
The Role of VCAT in NIST Strategic Planning

Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology

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Observations about NIST Strategic Planning

- Historically weak in strategic planning
- Often perceived as an unnecessary burden by employees (and some management)
- Not a pervasive part of the planning process at NIST
- Little visibility (to VCAT) showing relationship path and logic between Mission and plans
- Why doesn't NIST utilize the expertise of Baldrige program and eat its own "dog food"?
- NIST presents the "what" of programs but not the "why" to VCAT
- No clear (communicated) data driven criteria for choosing organizational structure, program priorities, projects, etc.
- Goals and Objective coming from Mission and vision not clear
- A clear strategic plan will help explain NIST's significant contributions to the outside world
- 3 year programmatic plan is not a strategic plan. VCAT needs time to effectively review and comment on strategic plans.

Role for VCAT in NIST Strategic Planning

- Utilization of broad experience in strategic planning (both industry and academic)
- Sounding board for the “what” and “why” of programs in context of its Mission and Vision
- Assistance in priority setting based on market, industry and technology needs
- Accountability for review of goals and objectives
- Review of overall “NIST Strategic Plan”
- Review of short term high level plans that result from the strategic planning process