

Opening the Black Box of Innovation: Evaluating Interim Impacts and Supply Chain Dynamics Early in a Product Life Cycle

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Gretchen Jordan, 360 Innovation LLC

Rosalie Ruegg, TIA Consulting Inc.

Jonathan Mote, George Washington University

Opinions expressed are solely those of the authors.

Early Stage Assessment of Investments in New Energy Technologies: An Evaluation Framework

- Prepared for the U.S Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Jeff Dowd, DOE, Project Manager
- Yaw Agyeman, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Contract Manager

Project Team:

- Gretchen Jordan, 360 Innovation LLC
- Jonathan Mote, George Washington University
- Rosalie Ruegg, TIA Consulting Inc.
- Thomas Choi, Arizona State University
- Angela Becker-Dippmann, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

The Logic of Public Interventions to Accelerate Development of New Products and Supply Chains

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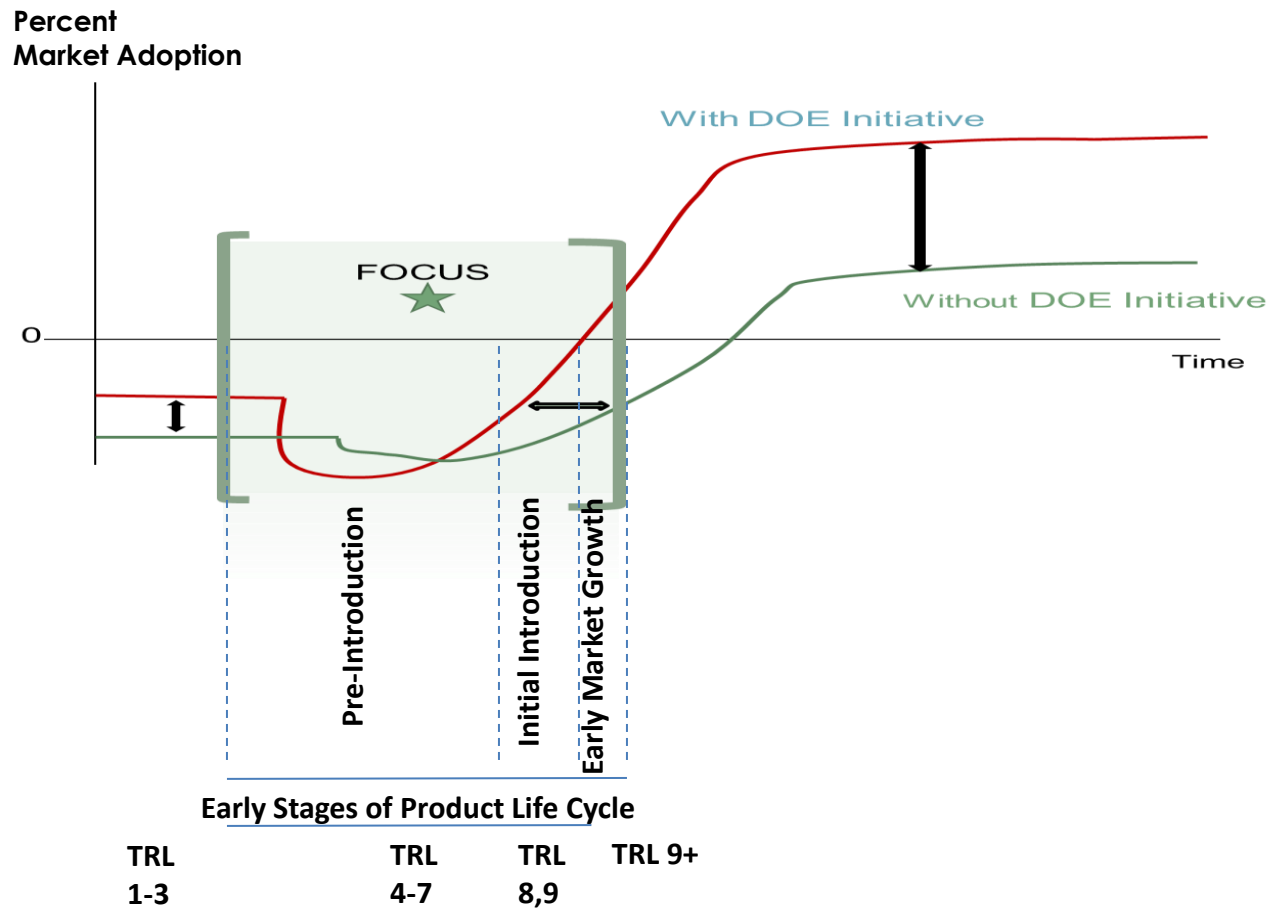


