

# Measuring the United States Measurement System

Clare Allocca

Chief, United States Measurement System Office  
National Institute of Standards and Technology

Workshop on Nanotechnology Environmental, Health & Safety  
June 9-10, 2008  
Crystal City, VA

# Introduction

- NIST Introduction
- United States Measurement System (USMS) background
  - What is the USMS?
  - 2007 Assessment Results
  - Permanent Office / 2008+ Activities
- Measurement Needs (MN) and Assessment
- Measurement Knowledge Hub
- What next?

# NIST Today: Mission

- To promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing

- measurement science,
- standards, and
- technology
- 

in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life



©Robert Rathe

# NIST provides the “innovation infrastructure”

The equivalent of research “roads and bridges” the industrial and scientific communities need to develop and commercialize new technologies



- Groundbreaking research tools that foster new fields — quantum information, nanotechnology, bioscience
- Evaluated data for technology development
- Better measurement methods to ensure quality
- Performance measures for accurate technology comparisons
- Standards to assure fairness in trade



NIST has...

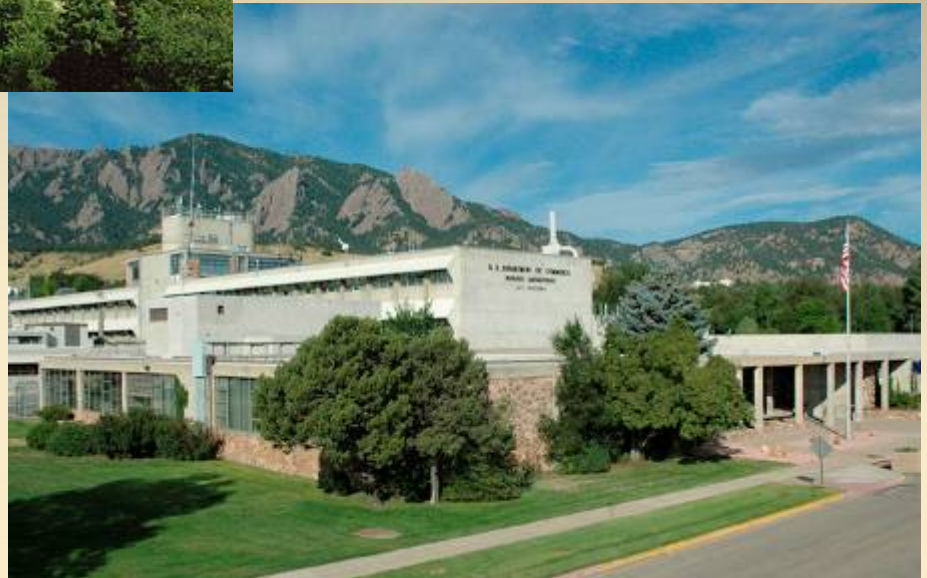
... two main campuses

Gaithersburg, MD



Courtesy HDR Architecture, Inc./Steve Hall  
©Hedrich Blessing

Boulder, CO



©Geoffrey  
Wheeler

NIST has...

