

InnovationForce Performance & Collaboration Measurement

TECHNOLOGY SOLUTION

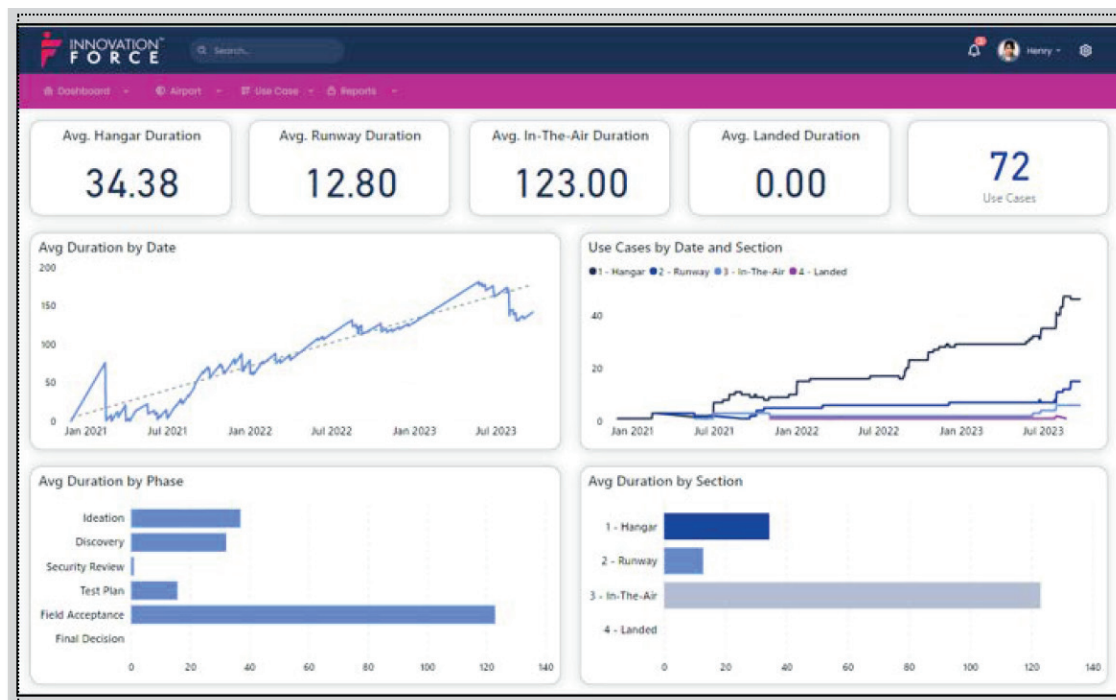
InnovationWorks is a SaaS-based workforce automation tool helping utilities simplify, standardize and scale their innovation process. By measuring cycle completion time in the workflows, InnovationWorks provides granular details into the amount of time teams are investing and engaging in innovating. By simplifying the process, we've democratized innovation so anyone and everyone can participate. Finally, as the only innovation management platform to measure culture based on 20 years of research from Harvard Business School professor Dr. Linda Hill, InnovationWorks can help you build and support high-performing, problem solving teams read to lead the energy transition.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Utilities are highly regulated organizations with constrained OPEX budgets that make scaling innovation particularly hard. Employees with “day jobs” must participate and drive the innovation process alongside R&D and innovation managers. Employees have limited time and can be reluctant to engage and participate.

Spreadsheets do not meet volume or quality of output expected by senior leaders who have funded the program. While a lot of excitement exists at the beginning, most programs collapse when they become too difficult to mangle out of a spreadsheet or there is not enough time/interest by employees.

InnovationForce provides a SaaS-based workforce automation tool purpose built for utilities to accelerate, measure, and scale their innovation effort. It was created by utility innovation managers for utilities to help them:



- 1 Accelerate the speed of innovation to meet decarbonization mandates faster.
- 2 Manage a larger innovation portfolio of ideas with fewer dedicated resources (reduce OPEX).
- 3 Collaboration and engagement measurement to help drive innovation into the organization.
- 4 Spend capital on the right innovation products to deliver growth Return on Equity (ROE) to shareholders.
- 5 Meet ESG and DEI goals by creating high-performing, inclusive cultures that support innovation.

By moving the right ideas through an automated innovation process, utilities can deploy more capital toward projects that reduce emissions and deliver shareholder value faster. Rather than hiring dedicated innovation teams, Central Hudson can scale the art of innovating so anyone and everyone can participate to unlock value for customers, drive sustainability goals and compete against disruptive threats.

