

Under the Patronage of His Excellency **Eng. Abdulrahman bin Abdulmohsen AlFadley**
Minister of Environment, Water & Agriculture

منتدى المياه السعودي
saudi water forum

SWF 2024



The Importance of Innovation and Challenges of Investing in Emerging Technologies



29 April – 01 May 2024



Hilton Riyadh Hotel & Residences
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Organized by

وزارة البيئة والمياه والزراعة
Ministry of Environment Water & Agriculture



المؤسسة العامة لتحلية المياه المالحة
Saline Water Conversion Corporation (SWCC)



شركة المياه الوطنية
National Water Company



الشركة السعودية لشراكات المياه
Saudi Water Partnership Company



المؤسسة العامة للإري
Saudi Irrigation Organization



منظم المياه
Water Regulator



المركز الوطني لكفاءة وترشيد المياه
NATIONAL WATER EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION CENTER
MAEE



Organizing Partners

Workshop 6:

The Importance of Innovation
and Challenges of Investing in
Emerging Technologies

منتدى المياه السعودي
saudi water forum SWF 2024

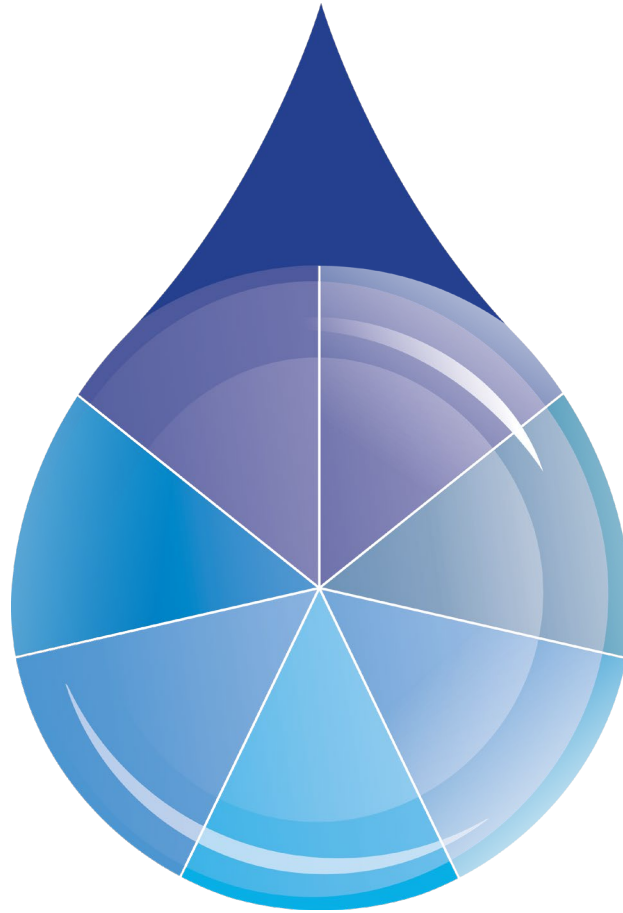


Water Sustainability .. Is Our Responsibility

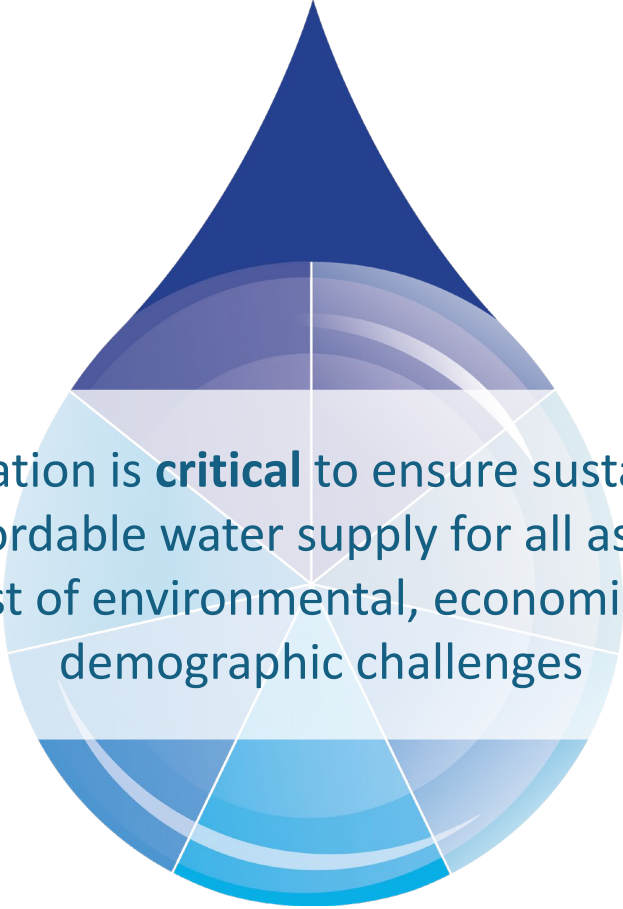
Professor Tony Conway

Conway Strategic
Water Consulting

The value of innovation in water



The value of innovation in water

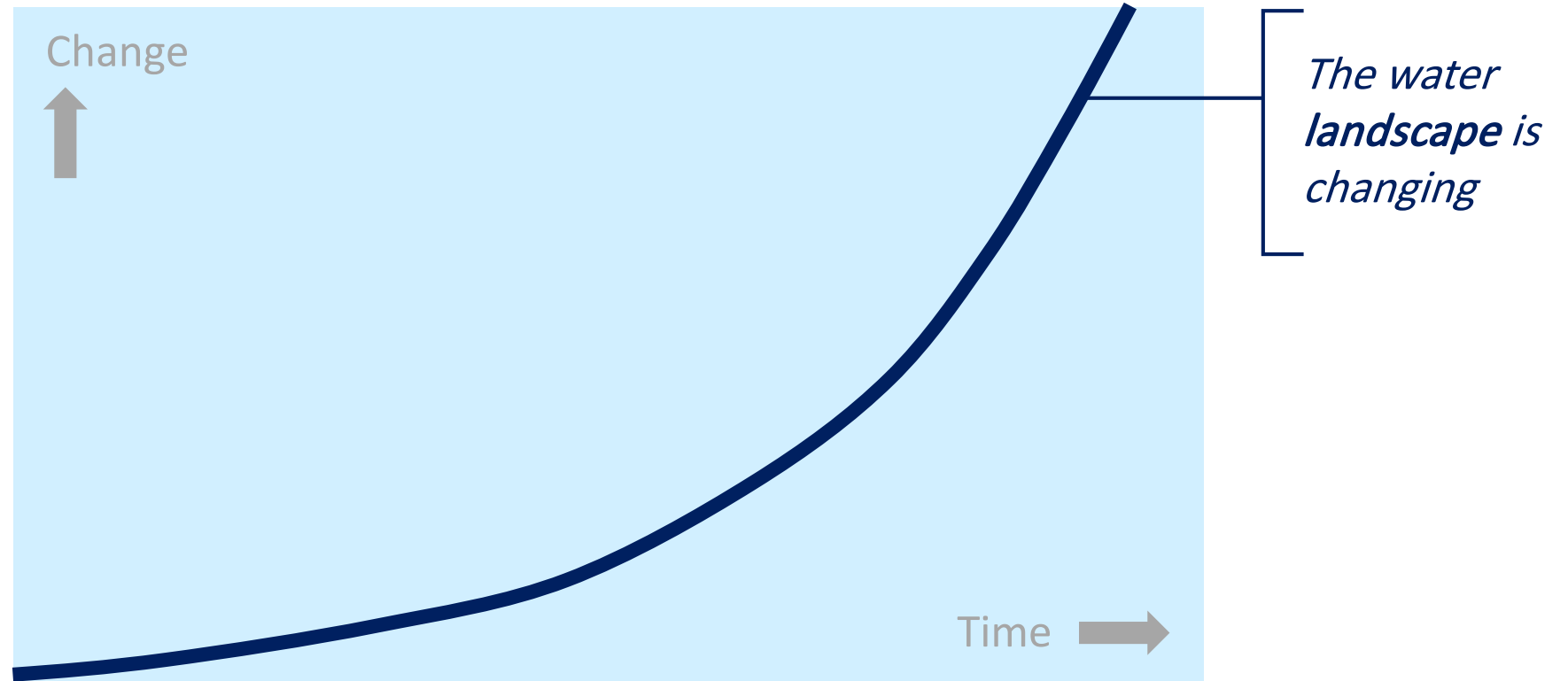


Innovation is **critical** to ensure sustainable and affordable water supply for all as we face a host of environmental, economic, and demographic challenges

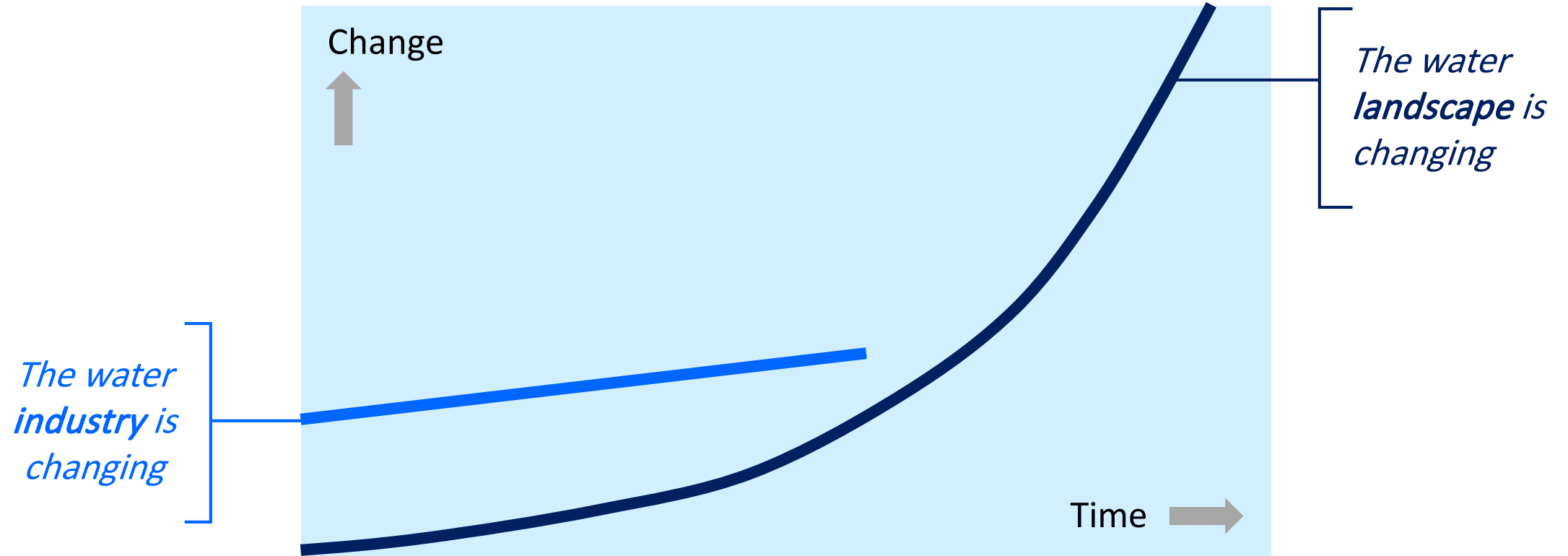
The value of innovation in water



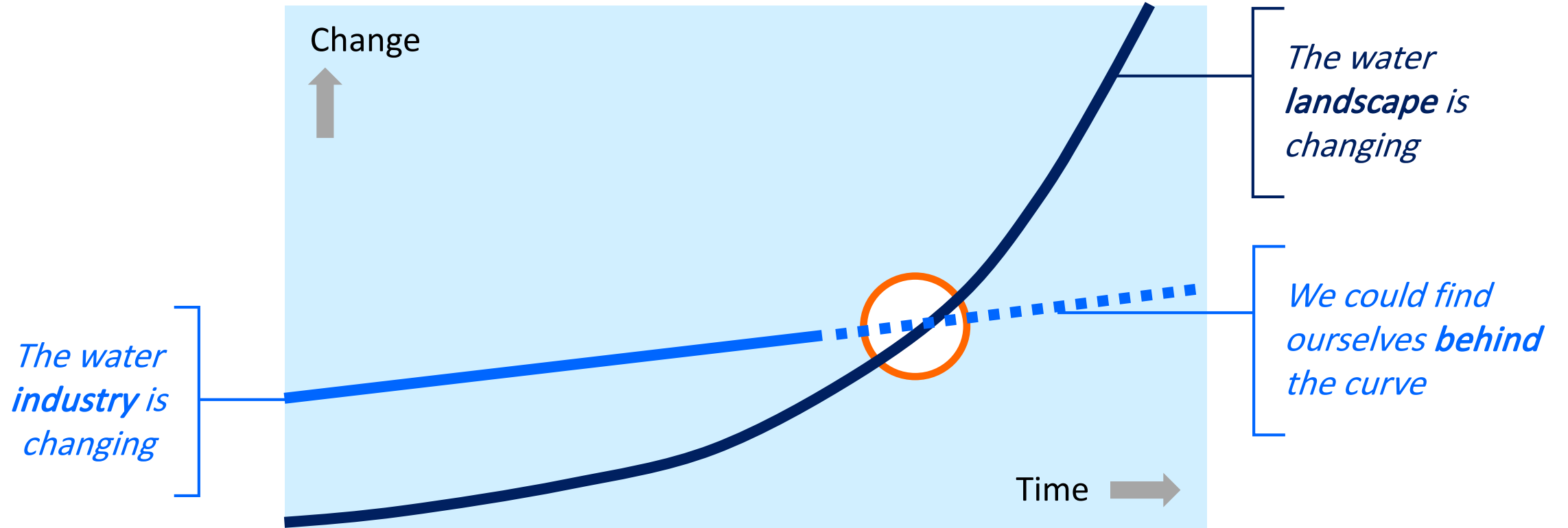
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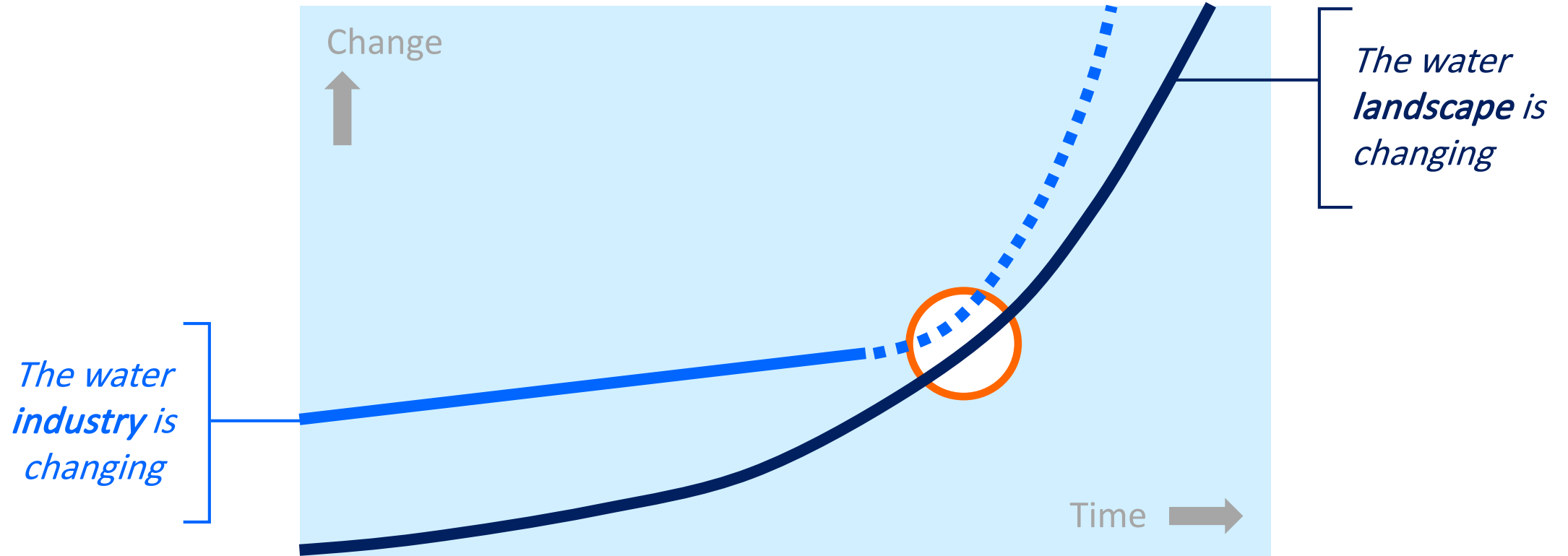
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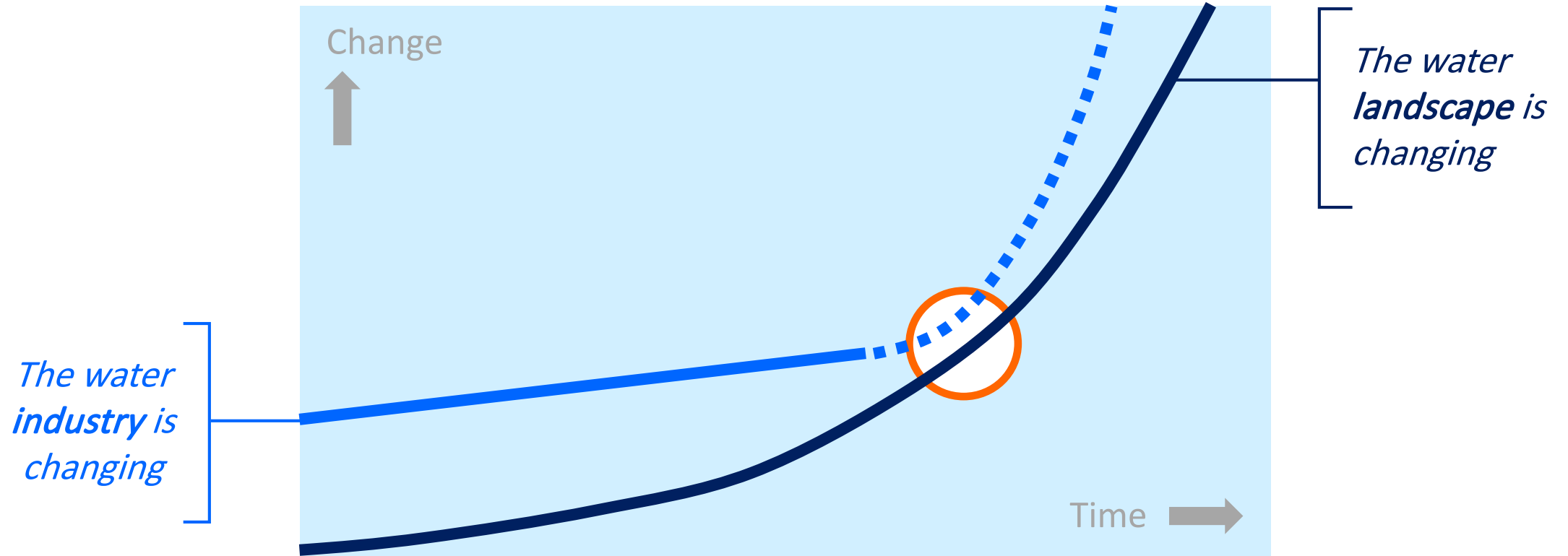


The value of innovation in water



Innovation in water is not a **'nice-to-have'**

The value of innovation in water



Innovation in water is not a **'nice-to-have'**
Innovation is essential to stay in front of
the curve of the changing landscape

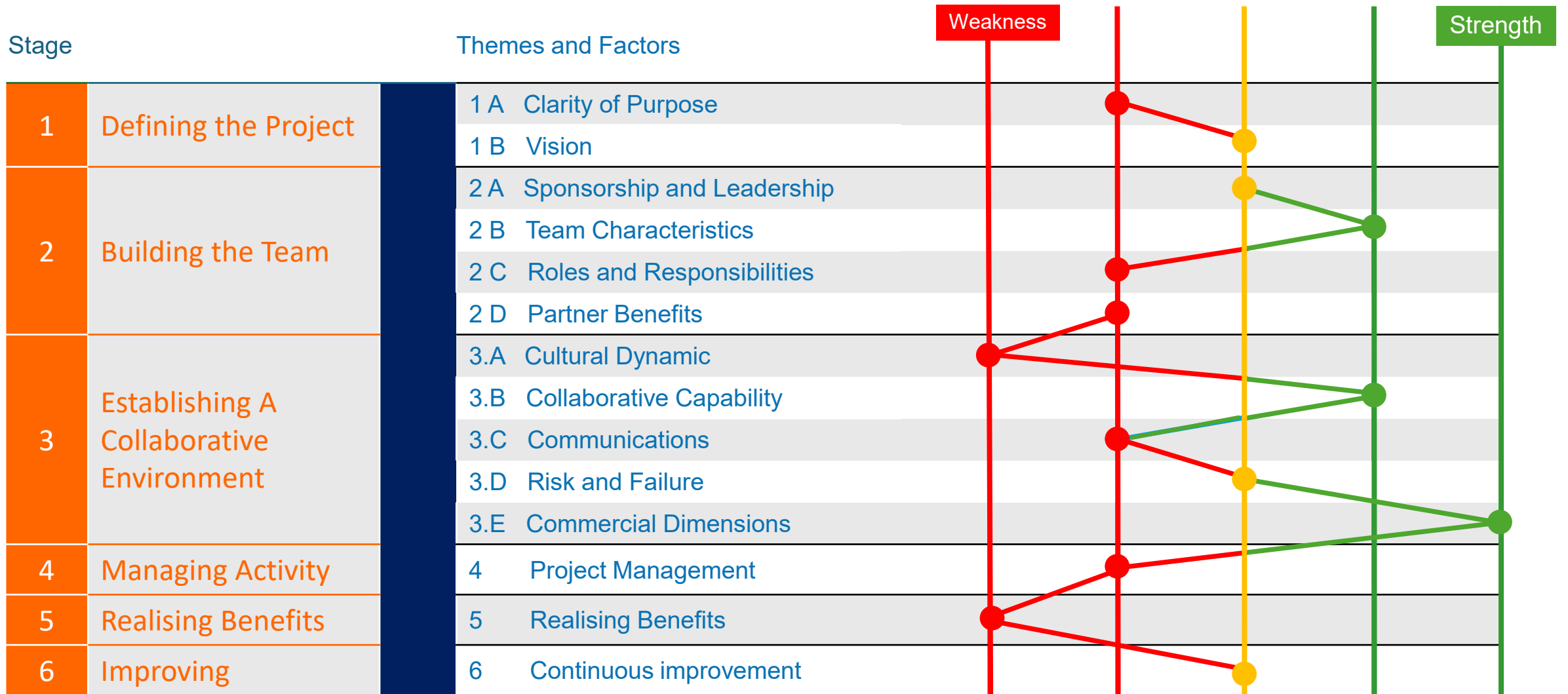
Collaborative innovation in the water industry: How to make it happen An Industry Guide

Our Research Aim:

To identify the **key factors** that influence multi-stakeholder collaboration across the innovation process, creating the understanding to overcome barriers and accelerate innovation.



Collaborative Innovation – Project Team Assessment and Diagnostic Tool



- Question based – easy to use – identifies team collaborative strengths and weaknesses at a given time
- Provides guidance on how to enhance collaborative capability and address weakness areas

Collaborative innovation – selected findings



Collaborative innovation – selected findings

1 Collaboration skill:

Effective collaborative innovation doesn't automatically happen. It is a skill which requires purposeful intent.

2 Setting up for success:

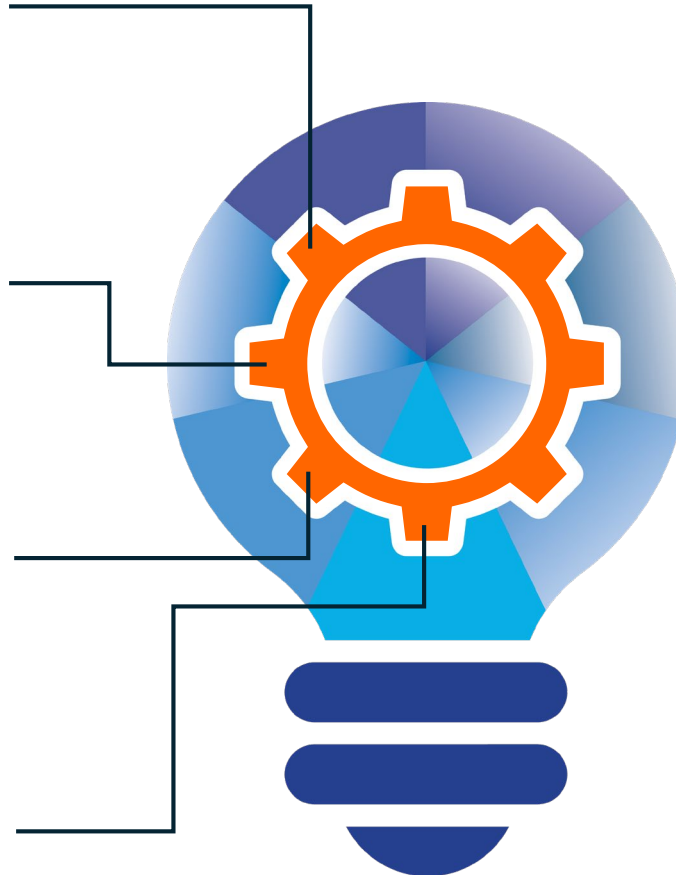
Setting a collaborative innovation project up for success from the start pays huge dividends. It is worth the effort.

3 Shared vision:

For collaboration to be successful there has to be a mutually agreed and shared understanding of the innovation vision.

4 A reason to collaborate:

There has to be a reason to collaborate. Understand the benefit sought by each member of the team.



Collaborative innovation – selected findings

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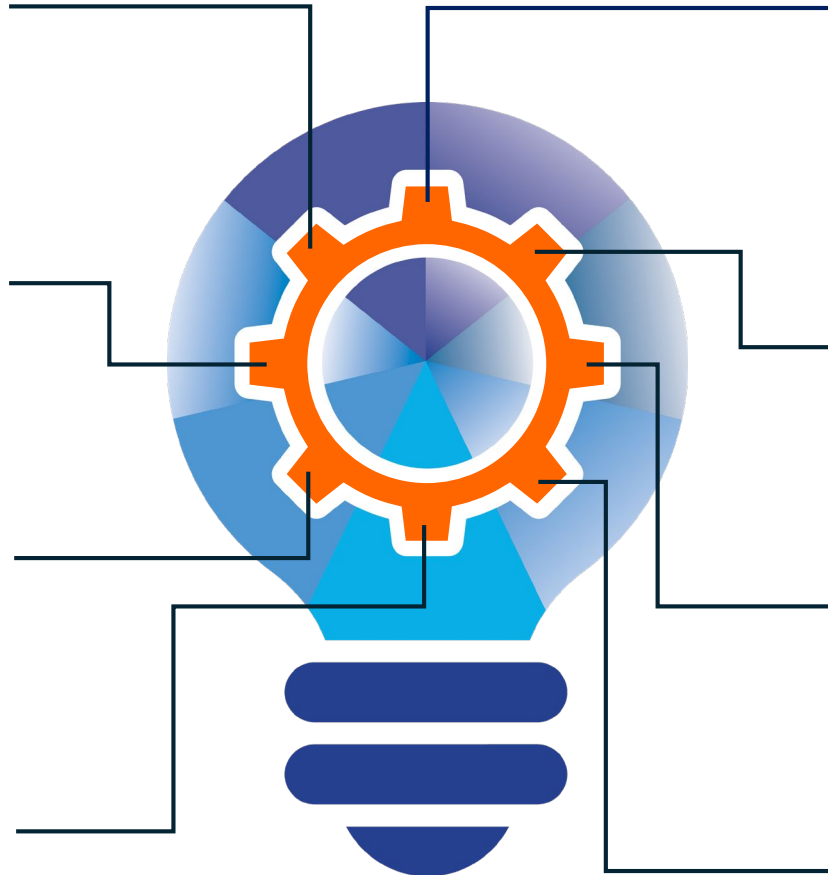
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5 Trust:

Trust is absolutely vital. If there isn't trust when you hit the problems, then the problems can become insurmountable, Trust required evidence, words are not enough.

6 Risk:

Appetites for risk vary, so talk about it to understand and arrive at a shared risk perspective.

7 Flexibility:

Innovation doesn't happen in a straight line, so there needs to be some sensible flexibility in relation to governance and business processes.

8 Landing Innovation:

Innovation doesn't deliver value until it lands, and landing the innovation can be as difficult as developing the innovation.

**Regulators and
innovation:**
designing a
regulatory
approach which
stimulates
innovation

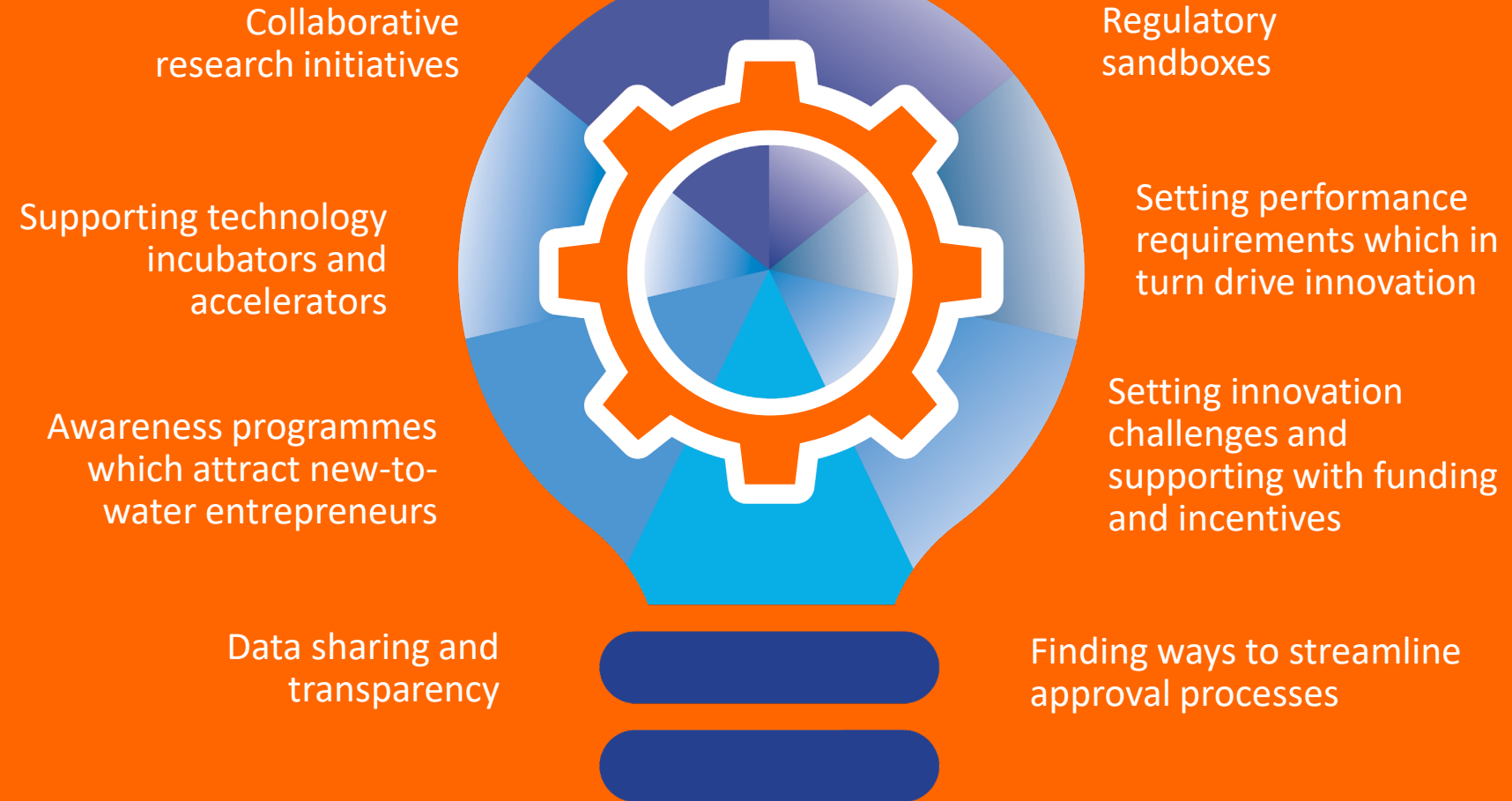


Regulators and innovation:
designing a regulatory approach which stimulates innovation



How can regulators create an environment that encourages and fosters innovation, and at the same time safeguards regulatory requirements
ACHIEVING THE RIGHT BALANCE

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designing a regulatory approach which stimulates innovation



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ACHIEVING THE RIGHT BALANCE

Challenges of investing in emerging technologies: Dilemmas



1 What is the problem this innovation solves, or the opportunity this innovation pursues?

- Is this a solution looking for a problem?

2 What specific benefits are delivered?

- Are there tangible benefits and is the assessment reliable?

3 What is the innovation?

- How does it go beyond business as usual?

4 What are the risks?

- Has there been a thorough process of identifying risks?

5 Is the innovation real and believable?

- Is there evidence to back up the assertions?

6 Does the innovation fit the business setting?

- How are water utilities going to have to change to incorporate this innovation into the business setting? Is the change feasible?

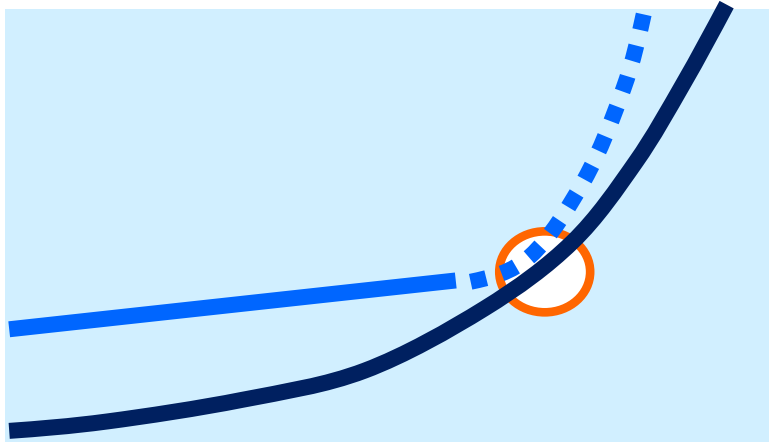
7 Is the value proposition and business case compelling?

- What are the costs of implementation and operation, and are they reliable?
- What is the business case behind this opportunity, and is it attractive?
- Is this opportunity the best place to spend my next £, or should it be on an entirely different opportunity?

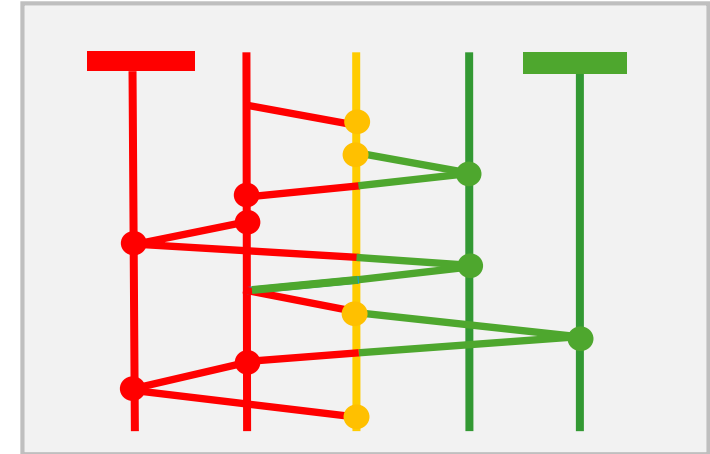
8 Is there a better outcome available?

- Is there a competitor or an alternative route which can deliver an even better outcome?

In summary...



The value of **innovation** in water



Collaborative **innovation**



Regulators and **innovation**

8 Dilemmas