...four joint institutes



JILA

NIST + University of Colorado

Center for Advanced Research  
in Biotechnology

NIST + University of Maryland



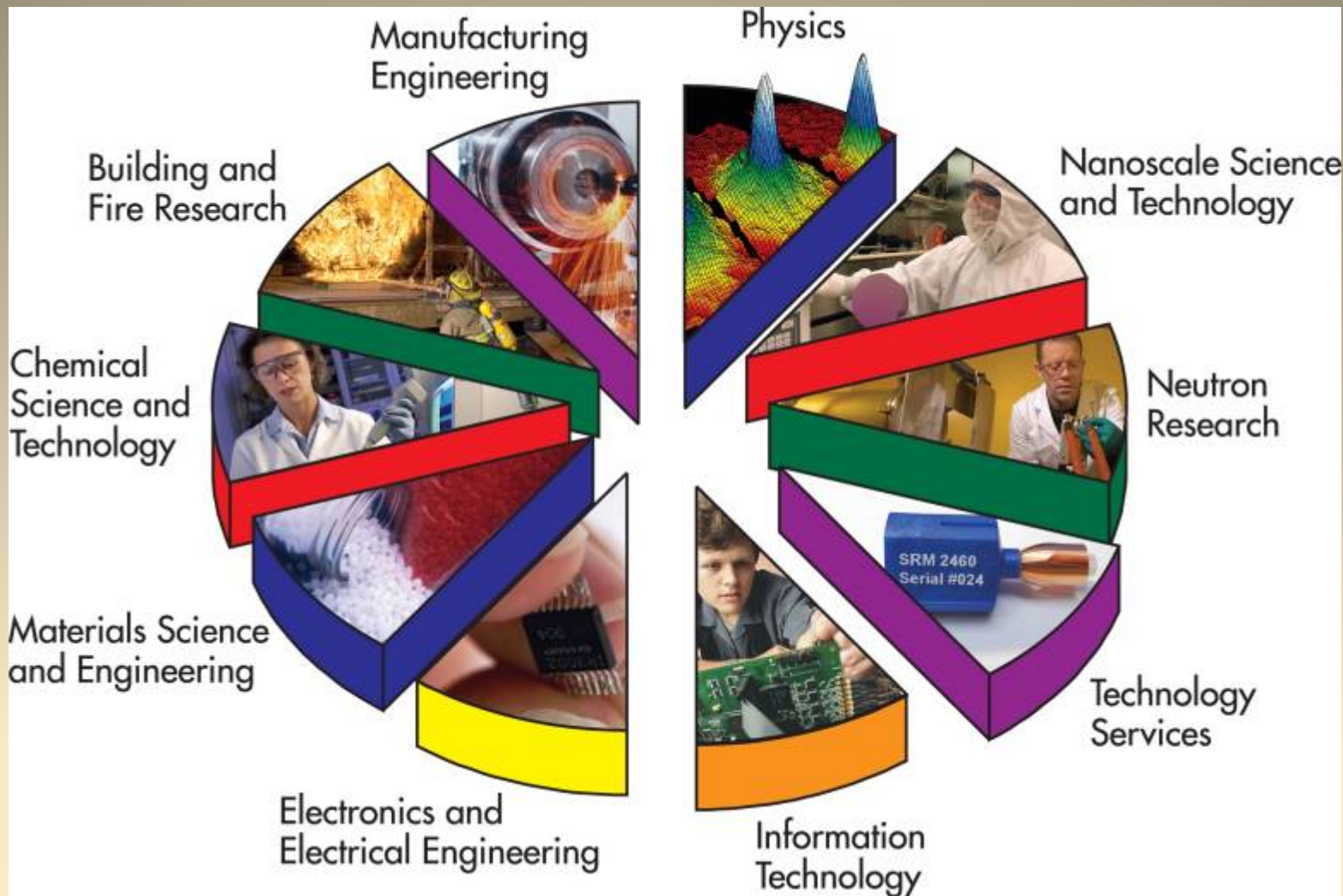
Joint Quantum Institute

NIST + University of Maryland + NSA

Hollings Marine Laboratory  
NIST + NOAA + South Carolina  
+ College of Charleston  
+ Medical University of South Carolina



# The NIST Laboratories





# NIST Extramural Programs

## Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership

- Nationwide network of resources helping smaller manufacturers compete globally

## Baldrige National Quality Program

- Promoting and recognizing performance excellence via information and Presidential awards in manufacturing, service, small business, education, health care, and the nonprofit sector

## Technology Innovation Program

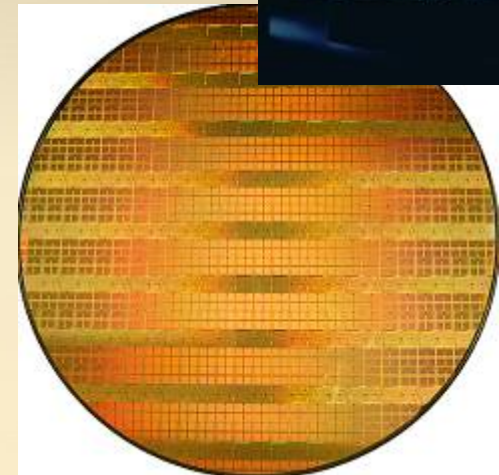
- Supports development of cutting edge technologies by the private sector and universities to address critical national needs



Courtesy  
Stoner Inc.



Courtesy Steuben



Courtesy  
intel Inc.



NIST has...

... unique facilities

Advanced Measurement Laboratory



Courtesy HDR Architecture, Inc./Steve Hall  
©Hedrich Blessing

Center for Nanoscale Science  
& Technology



©Robert  
Rathe



NIST Center for Neutron Research



Advanced Chemical Sciences  
Laboratory

# NIST Products and Services

## Measurement Research

- ~ 2,200 publications per year

## Standard Reference Data

- ~ 100 different types
- ~ 6,000 units sold per year
- ~ 130 million data downloads per year



© Robert  
Rathe



## Standard Reference Materials

- ~ 1,300 products available
- ~ 33,000 units sold per year

## Calibration Tests

- ~ 16,000 tests per year

## Laboratory Accreditation

- ~800 accreditations of testing and calibrations laboratories per year



# NIST Future: Overcoming Barriers to Innovation

- **USMS:** The set of measurement solution providers and users, and the relationships between them

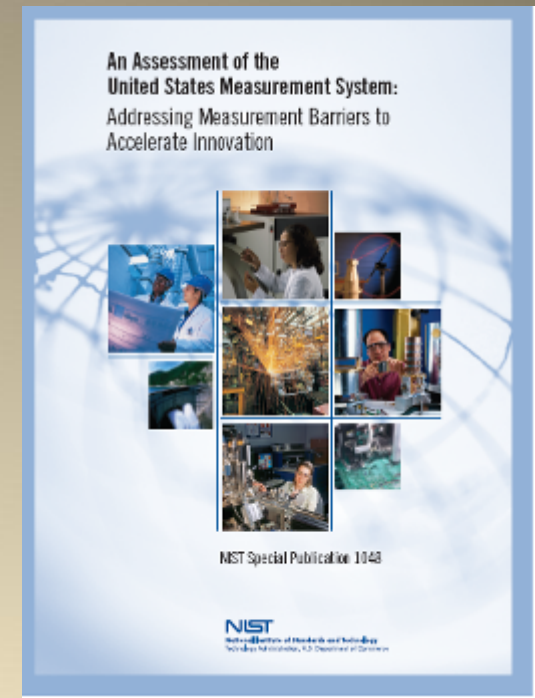
- **USMS Program Mission:** To promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness

- By increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the USMS in developing and deploying measurement solutions

- By identifying and fostering efforts to address unmet measurement needs

To enhance economic security and improve the quality of life

Result: A roadmap to help NIST and other organizations plan research that accelerates innovation



