

# Aegon Asset Management

**Aegon Asset Management Unites Executives and Global Teams to Deliver Faster and More Predictably**



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*Transformation  
Lead*



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*Global head of  
APMO*

October 2020

*Beyond  
borders™*

# A global investment manager

## Global client base

- Serving clients in Europe, the United States and Asia

## A responsible investor

- PRI signatory since 2011

## Deeply-resourced

- 1,200 employees
- 250 investment professionals

## Assets under management

- USD 408 billion (as of June 30, 2020)

## International network of offices



## Investment teams



# One Framework, Three Disparate Teams

## Synchronizing teams across borders

- **Works in regulated industry**

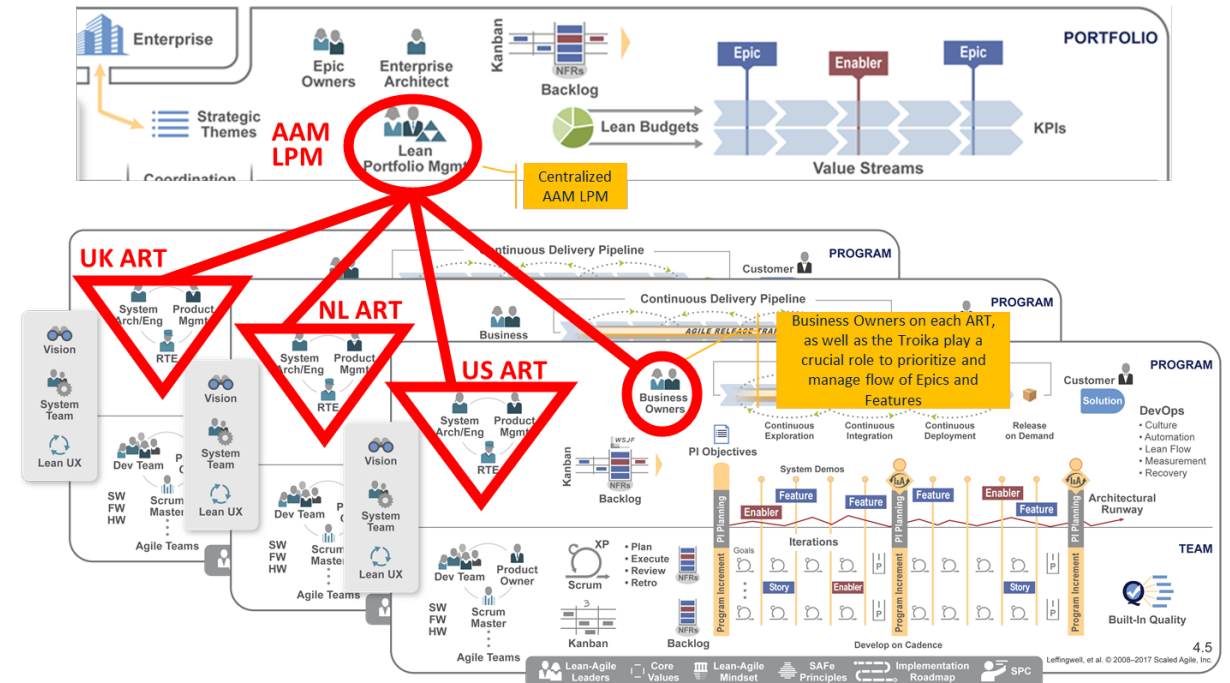
AAM chose SAFe as it fits into a high regulated industry, but still allows true agility to prosper.

- **Helps with Synchronization**

SAFe is a way to expand the company's agile efforts and keep teams synchronized across borders.

