

HOW TO SELECT A PROGRAM PARTNER

What is an Innovation Partner?

The Innovation Partner is like the manufacturing plant of your Engaged Innovation Program. If you think about the ideas from employees as the raw materials, the Innovation Partners are the machines that turn those inputs into end products that add value to your organization.

In our experience, the saviest Innovation Partners consider SoapBox a business intelligence tool. They actively seek out the best ideas to help them achieve their own business objectives.

What does the role entail?

EVALUATE

- Seeks out top ideas that help them achieve their business objectives
- Reviews top ideas and determines whether they are feasible

IMPLEMENT

- Sources resources needed to complete valuable ideas
- Collaborates with other departments as needed

RESPOND

- Keeps the community informed on the progress of the idea through Official Responses

How do I identify an Innovation Partner?

Innovation Partners are:

Accountable: They are the ones truly responsible for results of the idea, so choose individuals as close to leading the team or doing the actual work as possible

How do I identify an Innovation Partner? (continued)

Solution oriented: Often, ideas need to be interpreted and adjusted in order to become feasible. Innovation Partners need to look out for the diamond in the rough.

Good collaborators: Being able to work effectively across functions and businesses will be essential for implementing the majority of the high-value ideas.

Good communicators: The Official Responses are a major driver of continued engagement. Innovation Partners need to be comfortable providing the updates and believe that they are important to do.

How do I engage an Innovation Partner?

PRE-LAUNCH

Host training session to communicate their role, the details of the SoapBox program, and rationale for launching.

POST-LAUNCH

Host regular bi-weekly or monthly meetings to review progress of complex ideas, ensure they have the resources to implement top ideas and obtain input on how to improve the effectiveness of your program.

Hold Innovation Partners accountable with a weekly status email tracking the progress of ideas and the two SLAs:

1. Respond to ideas within 14 days of being assigned
2. Update the status of active ideas every 90 days