Documents 723 measurement barriers to innovation

Covers 11 industry sectors

Over 1000 contributors from industry, academia, and other government agencies

# Measurement Needs Cross Sectors, Technologies

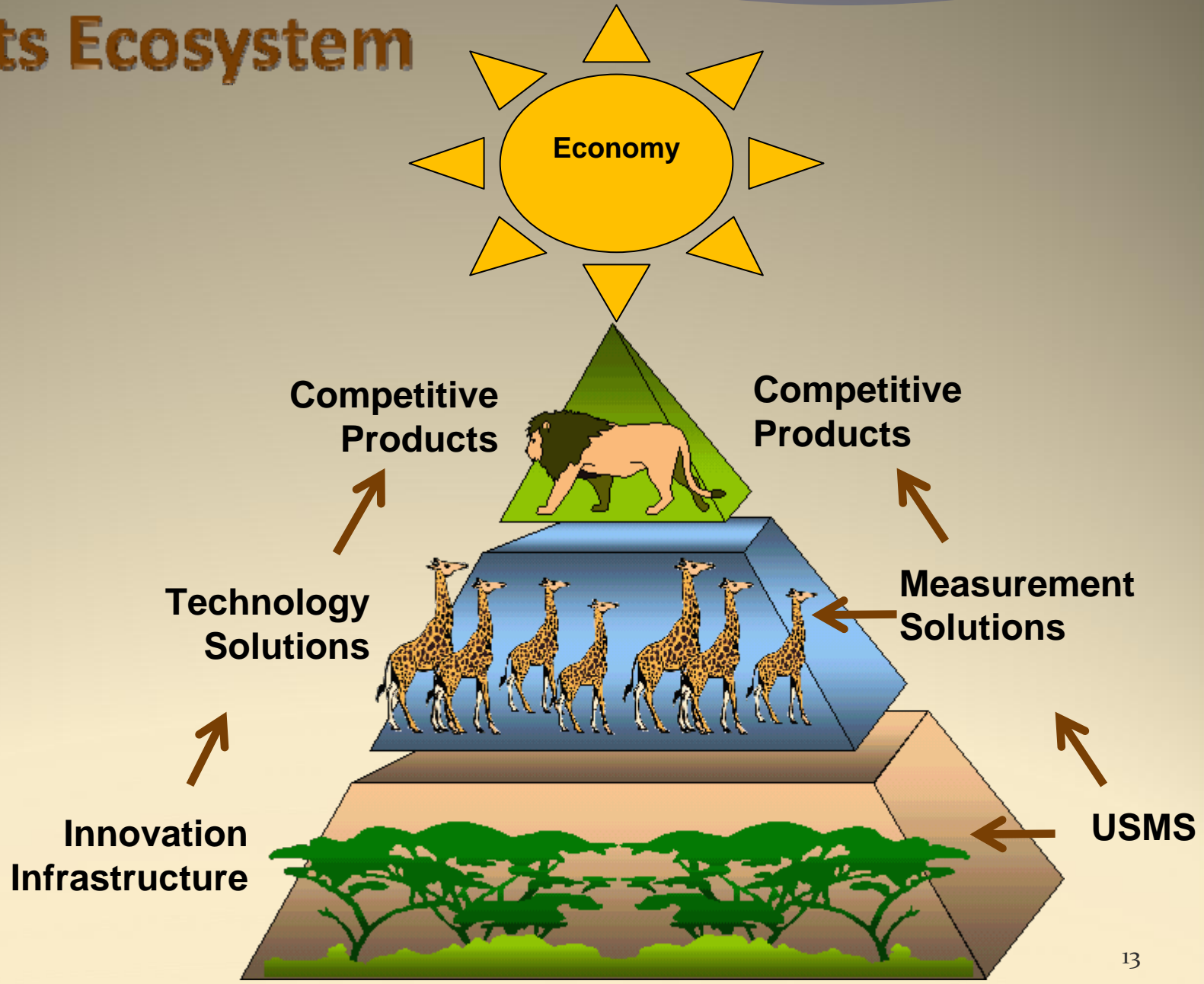
## Needs Across 11 Sector/Technology Areas for...

- Increased Accuracy, Resolution
- Fundamentally New Measurement Methods
  - Some Existing Capabilities Pressed to Their Limits
  - Advances in Science & Technology, Changes in Society Require Novel Responses
- Affordable, Accurate Sensors for Real-Time Process Monitoring and Control
- Standards and Metrics for Evaluating System-Level Performance
- Practical, Cost-Effective Methods to