Gretchen Jordan, 360 Innovation LLC

Objectives for the Framework

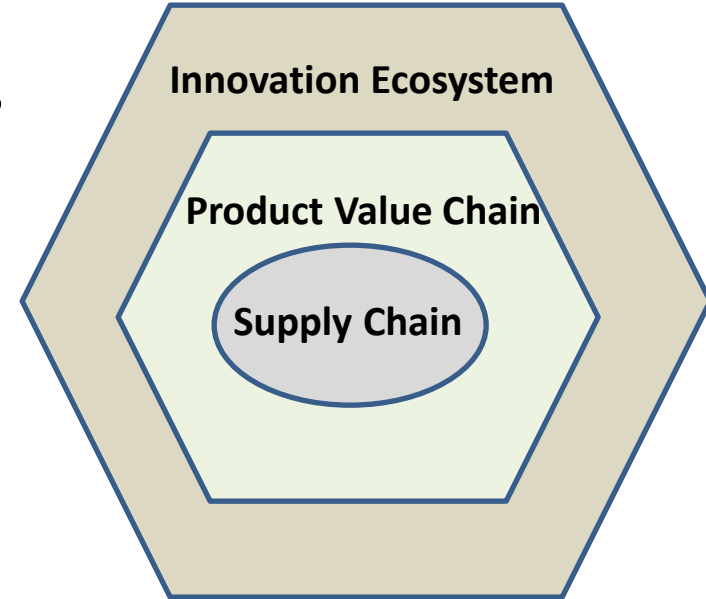
- Provide a more timely, interim view of dynamics unfolding in the “black box of innovation” during early phases of the product life cycle.
- Focus on measuring changes that occur within an initial five-year window of relevant investment.
- Bring to bear best practices in program evaluation associated with rigorous methods of research design and analytical approaches
- Add ***analysis of product value chain networks*** to the evaluators’ toolbox—as a means of assessing interim changes in a targeted technology’s domestic supply chain and value chain

Focus: Technology Readiness Levels 4 – 9 and early market



Important Relationships in the Framework

- product value chain is a broader network or set of networks than a supply chain
- comprised of a web of ties among firms that contribute all of the critical factors needed to develop and deliver a product to consumers motivated to purchase it—from R&D, to finance, support services, distribution and even retail infrastructure.
- All of this is influenced by the innovation ecosystem within which these are located.



