The “Push” and “Pull” of Innovation

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USACE Innovation Summit
September 17, 2019
What is innovation?

- Improvement in any discipline (technology, risk assessment, regulation, data management, procurement etc.). Basic and Applied Innovation
- The more disciplines that are integrated into the innovation the more effective or earlier results will be realized
- Many institutions have formal frameworks to stimulate/track innovation.
- Innovation key to competitive edge???
What are the major obstacles to innovation?

- Failure to recognize “need” for innovation
- Inability to communicate cost/benefit to decision makers
- Lack of formal framework to support innovation
What are the key factors that facilitate innovation?

- Interdisciplinary expertise
- Organizational and External credibility
- Communication skills
  (ability to tailor message for different audiences)
- Cost and Risk / Benefit Perspective
- Management facilitation
- Drive to Collaborate and mentor
- Willingness to support “interim” change in order to facilitate greater change
How can we measure innovation?

- Cost reduction
- Cost/time effectiveness
- External Influence/reputation/application in other disciplines
- Is innovation/change part of culture?
How can R&D-push and user-pull be coordinated?

- Formalizing Interdepartmental sharing/collaboration
- Recognizing and rewarding success but also participation
- Applied innovation based on current site-specific issues
- Basic innovation based on overall and long term needs/issue
What are the key challenges and opportunities for USACE?

- Opportunity based on credibility and proven expertise
- Opportunity to cost share on research and/or projects???
- Challenge to collaborate on research priorities or projects (e.g. CRADA)
- Challenge to streamline THE routine allowing more emphasis on future needs/change in infrastructure etc.