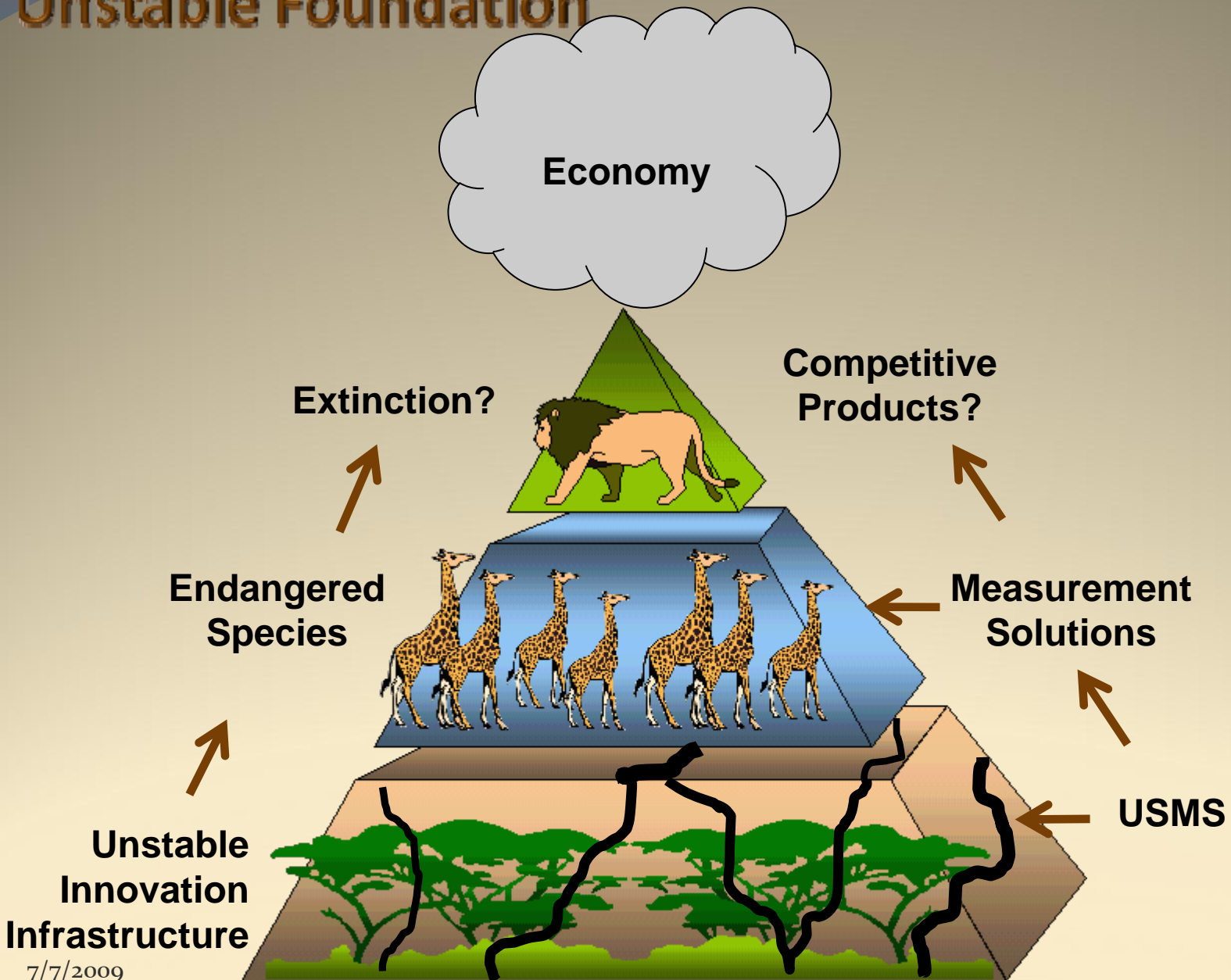




# Business Case for USMS: US Innovation Products Ecosystem



# The US Innovation Products Ecosystem with an Unstable Foundation



# Why can't the USMS do what it has done in the past?

- What's Different?
  - Accelerated **Product Development** cycles
  - Increasingly Multi-disciplinary **Technology Solutions**
  - Increasingly Complex **Measurement Solutions**
- What can the USMS do?
  - Increase Effectiveness & Efficiency



# Changing the Game by Innovating Innovation

Establish Permanent USMS Program at NIST to Provide:

- **Access** to Measurement-related Information and Tools
  - Infrastructure for Continual Submission of Measurement Needs and Solutions
  - Awareness of Importance of USMS
- Enhanced Methodologies for Periodic **Assessments**
  - Examination of USMS from Different Vantage Points
- **Action** to Stimulate Pursuit of Critical Unmet Measurement Needs
  - Platform to Maximize Efficiency and Effectiveness of USMS

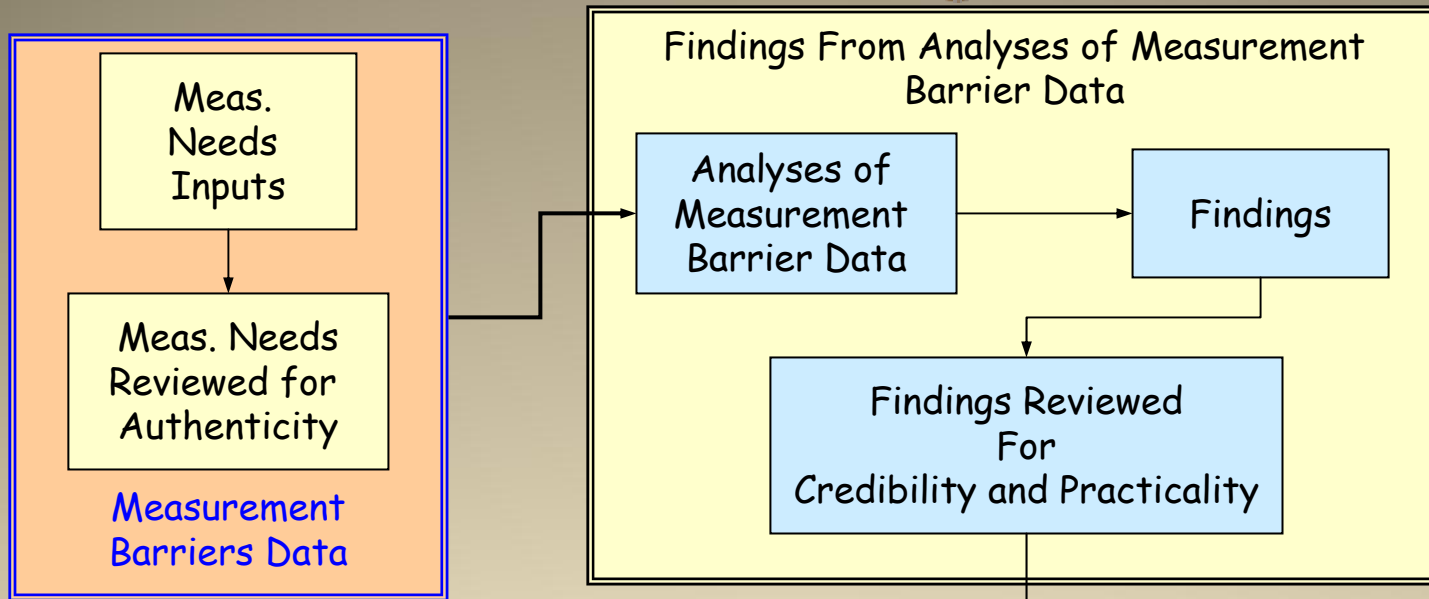




# Basis for Assessment: Authenticated Measurement Needs (MN)

- MN Template
  - Technological innovation at stake
  - Economic significance of the innovation
  - Technical barrier to the innovation
  - Stage of innovation at which technical barrier appears
  - Measurement-problem part of the technical barrier
  - Potential solutions to the measurement problem
  - Potential providers of these solutions
- Tags / Indicators
  - MN Characteristics that may be used to compare MNs
- Authentication
  - Evidence that MN represents a significant portion of Measurement Solution Users