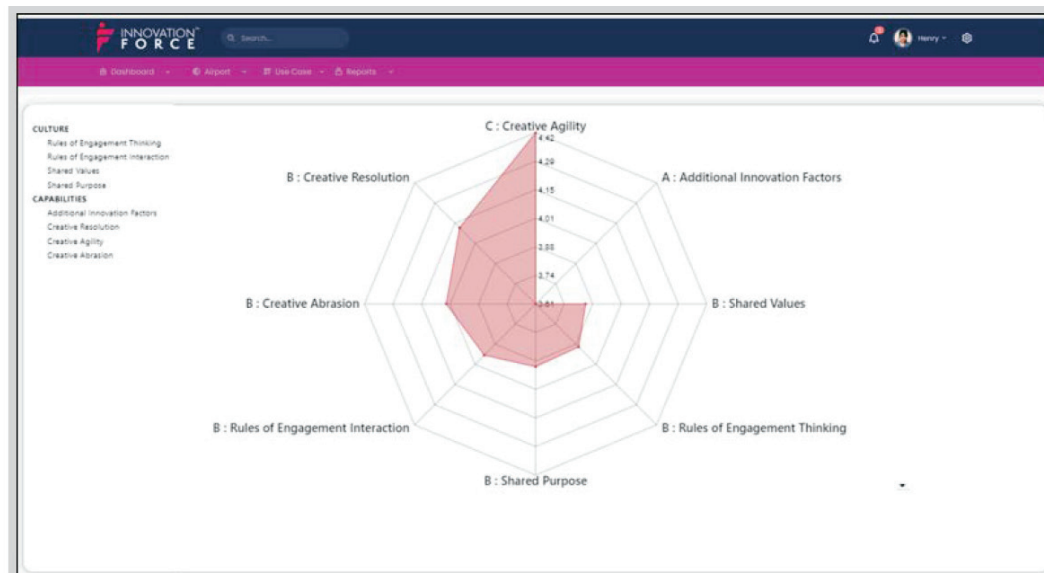
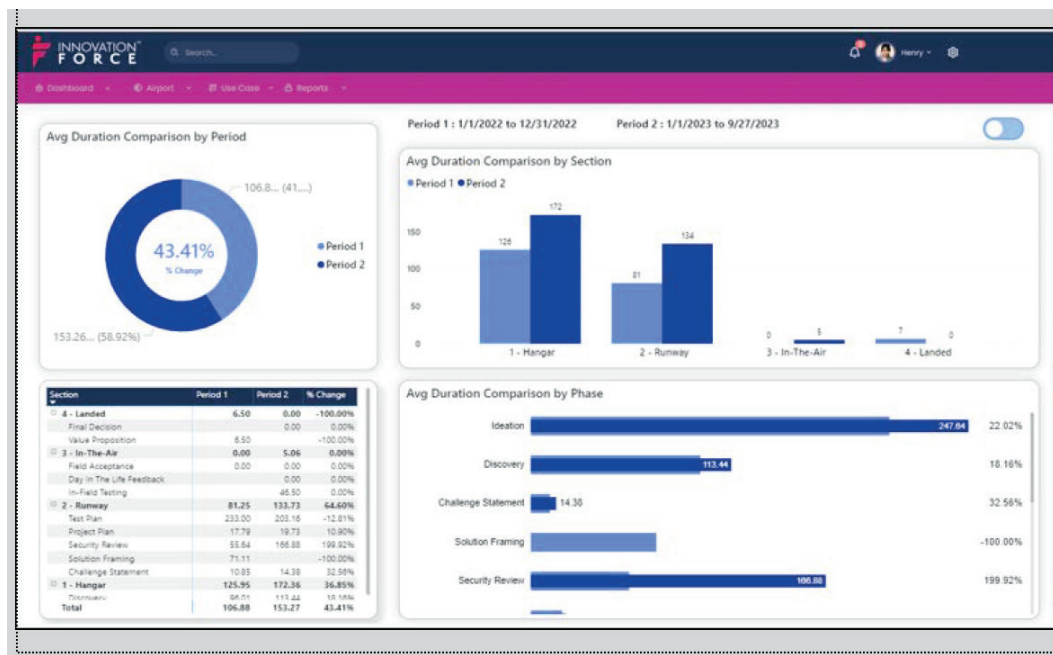
RESULTS & LEARNING

Working with Portland General Electric and Central Hudson, we have seen tremendous results to accelerate and scale innovation with automation and best practice.

- Central Hudson took 13 years of innovation data consisting of 4,000 use cases and was able to get real data and insights on the performance of their innovation program.

There are many innovation management solutions that focus on brainstorming or project management. InnovationForce is different. It focuses on performance and execution. With InnovationForce, we turned 13 years of data into insights that will help us reduce OPEX, decarbonize, and push strategic capital projects into deployment faster.

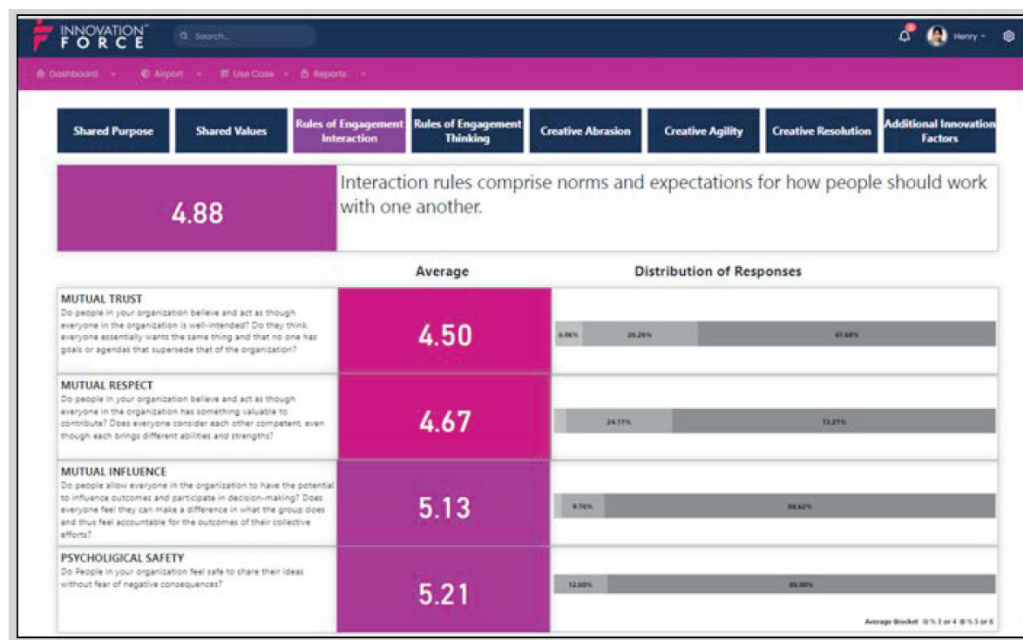
Jess Kaznowski, Central Hudson,
Asst Business Analyst R&D and innovation



- PGE is making decisions up to 85% faster, finishing pilots 65% faster and they have expanded the number of projects and innovators participating in innovation without adding additional headcount (70% OPEX savings).

IMPLICATIONS & NEXT STEPS

Based on the feedback received, InnovationForce launched the SaaS version of their platform in Jan 2024. PGE, Central Hudson, and Fortis Inc are piloting the new platform and can see how their feedback during IEL was incorporated. Using this new version of InnovationWorks, we have been able to create a dynamic environment to rank, score and track the ideas that are coming through for IEL 2024 and integrate this seamlessly into their current innovation programs. ●



It has been a pleasure working with the InnovationForce team through the IEL experience. I'm very impressed with how quickly you are moving!

Kevin Woodbury, Fortis, Inc.,
Vice President, Innovation and Technology

With InnovationForce, we scaled our portfolio to over 140 use cases, reduced early-stage decision time by 85% and landed more test cases faster. This progress received positive attention from the PGE board who wanted to see us accelerate innovation to hit 2030 decarbonization targets.

Allegra Hodges, Portland General Electric, Head
of Strategic Innovation

RESOURCES

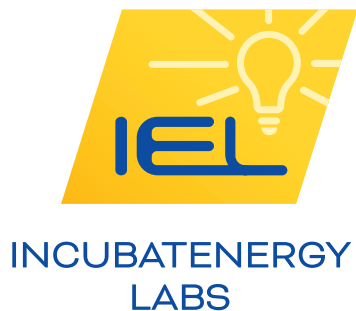
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