

Relations Between Science & Technology

April 10, 2007



What have we learned?

- So far, no answers but three questions.
 - Why don't those outside the organizations supply better ideas?
 - Why aren't those inside the organization consulted more?
 - How do the 'internal consultants' acquire their information?



Science and Technology







Internal Problems

- There are boundaries inside the organization that can cause as much difficulty (sometimes more) as the external boundary:
 - Product Development ⇔ Marketing.
 - Product Development
 Manufacturing

 Engineering.
 - Etc.



Interfunctional Communication





An Experiment

- Recorded CAD functions used by gas turbine designers.
 - Sampled on random days about once per week for several months.
- Outcome Measure:
 - Number of Engineering Changes (ECs) processed following transfer of design to manufacturing.



Computer Aided Design and Inter-functional Communication

- CAD can be implemented on at least three levels:
 - An investment in *physical* capital.
 - An automation of the traditional drafting process.
 - As an investment in *human* capital.
 - Extending the ability of the designer.
 - As an investment in *social* capital.
 - As a means for communication and other exchange.



An Experiment

- Instrumented the terminals of gas turbine blade designers.
 - On randomly chosen days, recorded all of the functions used that day.
 - Functions categorized according to categories listed on preceding slide.
 - Output measure
 - Number of Engineering Changes that had to be processed following transfer to Manufacturing.



Performance in Transferring Designs to Manufacturing as a Function of CAD System Use for Communication





Using a Common Reference to Reduce Ambiguity in Communication



Figure by MIT OCW.



Partial Layout of the BMW Forschung und Ingenieurung Zentrum





Movement of People

• More may happen as a result of a transfer than is immediately obvious.



The Effect of Transfers





Continuing Relations





More Continuing Relations





Referrals





A Typical Technical Communication Network



Figure by MIT OCW.



Communication Network in a Small Laboratory





High Communicators Compared with Colleagues in Readership of Refereed Journals





High Communicators Compared with Colleagues in Terms of Regular Informal Contact Outside of the Organization





The Gatekeeper as a Link to Outside Technology