# Using Measurement Needs to Assess the State of the USMS: Measurement Barriers to Technological Innovation



- Sector/Technology Areas:**
- Materials
  - Nanotechnology
  - Electronics, Semiconductor
  - Electronics, Non-Semiconductor
  - Healthcare
  - Energy, Power and Environment
  - Manufacturing (Discrete), including Automotive
  - Building and Construction
  - Defense and Homeland Security
  - Chemicals and Continuous Manufacturing
  - IT Software

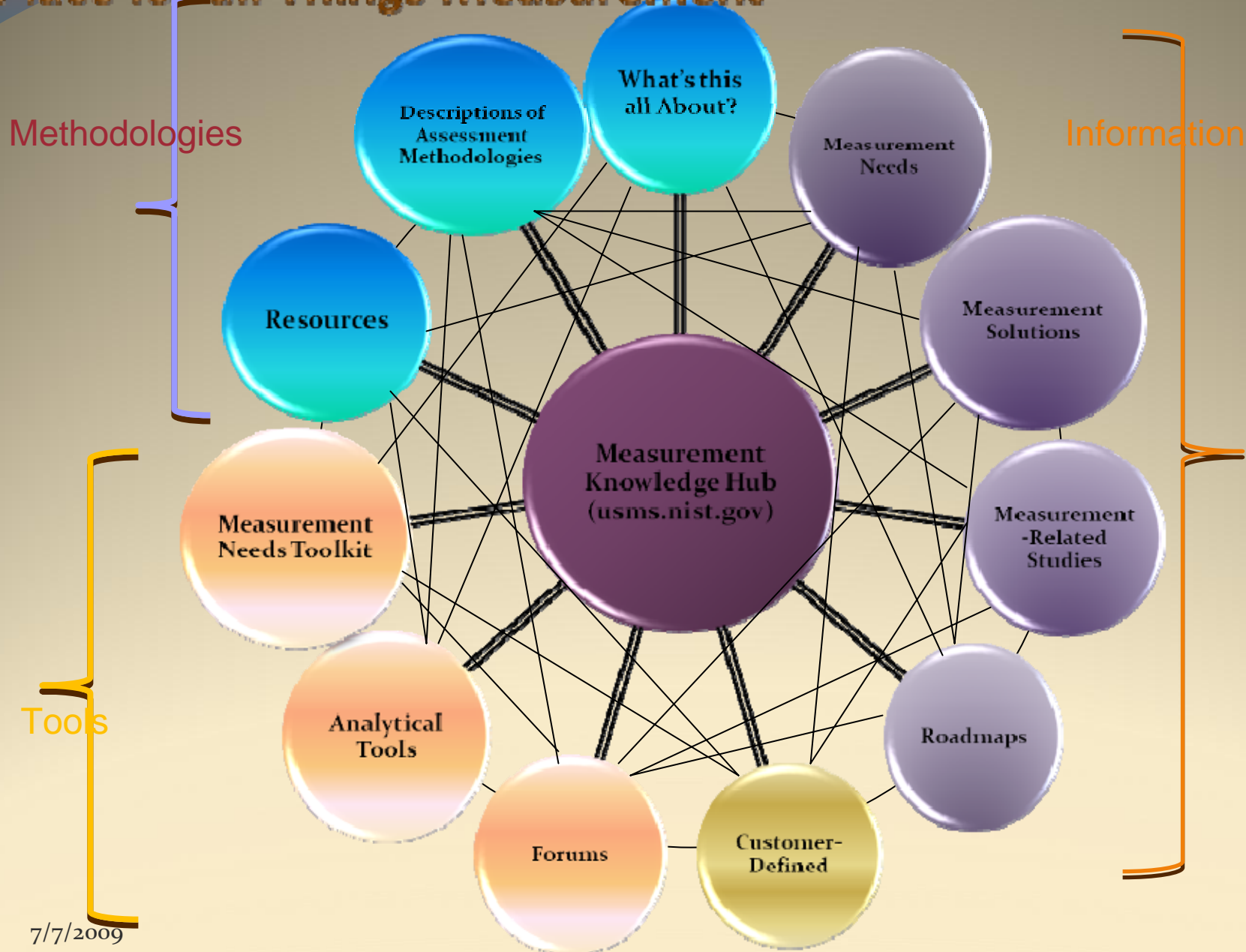
Inferences Drawn from Findings On the Capability of the USMS To Support Technological Innovation

Over 700 measurement needs were identified in 11 sector/technology areas, with input from 322 individual measurement needs and 162 technology roadmaps

# What's in all this for me?

- Inform strategic decision making
- Understand customer needs
- Inform prioritization by customers
- Identify and authenticate existing measurement needs & solutions
- Identify opportunities
- Educate
- Communicate
- Accelerate development of measurement solutions

# Measurement Knowledge Hub: A Web-based Meeting Place for all Things Measurement





# Measurement Knowledge Hub: Information

- Information Resources for Measurement-Related Strategic Decisions, Education, Awareness & MN/MS Submission
  - News Blogs and/or Podcasts
  - Wikis to investigate unauthenticated measurement needs, or to prioritize measurement needs
  - Blogs to investigate measurement solutions



# Information: Measurement Needs

- MN submission portal
- User accounts
- Guidance for MN template, tags, and authentication
- MN submission to NIST QA team
  - QA team to communicate directly with authors

# Information: Measurement Solutions

- Resolved measurement needs
- Available USMS products, including SRMs, Standards, Measurement methods...
- USMS Solution Provider Research Areas
- Searchable
- Template under development



# Information: Measurement- Related Studies

- USMS assessment reports / documents
- Other studies specific to measurement (NIST and non-NIST authors)



# Information: Roadmaps

- Access to USMS-I roadmaps
- Roadmap database is currently being updated

# Measurement Knowledge Hub:

## Tools

Descriptions  
of Assessment  
Methodologies

What's this  
all About?

