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# Research and Innovation Transition Team (RITT) and The RITT Forum

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RITT Forum  
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# Outline



- Issues & Premises
- Background
- Reality Checks
- Commitment to Improving Transition
- Current RITT Activities
- RITT Involvement with NEP Task
- Key Summary Points
- The RITT Forum



# Issues & Premises

## Issues:

- NOAA's research and operations components are not optimally aligned
- Current R2A transition function could be more productive

## Basic Premises:

- 1) Research and Innovation are the lifeblood of NWS Operations
- 2) NWS must invest in a process, staffing, and infrastructure that support bringing results of innovation and research into NWS operations

***R2A=Research to Application --- source external to NWS***  
***I2O= Innovation to Operations --- source internal to NWS***



# Background



- SAB Research Review Team assessment of transitions (2004)
- NOAA Transition Board (initiated 2005, sunset 2008)
- NOAA Transition Policy updated & LOTMs established (NAO 216-105; 2008)
- NEP W&W Transition Task (2007); findings presented Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> 2009
  1. Examine research and applications portfolios within W&W Goal
  2. Review projects and execution funding of the portfolios
  3. Characterize portfolios in terms of alignment and transition focus
  4. Provide lessons learned applicable to other Goal portfolios
  5. Develop criteria for prioritizing projects in the portfolios



# Background



## ***Key Definitions:***

- ***Incubation Project:*** Exploratory research project addressing one or more objectives of NOAA 5-year research plan and/or NWS requirements
- ***Innovation Project:*** NWS Regional efforts to improve NWS Operations based on localized needs that could be expanded to national capability
- ***Transition Project:*** Incubation or innovation project deemed mature, scientifically valid and technically ready for implementation into NWS Operations



# Reality Checks



- Transitions are not budget neutral and must be adequately resourced
- NOAA's culture places high value on Research and Operations, but not (yet) on Transition .
- PPBES not managed at project level
- Research platforms incompatible with operational platforms drives up transition costs
- Early identification of "incubation" projects and planning reduces the costs of transition and reduces risk (improves chances of success)
- R2A/I2O must be addressed both tactically and strategically



# Commitment to Improving Transition



## ***Research and Innovation Transition Team (RITT; est. March 2009)***

***Mission:*** To Facilitate the Transition of Innovation and Research Projects into NWS Operations

[NWS.HQ.RITT@noaa.gov](mailto:NWS.HQ.RITT@noaa.gov)

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/mdl/RITT/>

Team Functions:

- 1) Staffs NWS Line Office Transition Manager (LOTM)
  - Manages LO transition portfolio
  - Fosters applicable LO transition projects through PPBES
  - Ensures development of appropriate transition plans
  - Coordinates with other LOTMs, Program Managers and Goal Teams
- 2) Defines, tracks and monitors incubation, innovation, and transition projects



# Commitment to Improving Transition



RITT Functions (continued):

- 3) Defines and sets targets for transition performance metrics
- 4) Establishes and maintains a forum for sharing of information and discussion of new ideas leading to improvements in NWS Operations
- 5) Maintains strong collaboration with OAR Policy, Planning, and Evaluation (PPE) Office, particularly in establishing a joint of NWS-OAR R&D Project Database
- 6) Performs “help-desk” function for researchers/innovators considering transition, planning for transition, or actively involved in transition projects





# Current RITT Activities



- Project Support
  - GPS-Met
  - RTVS → NEVS
  - Easy-to-Deploy Buoys
  - NWS Field Innovations (e.g., Mobile Alerts, IRIS, NPOP)
- Building Joint OAR-NWS Project Database and annual data collection
- Supporting LOTM on NEP Transition Task
- Establishing R2A Capitalization Fund
- RITT Forum



# RITT Involvement with NEP Task



- Preserve PUSH – PULL dynamic between Research & Operations
- Institutionalize R&D project data collection **RITT**
- Prioritize investments based on entire portfolio
- Implement transparent prioritization model that aligns with NOAA's goals & objectives and justifies investment decisions
- Establish R2A Capitalization "Fund" to support timely transitions **RITT**
- Commit human resources to facilitate R2A transitions **RITT**
- Maintain routine engagement between LOTMs **RITT**
- Complex endeavor requiring flexibility and a spirit of cooperation **RITT**



# Key Summary Points



- NWS and OAR have collaborated to establish an R2A framework to better align their respective project portfolios
- RITT represents a long term commitment to improving transitions in NOAA
- NOAA is poised to significantly improve its R2A productivity



# RITT Forum

[NWS.HQ.Ritt.Forum@noaa.gov](mailto:NWS.HQ.Ritt.Forum@noaa.gov)



- A monthly forum among stakeholders in NOAA's Weather and Water Enterprise, the focus of which is the transition of research and innovation to NWS operations.
- An informal and collegial exchange of ideas and information designed to educate and raise awareness of transition opportunities and issues within NOAA



# RITT Forum Members



- **RITT Core Members**
  - Stephan Smith, Doug Hilderbrand, John Schattel, Laura Cutrer, Mark Oberfield, Kari Sheets, and Steven Pritchett (OST)
- **NWS Innovation Advisory Board (IAB)**
  - Pete Browning (CR), Andy Edman (WR), Ken Johnson (ER), David (Rusty) Billingsley (SR), Bill Ward (PR), Carven Scott (AR)
- **NWS HQ and NCEP Points of Contact (POC)**
  - Cindy Woods (OCWWS), Dennis Miller (OHD), Irene Parker (OOS), Gustavo Limon (CIO), Lauren Morone (NCEP)



# RITT Forum Members (cont.)

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- **OAR POC's**
  - Stephen Weygandt (ESRL/GSD)
  - Jian-Wen Bao (ESRL/PSD)
  - Steve Ruberg (GLERL)
  - Christian Meinig (PMEL)
  - Kevin Manross (NSSL)
  - Kurt Hondl (NSSL)
  - Mike Coniglio (NSSL)
  - Jian Zhang (NSSL)



# RITT Forum Format



- 20-30 Minute informational presentation of incubation or innovation project
  - (Alternating monthly between OAR project and NWS Region project)
- Followed by discussion of selected project within the context of transition
- Exchange of other transition-related information



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# Questions?