A Product Value Chain and Innovation Ecosystem

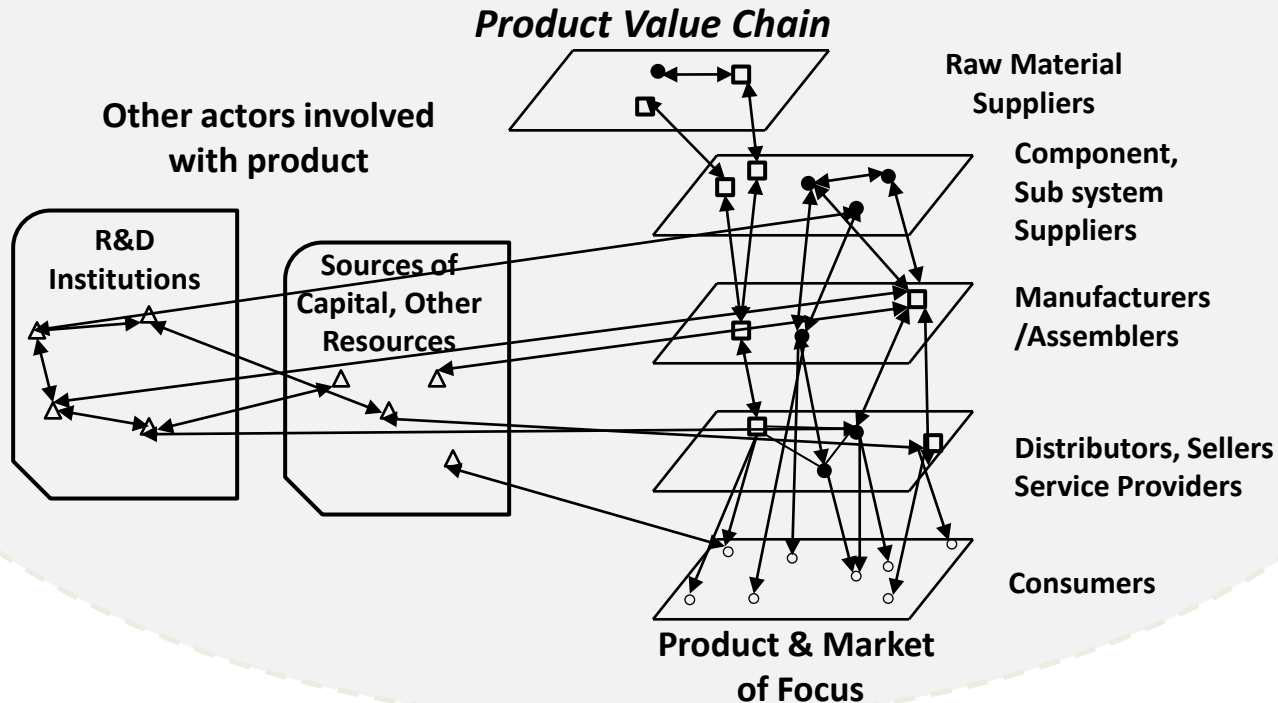
Innovation Ecosystem

Technical:
Competing,
complementary
technologies...

Economic:
Market
characteristics,
NGOs...

Government:
Policies,
procurement ...
(including EERE)

Information,
Culture:
Human resources,
networks, beliefs...



- Product Supply Chain firms
- Other firms in the industry
- △ Other elements contributing to product, market

A Theory-based logic model

A logic model provides a sequential diagram of program resources supporting a set of activities which yield outputs targeting users/customers and presumably adopted by them, which in turn results in short-run outcomes, followed by intermediate-run outcomes, and eventually long-run or ultimate impacts which are aligned with and serve the program's ultimate mission.

This Framework logic model is derived from theories in

- science and innovation policy
- network analysis applied to innovation and supply chains
- supply chain models such as that presented in Lowe et al. 2010
- expert advisory reports to the White House on manufacturing competitiveness (Executive Office of the President 2009, 2011), and
- interviews with EERE staff of current relevant programs.

Goals of Investments Covered in the Framework

Ultimate
Impacts

U.S. Global Competitiveness in Manufacturing Energy Technologies
National Energy and Economic Benefits