Measurement  
Needs

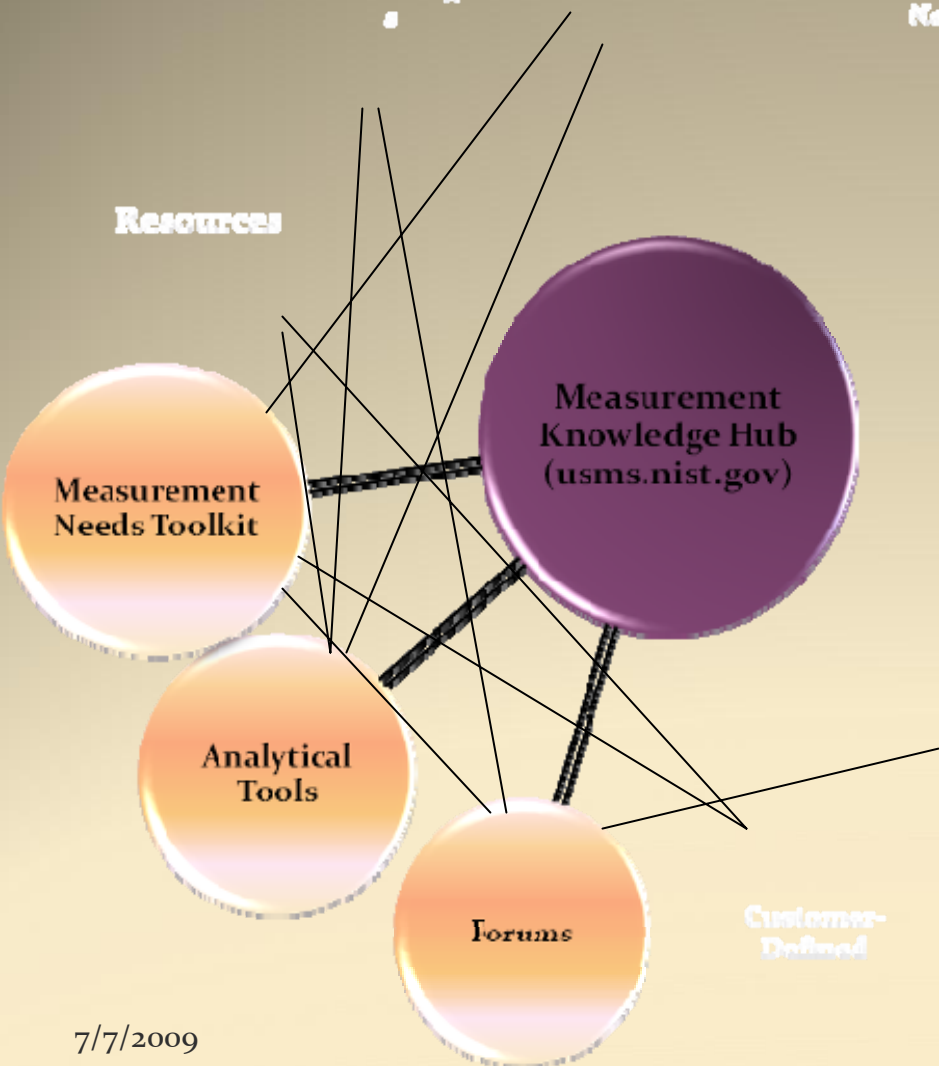
Resources

Measurement  
Solutions

Measurement  
-Related  
Blogs

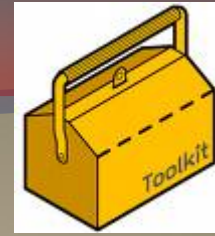
Roadmaps

Customer-  
Defined



- Tools for analysis of information
  - Webinars , materials for the conduct of measurement needs workshops
  - Online query assistance
  - Blogs moderated by subject experts
  - Wikis for the development of measurement solutions databases

