Continuous Innovation - The Art of Set-Based Thinking[™] -

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Here are some definitions (for this presentation only)

- An *'idea'* is a novel approach for doing something. Ideation is a process for achieving.
- An *'invention'* is the manifestation of an idea into something real.
- An *'innovation*' is an invention that realizes customer value with an economic benefit.



Otto Lilienthal: A great inventor

- Called the father of Flight
- Successfully designed and flew gliders in mid 19th century
- Published "lift / Drag" data
- *" To invent an airplane is nothing, to build one is something, to fly is everything*





Samuel Langley: ????

- Using Lilienthal's data, successfully designed and tested several gliders
- Funded by U.S. War department, designed this system for manned flight
- It ended up in the river





How about the Wright Bros?

Invented

- A wind tunnel for measuring lift and drag – corrected Lilienthal's data
- Wing warping technology for flight control
- A highly efficient propeller
- A lightweight engine
- Their inventions spawned an entire industry







What is lean?

- Lots of definitions; but can we all agree, it will always include "Continuous Improvement"
- Can we also agree, for Product Development, it would include "Continuous Innovation"
- Another question: "What is the relationship between 'lean' and 'innovation'?
 - Complementary, adversarial



Lean vs. Innovation

The case for Adversarial:

- lean is about setting standards / reducing variability
- Innovation is about breaking standards and increasing variability

The case for Complementary:

- lean is about establishing a baseline (standard)
- Measuring the baseline
- Continuously innovating to improve the baseline



Were the Wright Brothers Lean? (we know they were great innovators)

Consider the P51 Mustang

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The aircraft industry today





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Is Toyota Innovative? (we know they are lean)

- Many say they are not; point to 'boring' styling; breakthrough new models few and far between
- However, consider they seldom yield the lead:
 - The Lexus and Prius look largely the same, but are still market leaders after 25 and 15 years
 - How?: they follow the lean principles of continuous innovation to stay ahead



What has Toyota taught us about continuous innovation

 Focus on decisions and customer interests

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- Know the limits of current capability (baseline)
- Design within it today
- Relentlessly move the limits for tomorrow



WHAT IF YOU DID THAT ON EVERY DECISION?



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Let's consider PING™

A small company competing in a land of giants

Over the last decade:

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- 5X in new products introduced
- Reduced TTM by 50%
- with 20% less people







They relentlessly focus on performance limits





They move limits on Decisions



Then setting the new baseline

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This allows continuous system innovation





The Teledyne Benthos Story



Traditional Specification Driven Design



Teledyne Benthos: They changed the process

customer want? Are our knowledge Can we innovate and limits captured? extend the limits? Aseptic Dairy r Shelf Stabili searched by TanTo What are the tradeoffs / gaps? Can we resolve Is the product the gaps? optimized?



They now dominate





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Is there a common ground?

- •All understood their customer interests
- All knew their capabilities / limits
 All knew the needed decisions (intel)
- •All knew the needed decisions (and the tradeoffs
- •All defined / resolved the knowledge gaps
- •All optimized the design and established new baselines



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Are there simple models to build from for continuous innovation?

From the President of Toyota North America:

- Keep it simple
- Make everything visual
- Trust your people to do the right thing



1: The Learning Model



- At Toyota, it is the A3 and the relentless learning to produce it
- Dr. Allen Ward created the term LAMDA for simplicity and focus



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2: The Set-Based Convergence Model (Cycles of focused Learning)





Let me end with some questions

Before you start designing a new product

- Do you really know your customer interests and targets *or do you assume they are in the specs?*
- Do you really know the limits of your capability?
- Do you know the tradeoffs?
- Are you innovating to remove / extend performance limits?
- Are your innovations the new 'capability' baseline for your next product?





Thank You!

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