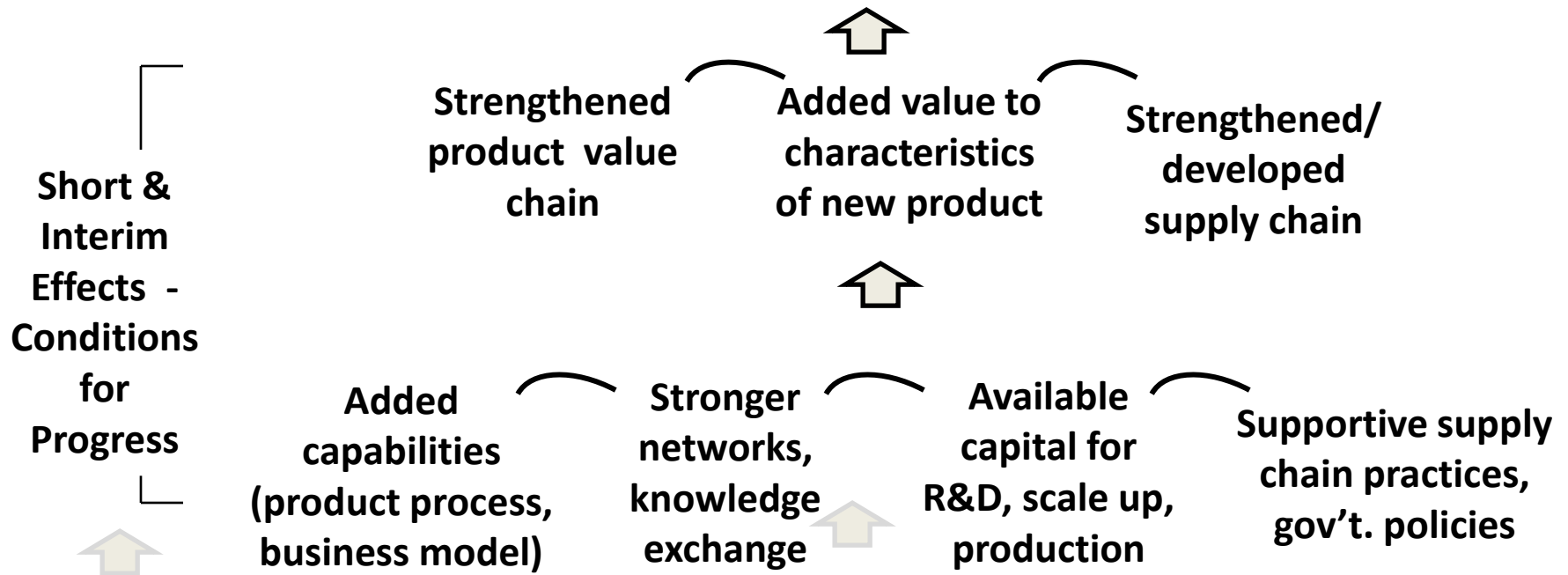
Interim
Effects -
Outcome
Objectives

Capabilities
for continued product
innovation

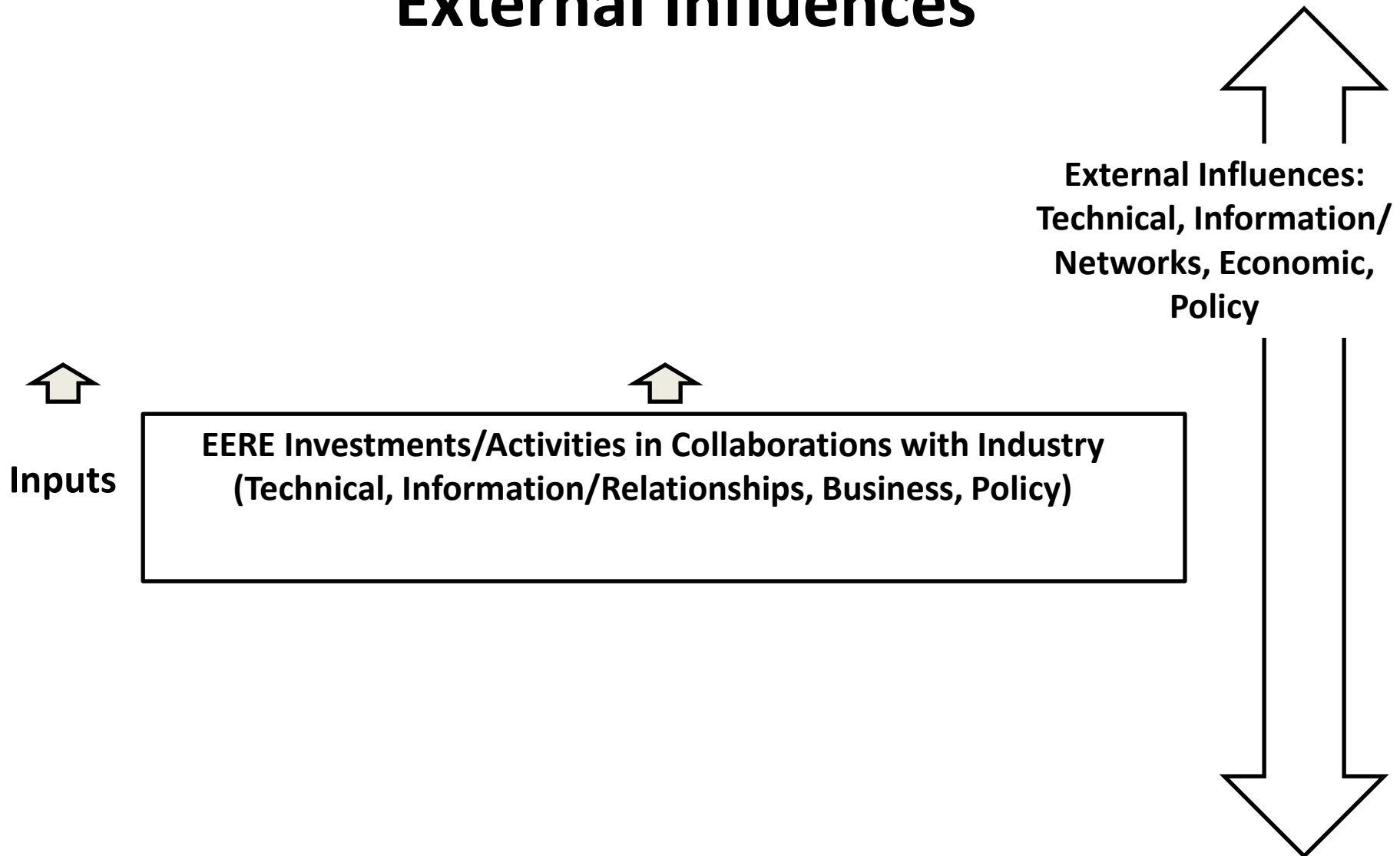
Growth in US
manufacturing

Accelerated new product
commercialization,
adoption

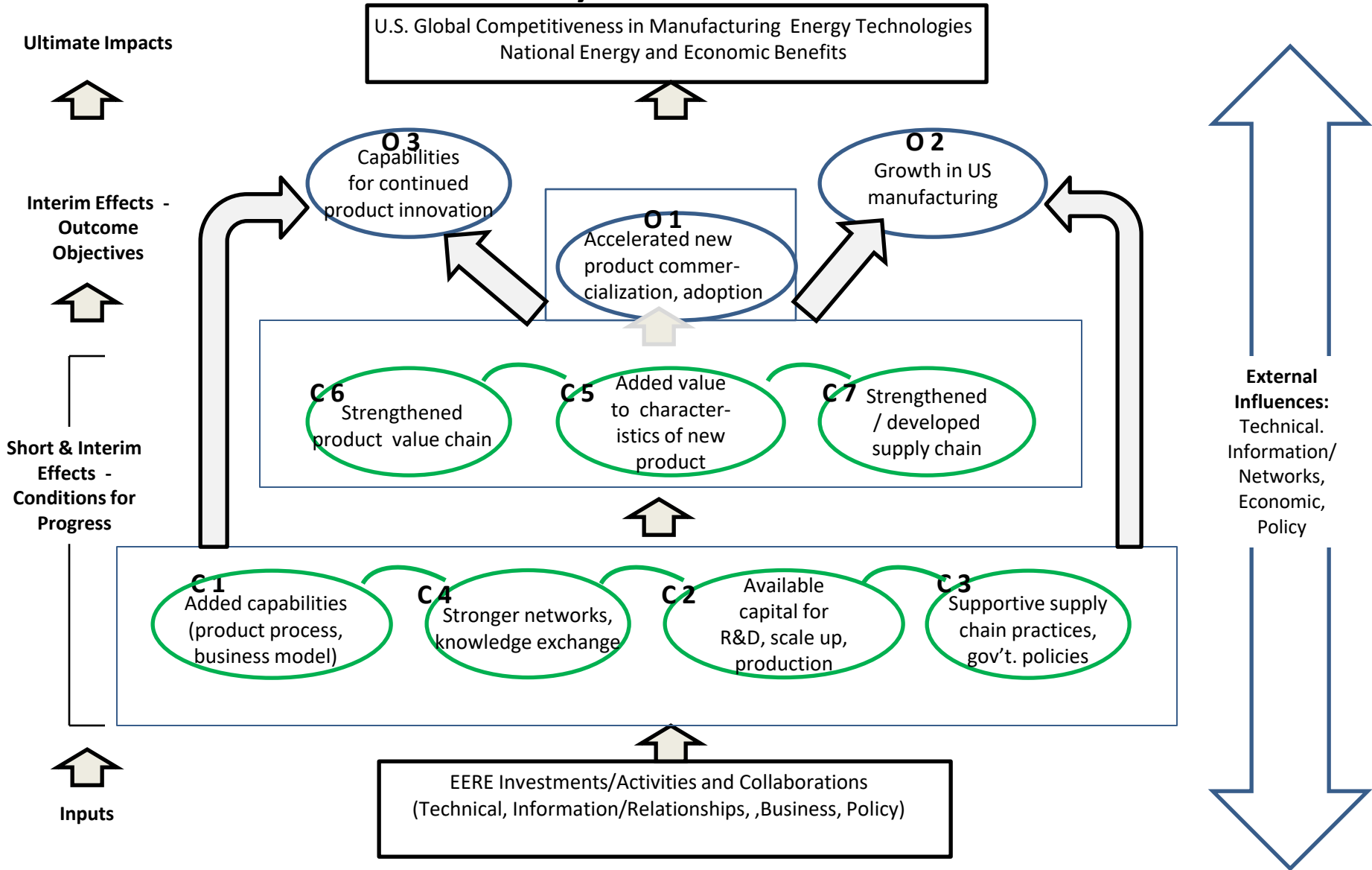
Critical Conditions: Short Term and Interim Effects



DOE Inputs Amongst Many External Influences



A Framework for Assessing Accelerated Product Innovation, Manufacturing, Early Market Growth



Conclusion: More Detailed Logic Mapping

- Was needed before we could be more abstract
- Is the basis for evaluation questions and selection of indicators
- Helps explain the theory
- Helps program managers to see where their efforts fit in the larger picture

Detailed Logic of Accelerating Technology Introduction in U.S. Supply Chains

