



## MVIS

### Minimum Viable Innovation System

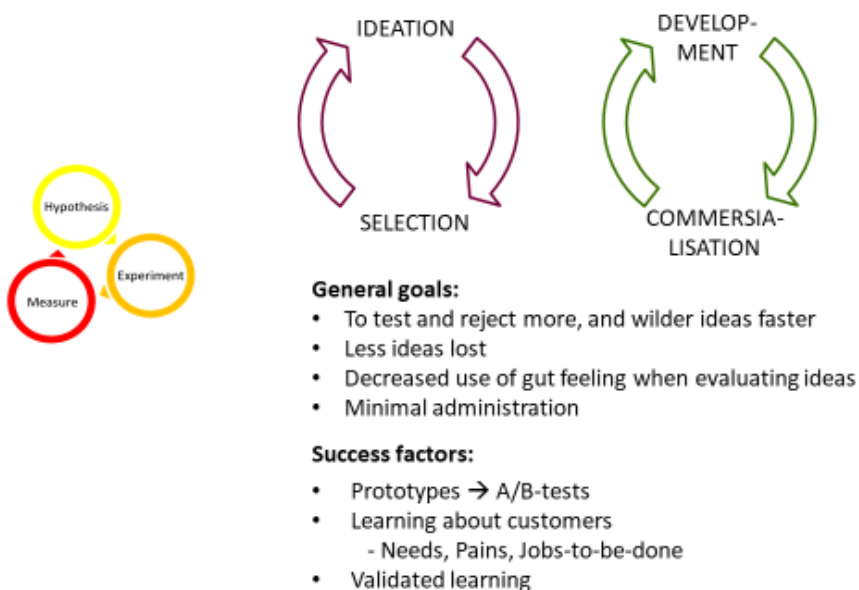
#### or how to build an innovation engine in 90 days.

The language is borrowed from the world of lean start-ups, where “minimum viable product” denotes a stripped-down functional prototype used as a starting point for developing a new offering. “Minimum viable innovation system” refers to the essential building blocks that allow a company to begin creating a reliable, strategically focused innovation function. An MVIS will ensure that good ideas are encouraged, identified, shared, reviewed, prioritized, resourced, developed, rewarded, and celebrated. But it will not require years of work, fundamental changes to the way the organization runs, or a significant reallocation of resources.

This is an **hypothesis based approach**, working also on the Innovation Process: ideation, selection, development and commercialisation.

### The Iterative Innovation Process

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**What it will require is senior management attention**—most critically from some member of the top leadership team. That might be the chief executive officer or a chief innovation officer, but it doesn't have to be. If you're responsible for innovation in your company at the highest level, we're talking to you.

The first thing to do is to **set up an Innovation Board** which can work independently and reports directly to the CEO.

**With a little help from other executives and innovation practitioners, you can set up an MVIS by completing four basic steps in no more than 90 days, with limited investment and without hiring anyone extra. After 90 days you will have results and you will have learned to (better) innovate.**

And as early success builds confidence in your innovation capabilities, it will set the stage for further progress.

*This page is inspired by an [article from the December 2014 Issue of the Harvard Business Review](#)*