



The Innovation Policy Network

SIX COUNTRIES PROGRAMME

# What would Walter say?

50 years of innovation politics  
The Hague, 16 December 2016

Policies for the Diffusion of Innovation

Frits Prakke

# Technology Push versus Demand Pull

▶ Scientific and Technological information  $\geq$ ..... $\geq$

▶ *Discovery*  $\geq$  *Invention*  $\geq$  *Innovation*  $\geq$  *Diffusion*

▶ Demand and Marketing information  $\geq$  .....  $\geq$

▶ Question: Where should government funding be allocated?

- 80 % of government spending on innovation goes to technology push
- 80% of sources of successful innovation are demand pull.
  
- ▶ This was true in 1976 when Walter arrived on the innovation policy scene.
  
- ▶ This is still true in 2016. We now have much better theories. The politics are the same as in 1976.
  
- ▶ Three perspectives on 50 years of policy developments ( Evert-Jan Velzing):
  1. The rational actor perspective
  2. The organizational behaviour perspective
  3. The political actor perspective

▶ **March 2016:**

- ▶ **Budget for offshore wind power parks in the North Sea in the best estimate of the Dutch government economists:**

**€ 18 billion**

▶ **December 2016:**

- ▶ **Final contracts for the realization by Shell and others of the exact same wind power parks: € 6 billion**

[Thanks to Shell. Walter would smile at that.]