

WHO IS THE INNOVATION LAB?

Realities: ETEN and Bible Translation

Established methods of Bible Translation are not on pace to accomplish the 2033 ETEN All Access Goals and emerging methods are not yet optimized or adequately resourced to sufficiently change the trajectory.



The trajectory to accomplish the ETEN All Access Goals by 2033 requires significant acceleration of pace and volume of translation progress. This requires BOTH the acceleration of established methods, participants, and tools AND discovery, testing, scaling of emerging methods, participants, and tools. Risks must be taken to test the untested, prove the unproven, equip the unequipped, and advance the things that cannot advance without special attention and intentionality.

We believe the goals are worth accomplishing; not for the sake of accomplishing a goal, but because the urgency for Jesus to move into every neighborhood through The Word in every tribe, nation, and people group is clear. People are dying without access to the Scriptures in a language and format they understand best.

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Response: The ETEN Innovation Lab

In 2021, ETEN launched an “Innovation Lab”, a thought space filled with limited part-time contributors tasked to find new ways of accelerating progress toward the All Access Goals.

In the Lab’s first year of existence, it was successful in identifying and recommending what needed to be done to fuel the emerging elements of our way forward.

Today, the Lab has moved to a phase II design with greater independence, nimbleness, and capacity to focus on implementation.

CURRENT DESIGN ELEMENTS INCLUDE:

1. The Innovation Lab aligns to the influence and advocacy from an Acceleration Subcommittee of the ETEN Steering Committee.
2. The Innovation Lab Nucleus team is fully seconded to, contracted by, or hired for the Lab.
3. A range of Critical Others work with the Lab as ideators, liaisons, and project capacity partners.
4. Lab growth and composition progressively right-sized to deliver results.

Initial Priorities and Milestone

The ETEN Innovation Lab is initially focused on four strategic priorities:



Translation Resource Ecosystem (TRE)

Equipping and deployment of a Translation Resource Ecosystem for the church; Acquisition / Development of (where necessary) open access tools, texts, helps, data to equip church led translation



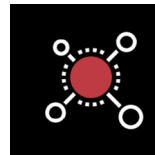
Quality Assurance (QA)

Development and scalability of flexible Q/A methods to suit emerging translation methodologies



Artificial Intelligence / Machine Learning (AI)

Scaling Artificial Intelligence, and Commercial Translation technologies



Crowd-Sourcing (Crowd)

Discovering / scaling crowd-based technologies (needs assessment, drafting, community checking)

The ETEN Innovation Lab focuses efforts of the four initial priorities in pursuit of an initial milestone:

“By the end of 2024, the Lab will demonstrate evidence that the trajectory toward the All Access Goals can (or cannot) change to align with 2033.”

HOW DOES THE ETEN INNOVATION LAB WORK?

Essential Functions

The Innovation Lab’s focused efforts on the initial **four strategic priorities** are done through work in **three essential functions** (broad, persistent categories of work) by which the Lab seeks to reach the initial **milestone**.



Partnership

The Innovation Lab is exploring opportunities, developing resources, and connecting networks with an ethos of activation and implementation, even if without consensus.

Innovation Lab efforts will occur with and through the best positioned, most strategic organizations that are **qualified, available, and aligned**.



QUALIFIED

is defined as having the necessary & proven expertise to contribute to the work in the areas needed.



AVAILABLE

is defined as having sufficient capacity and resources to execute the work at the pace for which the Lab is aiming.



ALIGNED

is defined as aligning with the Lab's commission to take risks, test the untested, prove the unproven, equip the unequipped, and advance the things that cannot advance without special attention and intentionality.

Projects

The Innovation Lab's portfolio of projects can be categorized in the following three "buckets":

LAB INITIATIVES

"Lab Initiatives" are projects that are formulated, initiated, and managed from within the Innovation Lab Nucleus. These projects are often done with service providers, vendors, partners that are qualified, available, and aligned.

ETEN PROPOSALS

"ETEN Proposals" are projects the Innovation Lab has identified through ETEN's annual RFP submissions from Implementing Partner organizations. These projects are mutually reinforcing with the Lab's work, present a strategic opportunity, and are recommended by the Lab for investment from ETEN's Donor Advised Fund to be informed by and partnered with the Innovation Lab.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

"New Opportunities" are all other engaged projects that do not fall under the previous two categories. These projects are often discovered through the Lab's intentionality to explore opportunities. They can occur at various points throughout the calendar year as opportunities present themselves. For these projects, the Lab may be presented an opportunity or the Lab may actively seek partnership opportunity to meet a need.

Engage with the Innovation Lab

You are invited to engage with the Innovation Lab through the **following avenues**:



ETEN Community Hub

If you'd like to see general updates, highlights, discussions, and snippets of content to get a closer view into what the Lab is doing, we encourage you to join the Innovation Lab group on the ETEN Community Hub. Visit <https://community.eten.bible/> to log in or register for an account. Once logged in you can find and join the "Innovation Lab" group by navigating to the "Groups" tab at the top of the home page.



Innovation Lab Public Dashboard

If you're interested in a more detailed view of the Lab's day to day working platform that includes additional information, project portfolio, partnerships, and the Lab's current engagement and resource needs, please visit the Lab's online dashboard. Navigate to, and bookmark, etenlab.notion.site for a current view.



Email

If you're looking for a direct line of communication, please email any comments and inquiries to lab@eten.bible.



Types of Engagement

If your organization is qualified, available, and aligned with one of the needs on the right, please contact lab@eten.bible to explore engagement with the Innovation Lab.

NEEDS FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH THE INNOVATION LAB & DESCRIPTION

TECHNOLOGY PARTNER: Your organization develops technology in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing, Translation Service, Crowd Sourcing, Software Development and/ or Software Product delivery and you wish to see your technology applied in exploration of solutions in Bible translation.

EXPERIMENTATION / IMPLEMENTATION

HOST: Mission / ministry organizations with relationship and connections to global Church participants serving church planting, disciple-making, and church growth movements around the world and you wish to see these relationships and connections engaged in emergent methods of Scripture translation in the languages most relevant to your ministry.

THOUGHT PARTNER: Your organization has experience, credibility, and interest in Scripture translation, and you wish to offer these things in support of the Lab's priorities; most commonly applied to a specific priority, project, or experiment.

PRAYER PARTNER: Your organization has dedicated prayer capacity it wishes to connect to the Lab's efforts.

INVESTOR: Your organization wishes to participate in the cost-recovery of the Lab's operations, experimentation, proliferation of outcomes.

CONTENT CONTRIBUTOR: Your organization owns the rights to Bible translation resources and would like to contribute to the open resources available for the global Church to participate in Bible translation. [Have a look at our list of key resources needed under an open license here.](#)