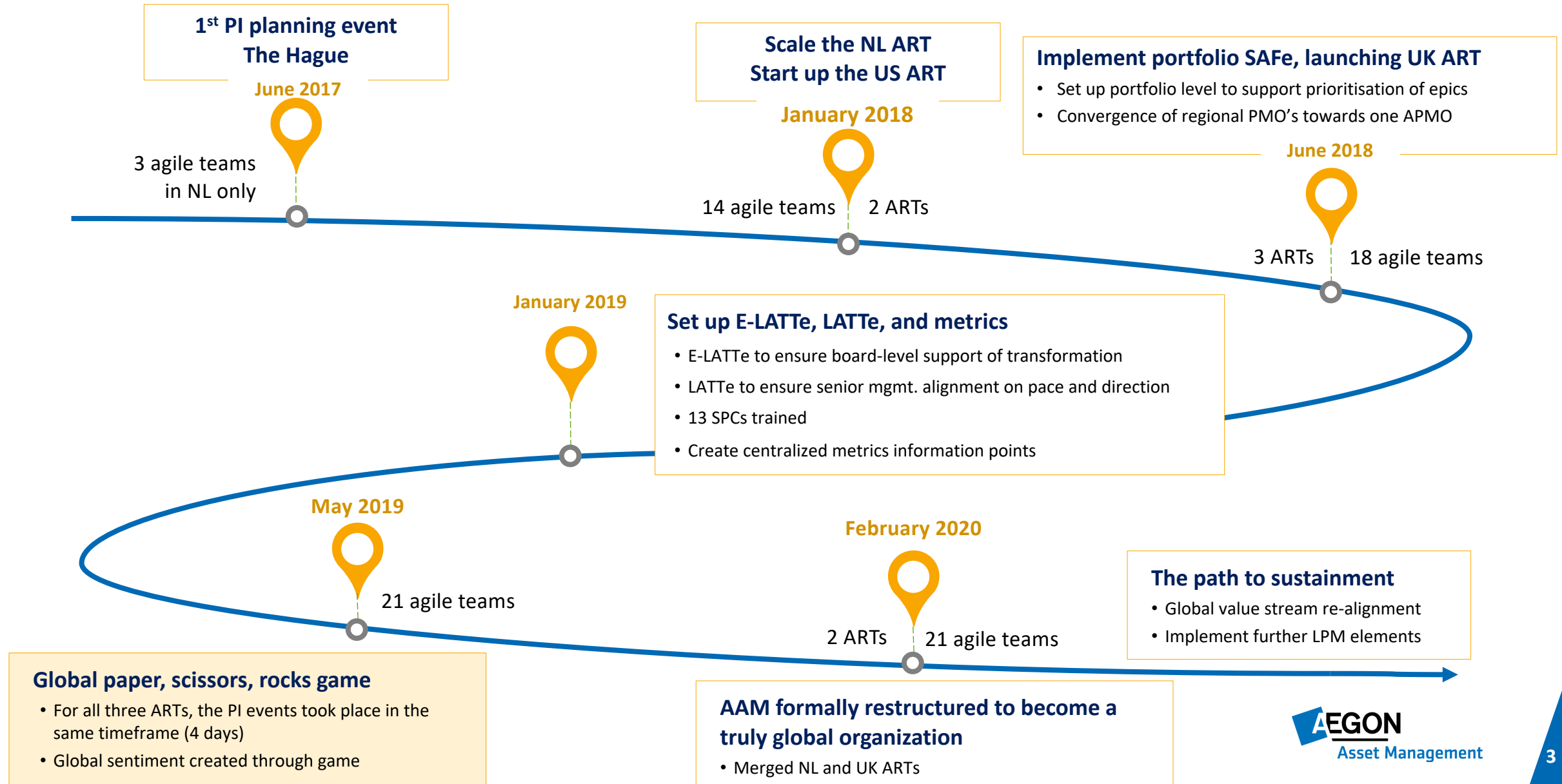
- **Envisioned SAFe as:**

- Providing a unifying structure to align regions to work together in the same way
- Aligning enterprise strategy with Portfolio execution by organizing the enterprise around the flow of value.



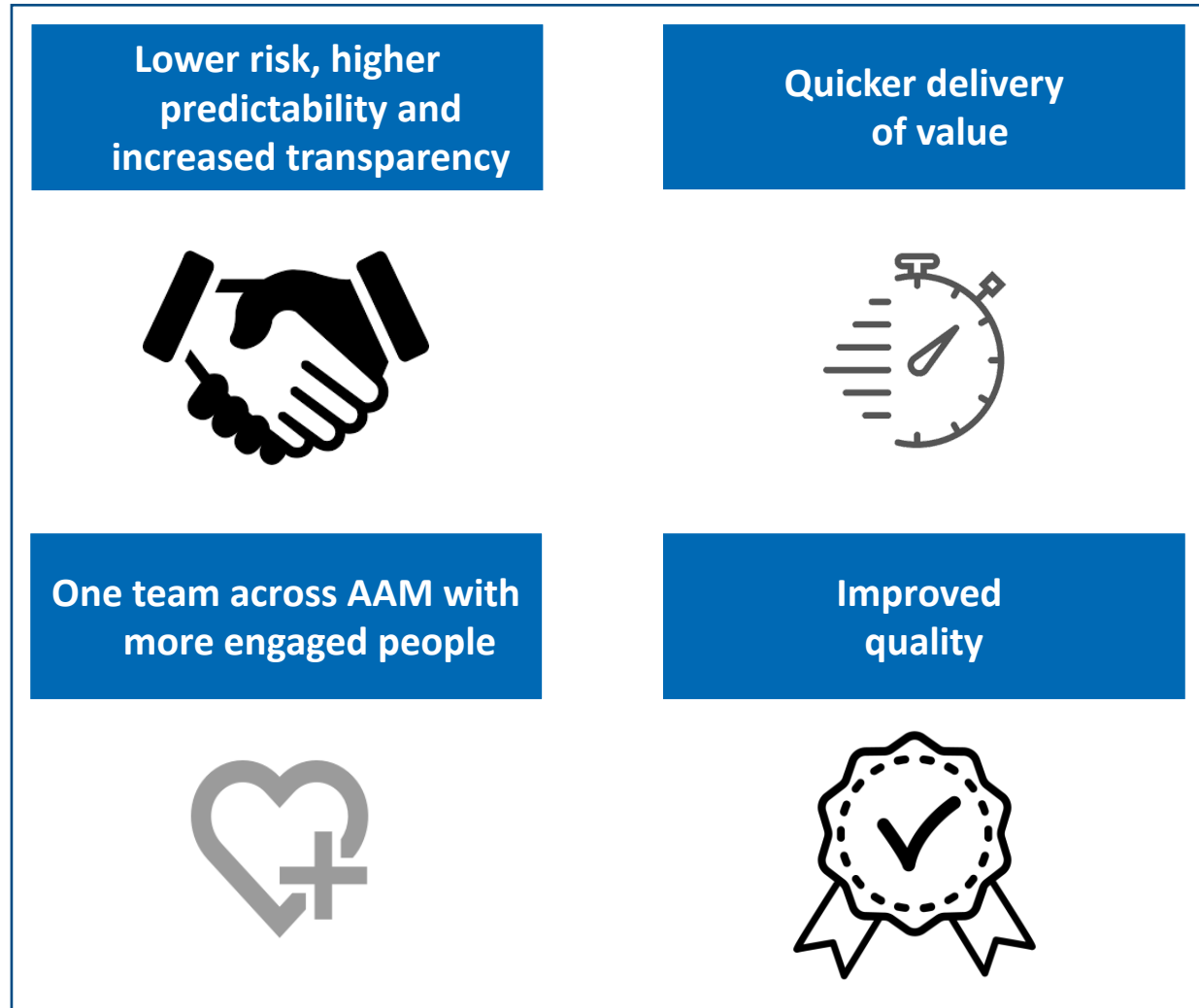
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# The AAM Transformation timeline



# Case for Change for Aegon Asset Management

Our transformation to Agile ways of working delivers four key benefits, measured through several KPI's



- Established stable predictability of 80+%
- Moved from projects taking at least 6 months to an average feature cycle time of 60 days
- Reduced the defect rate (production support rate <5%)
- Elevated employee engagement
- Improved transparency for faster decision-making by the business
- Sharpened our ability to attract and retain talent

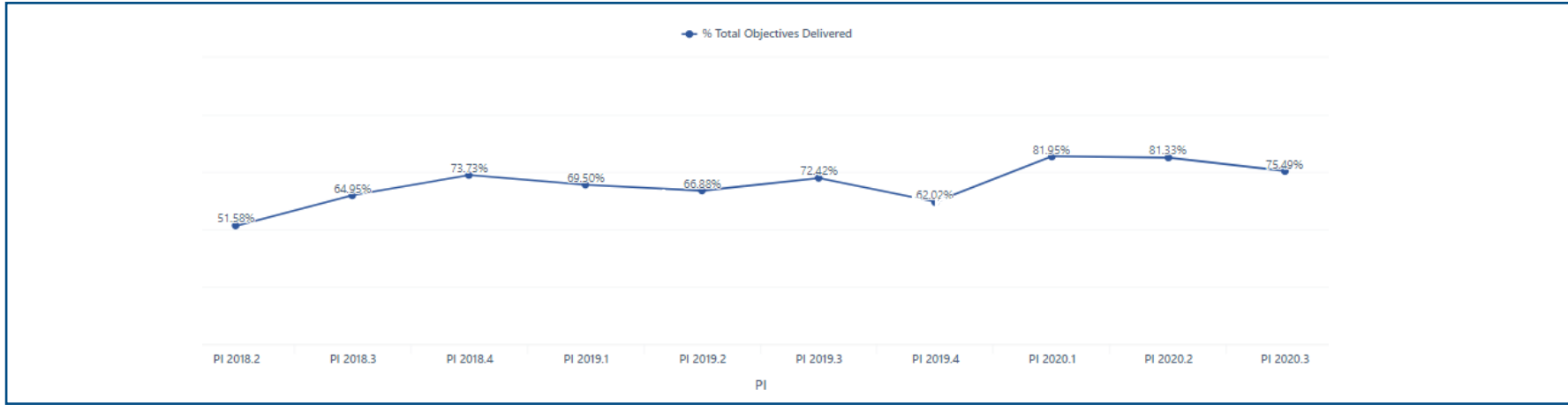
*"I think the biggest benefit was the level of transparency that is built into the SAFe framework. We always knew what the teams were working on, if they were going to finish something or if something had to be reprioritized."*

