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Putting Good Ideas to Work

EU-US Transportation Research Symposium on Transport Research Implementation: The Application of Research Outcomes

April 10-11, 2014
Paris, France

- Organized by:
 - European Commission (EC)
 - Research & Innovation Technology Administration of the U.S.D.O.T.
 - Transportation Research Board (TRB) of the National Academies



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Ref: TRB Annual Meeting - 2014

- New Horizons for International Research Collaboration: European Union (EU) Horizon 2020 Program

- Sponsored by: the International Activities Committee of the TRB
 - Program Overview- EC Directorate General for Research and Innovation
 - ◆ Program Specifics for “Surface Transportation”
 - Staffing by:
 - ◆ EC-DGR&I
 - ◆ USDOT – R.I.T.A.
 - ◆ TRB – National Academies



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Attributes of the Initiative

- Funding provided by sponsors:
 - EU/EC Horizon 2020 (Transport Sector)
 - R.I.T.A./U.S.D.O.T.~ TRB Staff
- Planning Committee:
 - Approved by respective funding providers
 - Chair/co-chair of EU/US delegation (4+4)
 - Industry/State Government/Academy/ “Institutes”
- Participants:
 - 25 + 25
 - Identified by planning committee/Invited by sponsors
 - Breadth of sectors/regions/diversity/expertise



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White Papers (Commissioned)

1. Transportation Research Implementation in the European Union and the United States – Observations & Working Hypothesis
 - By John F. Munro, University of Maryland and Angel Aparicio, Technical University of Madrid
2. Lessons Learned from Case Studies of Successful Research Implementation in Europe and the United States
 - By Joris Al, EU Transport Consultant and Mark Vandehey, US Transportation Consultant



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Paper #1: Research Implementation Issues

- Sufficient funding for research implementation
- Appropriate levels of centralization & coordination
- Adequate comprehensive data collection & analysis
- Public sector role in translating IP into commercialized opportunities



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Paper #2: Lessons Learned

- Limited information, literature or studies on “research implementation”
 - Metrics for relationship between research finding and implementation outcomes
 - “Successful” implementation characteristics: *
 - Consistent communications
 - Smooth “governance”
 - Financial/capacity throughout process
- * For all engaged stakeholders



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Example “findings” from Participants

- Key central focus on ROI of “mission-oriented research”
- Impediments
 - Risk-averse public sponsorship
 - Changing operational priorities
 - Valley(s) of death:
 - ◆ Technological (prototype/demonstration)
 - ◆ Commercialization
- Strive for clarity in implementation expectations by stakeholders
- Implementation plans should be detailed and funded
- Consideration of appropriately pooling stakeholder resources
- Document early in process the difference between:
 - “Best-in-class” Research, and
 - “Best-in-class” Implementation skills



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Symposium Products

- Proceedings prepared/produced by rapporteurs
- Formal publication review by EU and TRB/NRC
- Continuation of annual research symposiums
- “Primer” envisioned on successful implementation processes
- Anticipate EU & TRB research “standing committees” to facilitate ongoing dialogue on future joint initiatives/research projects



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