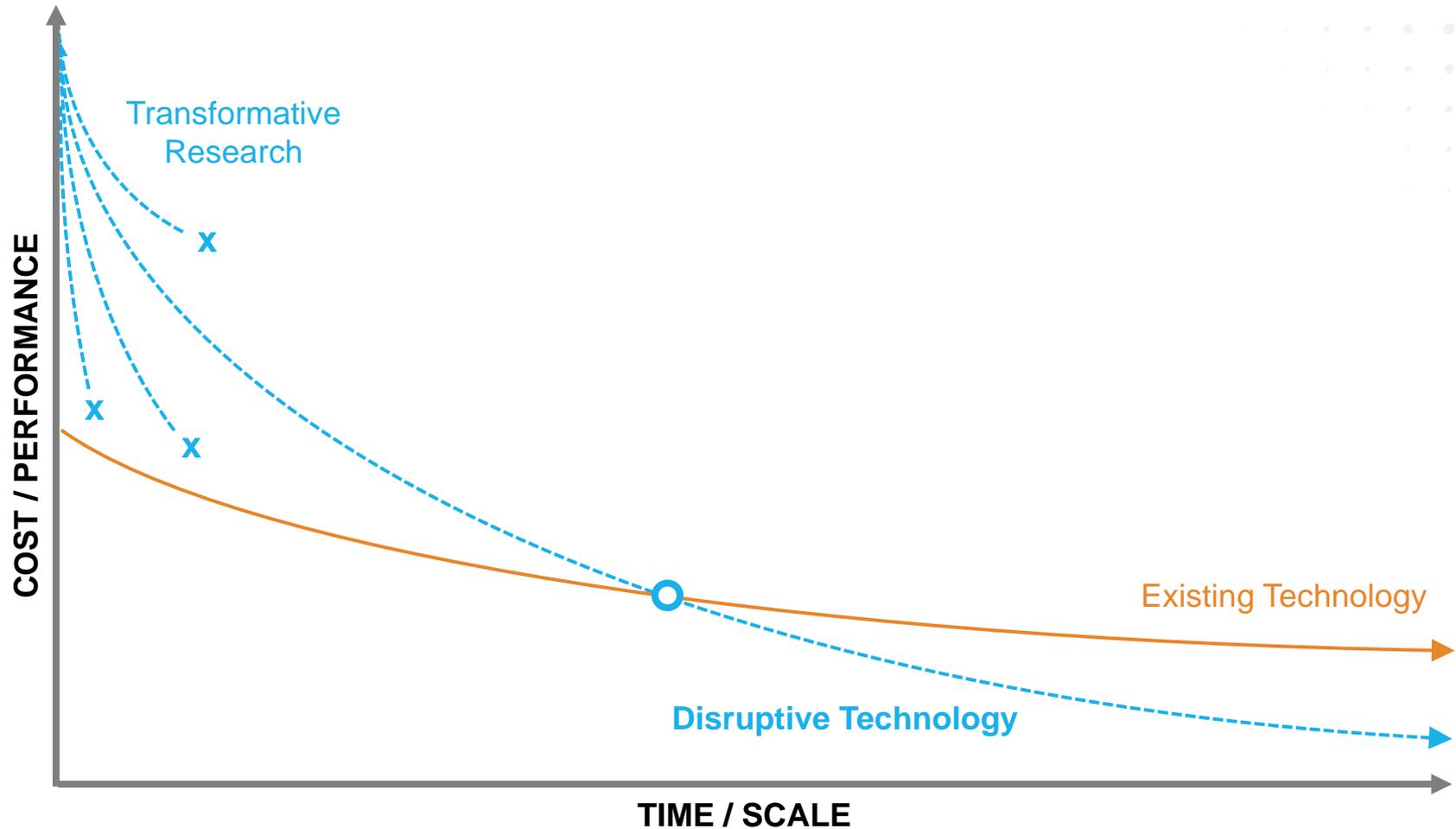




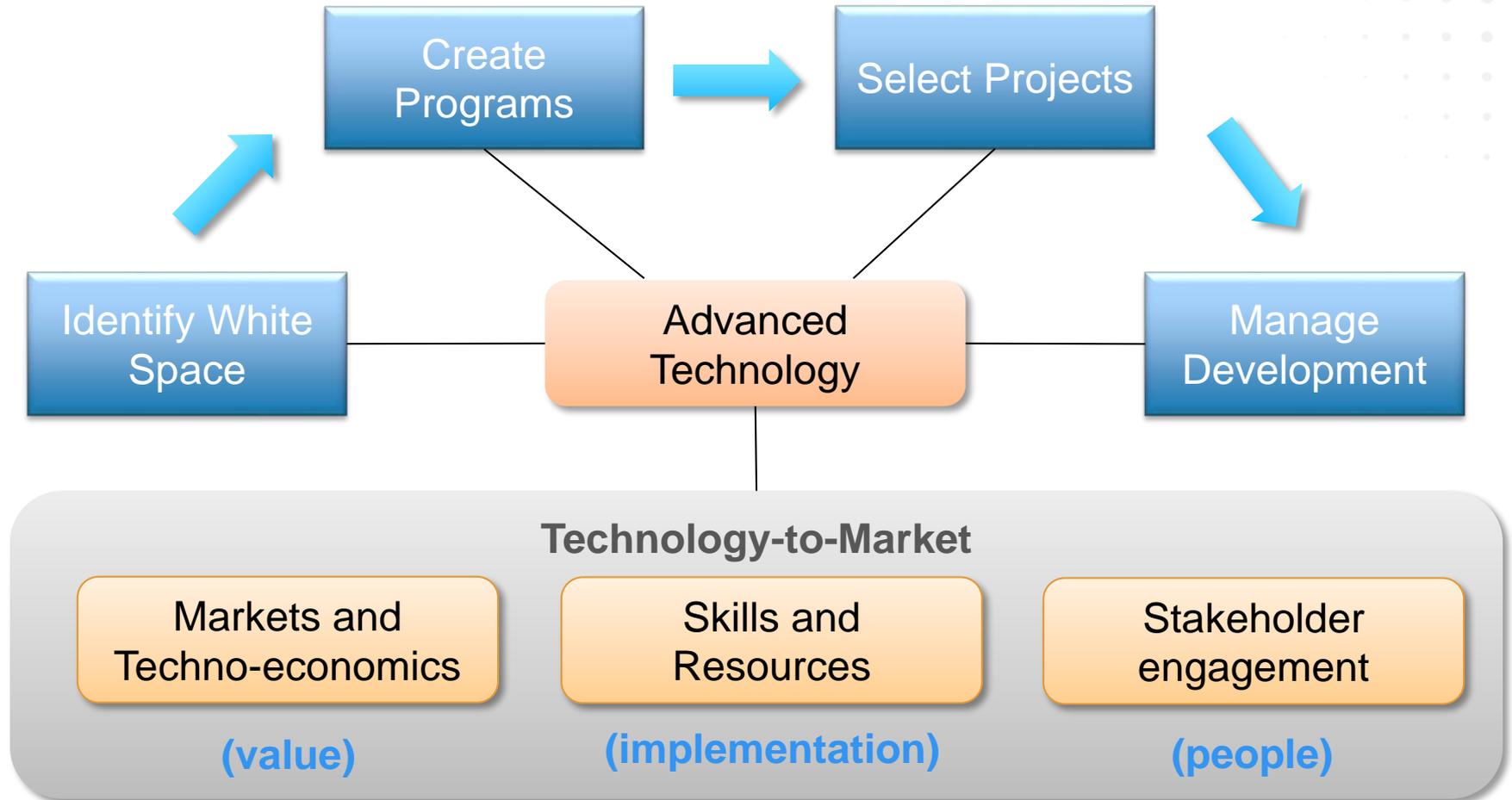
If it works...

will it matter?

Funding Disruptive Approaches to Innovation



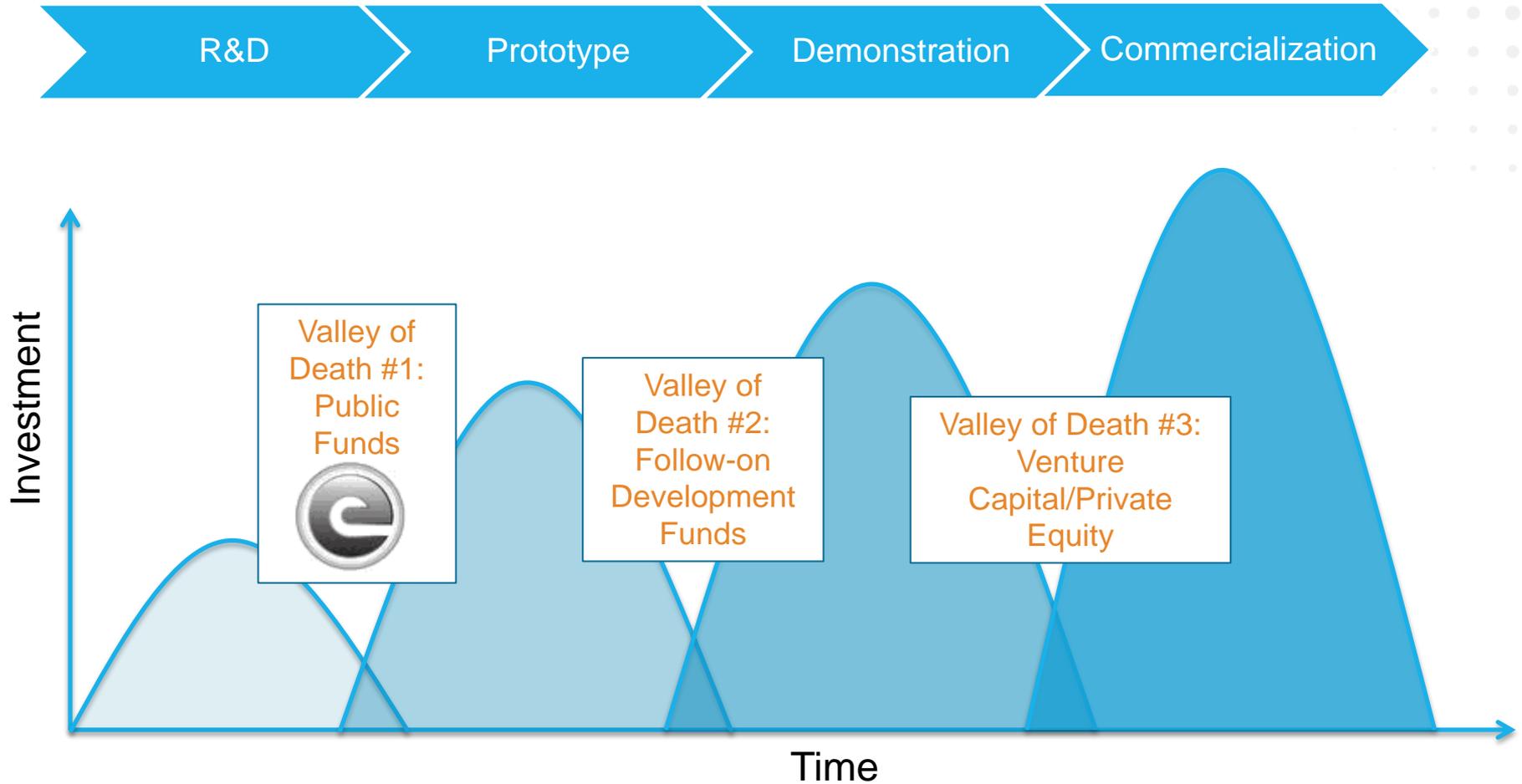
Adding Technology-to-Market



Technology to Market Approach

- ▶ **Manage:** the Commercialization progress of project technologies
 - Manage project teams' T2M efforts through T2M Plans and jointly developed milestones
- ▶ **Advise:** support project teams with skills and knowledge to align technology with market needs
 - IP and competitor management
 - Value Chain and Market analysis
 - Product hypothesis
 - Economic analysis
 - Partner discovery and engagement
- ▶ **Finance:** engage third party financiers to support continuity of technology development towards the market

Transitions Toward Market Adoption



Early Measures of ARPA-E Success

MOVING TECHNOLOGY TOWARD MARKET



- ▶ More than 37 partnerships with other government agencies
- ▶ More than 30 new companies formed
- ▶ 34 Projects have attracted more than \$850 million in private-sector follow-on funding after ARPA-E's investment of \$135 million
- ▶ Established company relationships and developed new communities
- ▶ Several technologies now in products in the marketplace



BREAKTHROUGH ACHIEVEMENTS

- ▶ Technology breakthroughs
- ▶ Patents
- ▶ Publications



OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

- ▶ Expedited program development and project selection
- ▶ Aggressive performance metrics

Program Directors – Central to ARPA-E

ARPA-E is continually recruiting new Program Directors, who serve 3-year terms

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Program development

- ▶ Perform technical deep dive soliciting input from multiple stakeholders in the R&D community
- ▶ Present & defend program concept in climate of constructive criticism

Active project management

- ▶ Actively manage portfolio projects from merit reviews through project completion
- ▶ Extensive “hands-on” work with awardees

Thought leadership

- ▶ Represent ARPA-E as a thought leader in the program area

ATTRIBUTES

- ▶ R&D experience; intellectual integrity, flexibility, and courage; technical breadth; commitment to energy; communication skills; leadership; and team management
- ▶ *A passion to change our energy future*

Fellows – Unique to ARPA-E

ARPA-E also hires Fellows, who serve 2-year terms

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Identification of high-impact energy technologies

- ▶ Perform technical and economic analyses to identify high-impact energy technologies
- ▶ Publish original research papers and reviews

Program director support

- ▶ Help develop future programs through technical analysis, discussions, and workshops
- ▶ Assist with management of current projects, including site visits

Organizational support

- ▶ Review proposals for funding opportunities
- ▶ Contribute to the strategic direction and vision of the agency

ATTRIBUTES

- ▶ Ph.D. in science or engineering; strong analytical and communication skills; ability to work independently and across disciplines; leadership
- ▶ *A passion to change our energy future*



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

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Join us at our 2016 Summit

February 2016

Gaylord National Convention Center
just outside Washington, DC.