Sustainment Strategy Framework – Obtaining and Implementing a Rapid and Repeatable Innovation/Problem Solving Capability

Overview – HAF/A4 established objectives for identifying and implementing innovations that improve the overall readiness of the USAF. Conceptually, the organization seeks the ability to present problem(s) or challenge(s) that effect readiness, to the DAF staff, Major Commands or other responsible agency for organic solution development to include (as required) **non-traditional defense contractors** in Industry for the purpose of early and continuous collaboration in **developing prototype solutions** or **models** that resolve these problems / challenges and/or if not fully resolved, reduce risk and improve the readiness posture of the Air Force and support innovating and scaling at the speed of relevance.

A4 Concept of Operations. AF/A4 - In response to a SECAF directive, the A4 developed a Sustainment Strategy Framework (SSF) to materially improve the sustainment of Air Force weapon systems. The implementation of this framework will recover readiness faster and maintain readiness levels required by the National Defense Strategy (NDS) while setting the conditions for long-term cost control and reduction. The A4 established four (4) primary lines of effort (LOE) to materially improve the sustainment of Air Force weapon systems and meet the six (6) AF operational readiness objectives. **LOEs include: enhance mission generation, improve enterprise materiel support, expand enterprise repair networks and capitalize on new data analytics and industry proven methods**. Capitalizing on new Industry Proven Methods is a stated SSF imperative. As such, each LOE requires consistent and iterative access to **non-traditional defense contractors** who are developing new **cutting-edge technologies and innovative implementation models.**

Requirement: HAF/A4 seeks to establish an agreement to provide support for the concepts of operations for concept testing, validation and refinement. The outputs from this support would help refine policy and produce requirements documents and/or performance work statements and concepts of operations that would form the basis of requirements for organic development or procurement solicitations.

In the short-term, HAF/A4 will rely on services provided by a non-traditional defense contractor to:

- Develop and assist executing a model repeatable process for innovation development and implementation to include:
    - Working with government to generate innovative solution concepts that address prioritized challenges
    - Identify, assess and align capabilities (industry, academia, government) that can deliver the best solutions
    - Aid in developing, testing, and validating ideas
    - Developing and delivering prototype risk and value assessments to support government decisions to continue, scale, or even terminate

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Tasks: Develop and deliver innovation implementation 'roadmaps' and assessments of the innovative solutions for the following key tasks (ref: Figure 1.1 below and the green box on commercial solution – innovation required):

- Develop weapon system North Star Metrics/Common Goal Metrics focused on readiness
- Optimize scheduled maintenance by aligning, synchronizing, and scheduling inspections to match requirements with capacity
- Develop kitting solutions to increase mechanic touch-time and reduce downtime for scheduled maintenance
- Expand Repair Network Integration implementation to cover a broader spectrum of items subject to repair and remove constraints
- Complete Project Tesseract implementation and mitigate logistics constraints through innovative concepts and capability development
- Improve resiliency within the supply chain to improve readiness and asset visibility
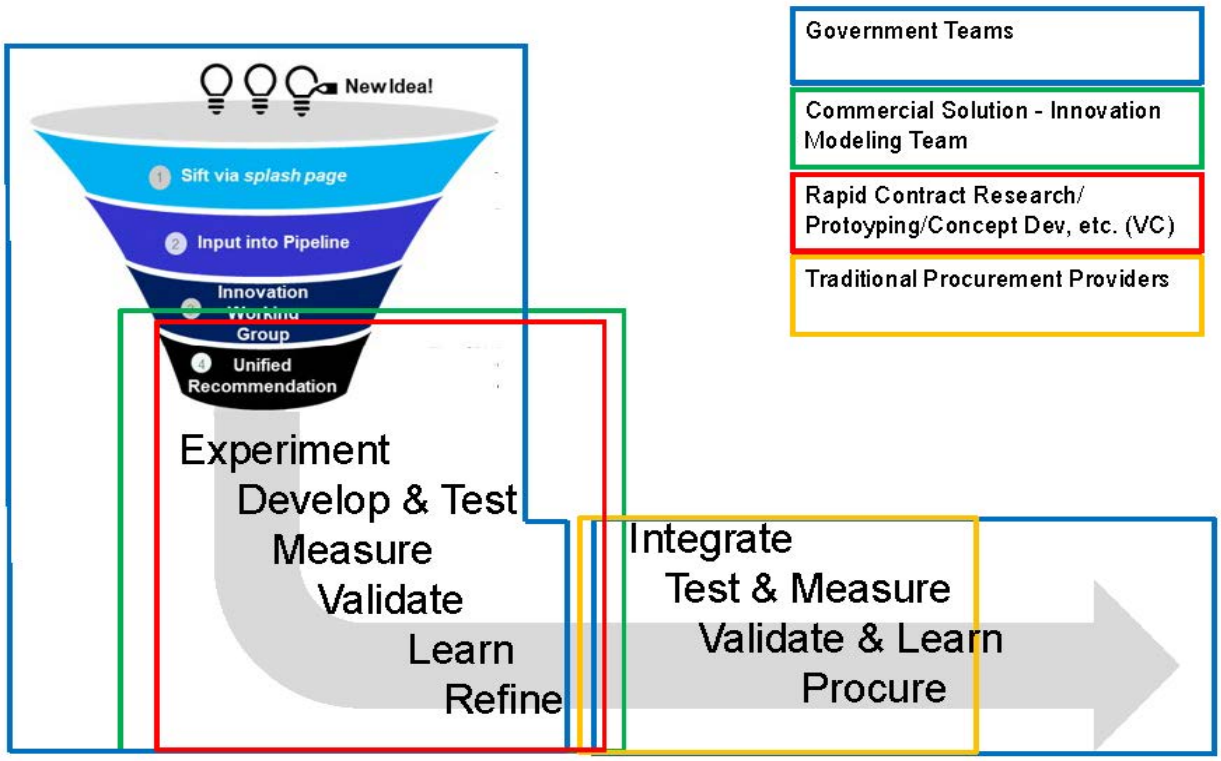
Figure 1.1: