**Breakout Session 2 – Configuration Management**

**Policies, Standards, and Practices**

1. What configuration management frameworks, **tools**, or standards does your lab currently use, and how effective have they been in meeting compliance or operational requirements?
2. How does Configuration Management at DOE Labs interface with regulatory and contractual requirements (e.g., DOE O 413.3B, graded approach CM processes)?
3. What challenges are common when standardizing Configuration Management practices across different labs or even divisions within a lab (e.g., differences in research focus, technical environments, or infrastructure)?

**Managing Change Control**

1. How do you determine when a change requires full documentation and approval in a CM process versus when it can be handled with an expedited approach?
2. What strategies have you found effective in balancing the need for change controls with operational agility and innovation?

**Configuration Identification and Baselines**

1. How are configuration baselines established and tracked across projects within your lab?

**Supply Chain and Vendor Integration**

1. How do you ensure that Configuration Management principles extend to external vendors and suppliers, especially for critical systems and components?
2. What are some strategies for managing configuration drift when dealing with vendor-managed components or software?

**Technology and Tools**

1. What CM tools are used at your lab today, and how do they support the lab’s operational and compliance goals? Are there any gaps?
2. Do you use automated CM tools or technologies like Infrastructure as Code (IaC)? If so, how have they impacted your processes?

**Knowledge Management and Staff Training**

1. How do you conduct training on Configuration Management for staff at your lab, and how do you ensure that the principles are understood and applied consistently?
2. Have you developed knowledge-sharing practices to bridge CM expertise and best practices across DOE Labs?

**Lessons Learned and Challenges**

1. What is an example where your lab faced a significant issue related to poor Configuration Management, and how was it resolved?
2. What are your biggest configuration management challenges, and what solutions have you applied to address these?

**Collaboration and Cross-Lab Consistency**

1. How can DOE Labs collaborate more effectively to share CM tools, standards, and lessons learned?
2. Are there areas where standardizing CM processes across DOE Labs would be beneficial, or would a more tailored approach to CM make sense for each lab?

**Future of Configuration Management**

1. As DOE Labs adopt new technologies and systems (e.g., AI, machine learning, high-performance computing), how do you foresee CM practices evolving to keep pace?
2. How can Configuration Management adapt to support cross-disciplinary research and the increased pace of innovation at DOE Labs?