



The Innovation Management System Framework – A Management Summary

Why have an IMS framework?

Any organization, in order to stay alive, needs to continually adapt itself to its environment. Many of those changes are small, some changes and developments are significant and radical. This standard describes precisely what it takes for an organization to be truly innovative, to make those changes big and small. It helps organizations get better at creating new and different services, products and processes and thereby stay relevant. Saving time, cost, and effort. Get smarter and better innovating capability improvement.

What is this IMS framework?

This is a truly international and universal framework. It is the first of its kind. Utmost care has been given to make this standard available and accessible to all organizations, regardless of their nature, purpose and activities.

The framework consists of seven main documents:

1. The Innovation Management Standard
2. The Assessment Checklist
3. The Interpretation Guideline, containing assessment notes
4. The Basic Implementation Guideline
5. Innovation Definitions
6. Innovation Metrics
7. The Accreditation and Certification Program (household rules for accreditation and certification).

A whole range of further support documents is available, such as for example a special guideline for using this framework in smaller organizations, a guideline for sustainability, a guideline on process, on innovation venturing, and many internal tools which help auditors and consultants prepare innovation assessments and provide advice respectively.

What does this framework cover?

It describes the ideal situation or norm of any organization's required measures to be truly innovative. This is done according to three overarching criteria that determine an organization's innovation capability: innovation planning, innovation execution, and innovation deployment. The standard covers six major areas: Culture, Leadership, Resources, Processes, Monitoring and Measuring, and Improvement.

How does an assessment work?

With this framework, organizations can perform self-assessments, which gives them the possibility to opt for a self-declaration, to reach level 1. They can aim for higher levels of capability by asking a professional auditing organization to rate them against the 3 dimensions mentioned above, which provides an image of where improvements could be made, so as to be able to continuously improve their capabilities to innovate and increase overall performance. Attention has been given to incorporate principles of sustainability.

Can you really innovate with an innovation management system?

Certainly. Although you cannot manage all aspects of innovation (it would be rather preposterous to claim control over creativity or serendipity), you *can facilitate* innovation and give it focus and direction, and therefore you can manage the facilitation process. It is very different from quality management standards, which always use the existing situation and organization as their departure point, and assume you can manage everything from within. The IMS Framework is a cooperative initiative of the Product Development and Management Association, holder of the Registry, and the Total Innovation Management Foundation, which manages the framework on behalf of PDMA.

More information? Check www.pdma.org for standards, and www.timfoundation.org for more in-depth information.