# Tools: Measurement Needs

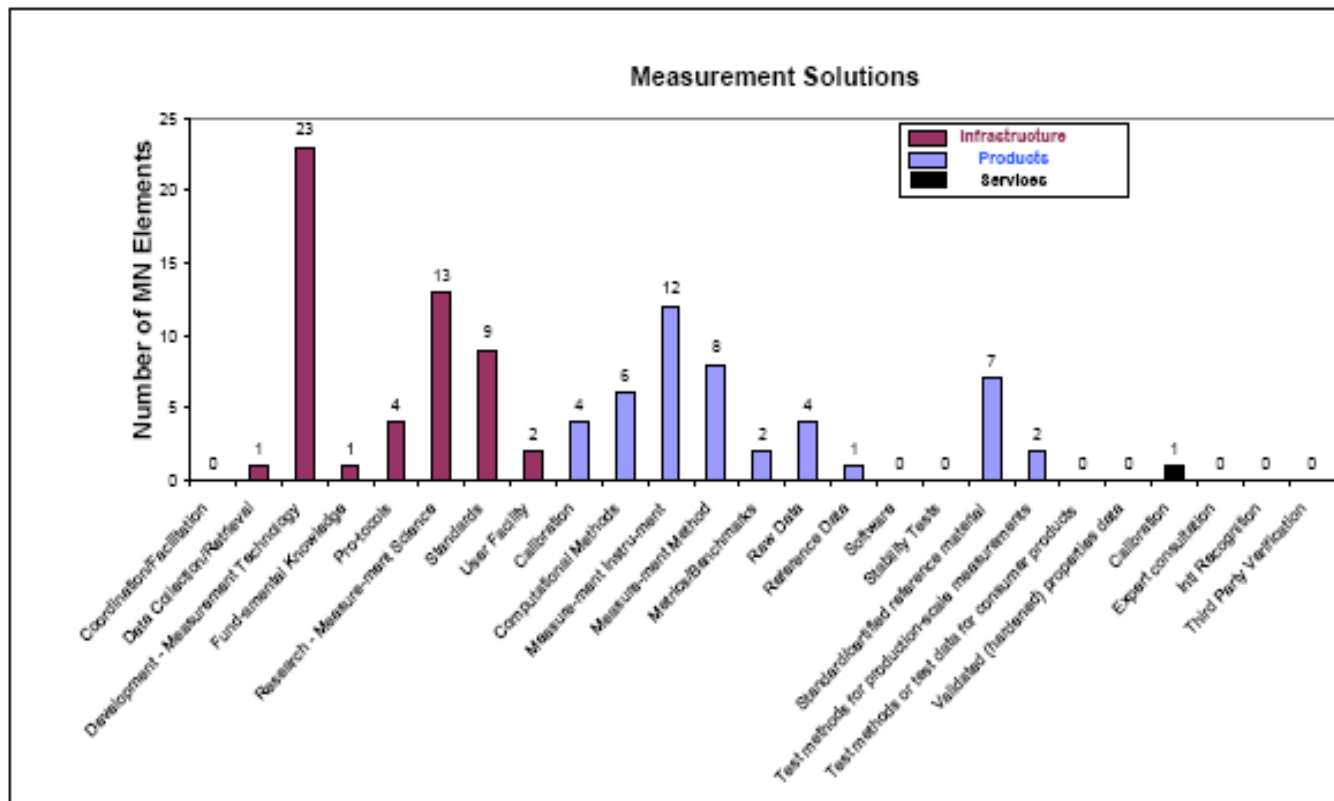


## Toolkit

- Explanation of USMS (Overview)
- Cues and Clues (characteristics of a good MN)
- Mechanisms for developing Measurement Needs
  - Individual consultations
  - Suggestions for conduct of MN Workshops
    - Pre-work (Who to invite and how)
    - Conduct
      - Potential agendas (1/2,1,1.5,2 days)
    - Post-work
      - How to use groups of MNs to inform strategic decision making & measurement solution development
  - Other mechanisms

# Tools: Analytical Tools

- Extension of statistical tools used during the USMS Phase I assessment

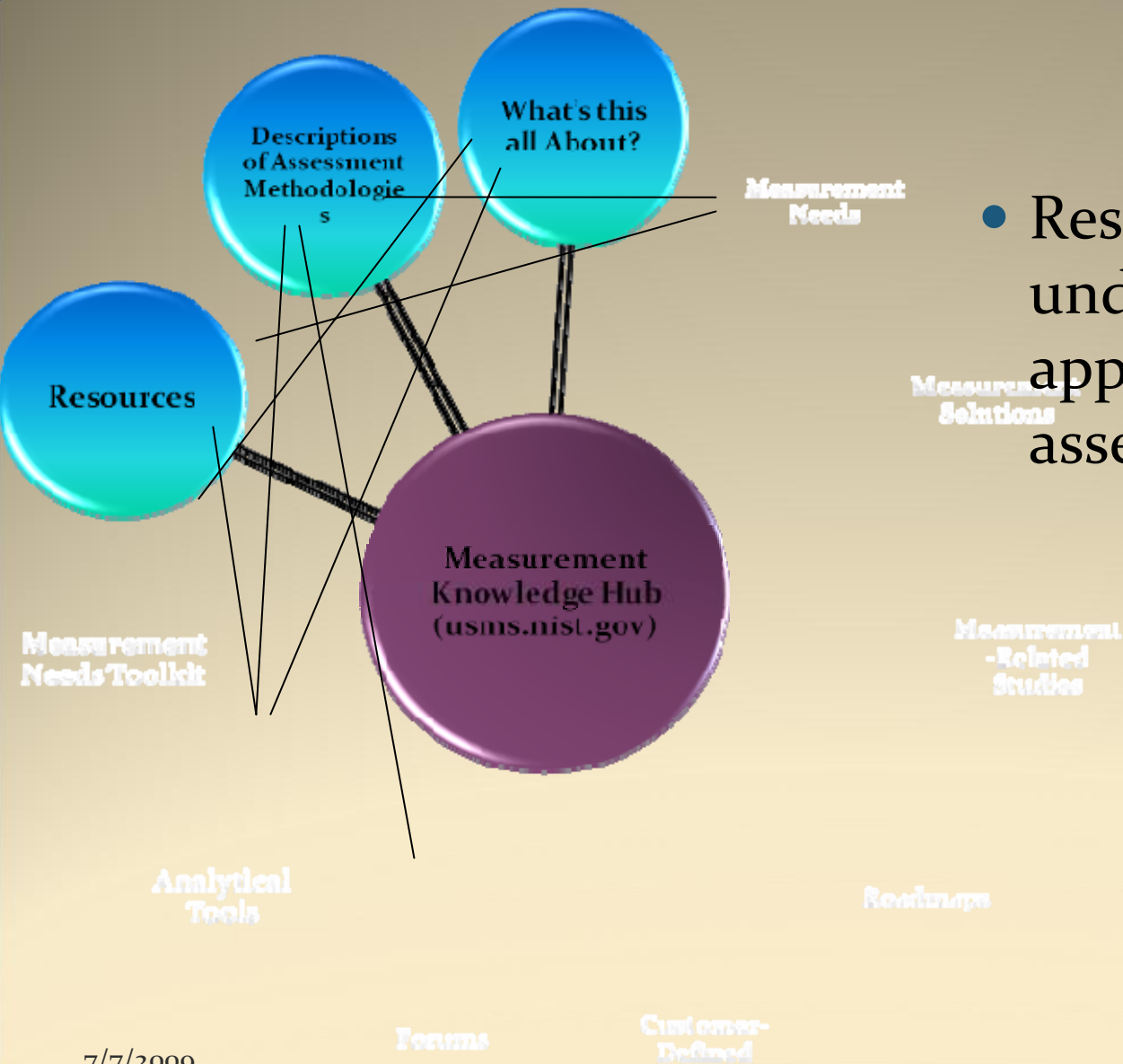




# Tools: Forums

- Technology and/or market specific
- Wikis
- Blogs
- Webinars
- Other communications mechanisms as appropriate
- Links to conferences, workshops, and events

