GOVERNMENT & INDUSTRY PIPELINE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT FORUM

Standards Development Brainstorming Session

Session Objective
How do we integrate applicable R&D Initiatives with Standards development?

Brainstorming session

Impediments to integrating R&D with standards development
1. No clear process is defined for integrating R&D with standards development
2. There is often a disconnect between the people performing the research and the people developing standards
3. There is little or no personal incentive for industry volunteers to participate in standards development compared to the time required to be invested
4. The time-frames for rewards are too long-term (many times it takes 10+ years to perform research and convert it into a standard, this is often not recognized by the industry)
5. Standards development may not proceed if there is a perception that regulators will not accept a particular new technology
6. The delay in developing standards may be outpaced by changing technology
7. Differing goals in developing standards
8. Lack of resources
9. Concern that standards will be overly restrictive, and impede the use of new technology
10. Poor understanding of the new technology
11. Delay in updating regulations once the standards are developed and generally accepted
12. Commercial competitiveness
13. No urgency in standards development if there is no regulatory driver

Solutions to integrating R&D with standards development
1. Commitment of resources (SDO's hiring contractors to write standards, incentivise industry personnel to allocate time and resources)
2. Include regulators in standards development process from initiation in order to get input/buy-in
3. Contract a facilitator to negotiate resolution of differences of opinion on final stages of standards approval process, often the most time consuming
4. Don't allow hostage-taking in SDO process
5. Include all stakeholders (field personnel, ultimate end users) in development process
6. Perform a review of recent standards developed based on new technology in order to determine successes and failures
7. Coordinate SDO's to prevent duplication of effort
8. Perform gap analysis for industry standards
9. Utilize the internet for speeding up processes and reducing costs like committee meetings and collaboration, balloting, and communications.