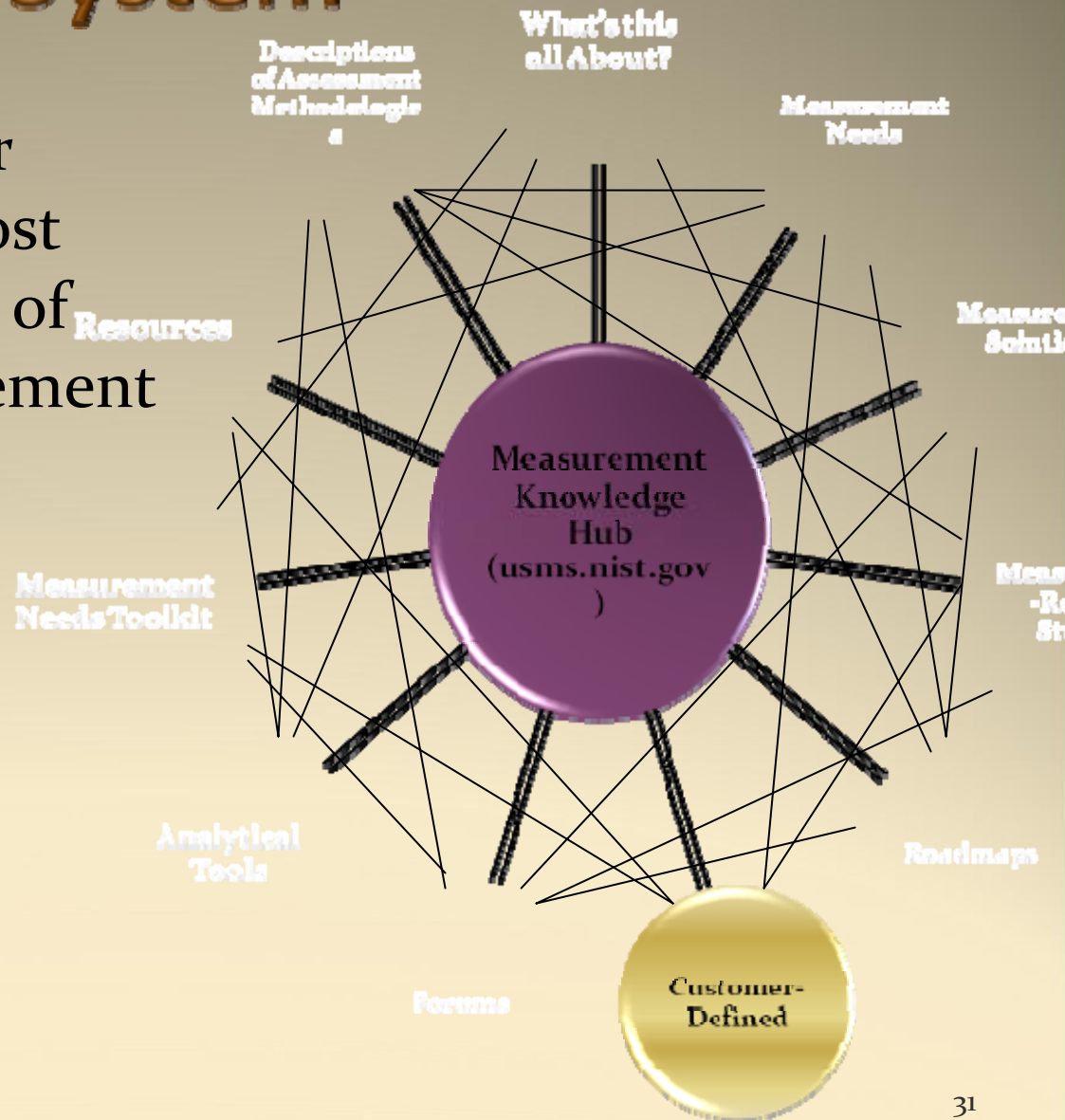
# Measurement Knowledge Hub: Methodologies



- Resources for the understanding of approaches to analyses / assessments

# Measurement Knowledge Hub: Living, Evolving System

- Customer / Stakeholder feedback will be the most important determinant of changes in the Measurement Knowledge Hub



# The USMS: Looking Ahead

- Submit or solicit measurement needs (MNs)
- Conduct workshops to produce MNs
- Analyze MNs or groups of MNs
- Participate in USMS workshops / functions (detailed on <http://usms.nist.gov> )
- Work with other organizations to evaluate / prioritize MNs
- Participate in USMS working groups
- Use the Measurement Knowledge Hub



**Assess the state of the measurement system in the context of the next generation of innovation**



# What's Next?

- Unveil Measurement Knowledge Hub
- Release Assessment Report #2
- Continue to pursue Resources for Unmet Critical Measurement Needs

# The US Measurement System...



...transforming  
*Measurement Needs*  
Into  
*Measurement Solutions*

For more information:

Website: <http://usms.nist.gov>

Contact: Clare Allocca, Chief, USMS Office,

[Clare.allocca@nist.gov](mailto:Clare.allocca@nist.gov) / 301-975-4359

# Breakout Sessions (and Beyond)

- Review current Measurement Needs
- Identify further Measurement Needs
- Prioritization of Measurement Needs
- Path to Measurement Solutions
- Definition of long-term Working Groups

# While Listening to Presentations...

- What are the most critical Measurement Needs?
- Which critical Measurement Needs were not mentioned?
- How might we arrive at Measurement Solutions?
  - Approaches
  - Resources
  - Players