Anthony Mazzella  
Head of Client Services

# Case for Change for Aegon Asset Management

It's always about the story behind the metrics

Predictability



Production support rate



*“The transparency that the methodology creates for the business has helped us ensure we are devoting resources to the right things to support our objectives.”*

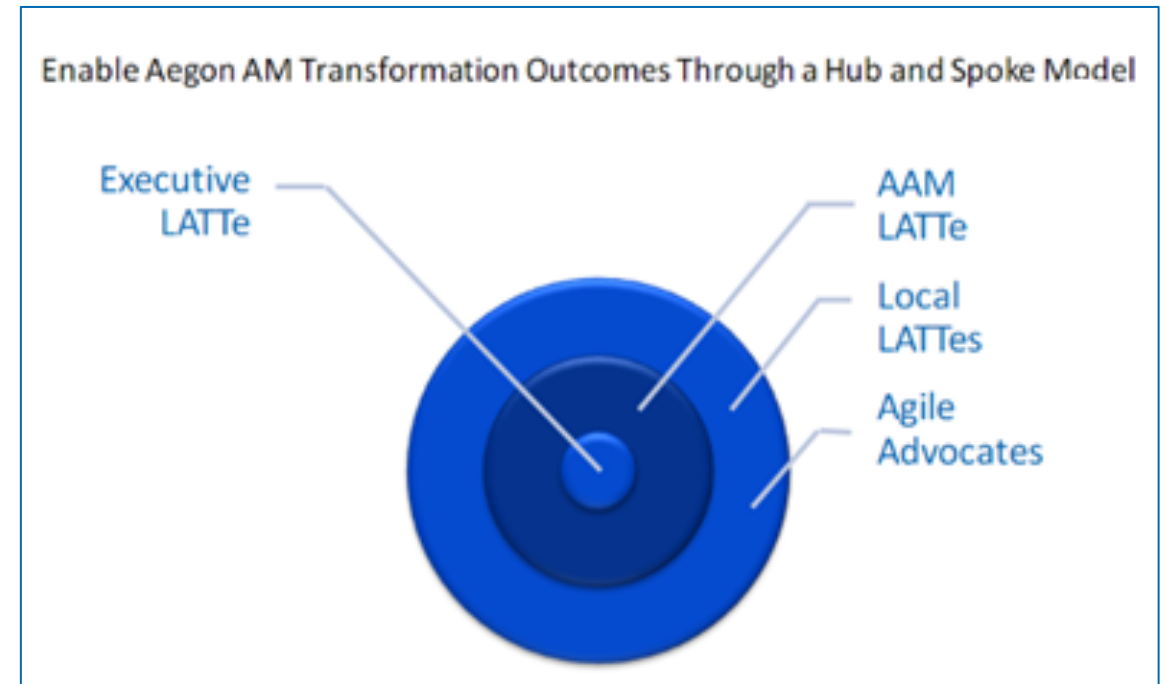
Christine Newlin  
Head of Middle Office

# Critical factors to align teams

## Engagement with executives / C-suite / Business Owners

- **Empowered to change the discussion:** SAFe allowed us to change the content of the discussion with our executives; it's now much less around budget and time and instead on focusing on a solution that delivers on business needs
- **Connecting the C-suite to the execution of ARTs:** Applying the Portfolio Kanban with support of a Business Owner community
- **Successfully engaging the C-suite:** Regular cadenced Executive LATTe meeting created visibility and ownership on the agile transformation.

## Successful transformation needs all levels of the organization!



*“It’s as much a governance forum as it is a monthly education session.”*

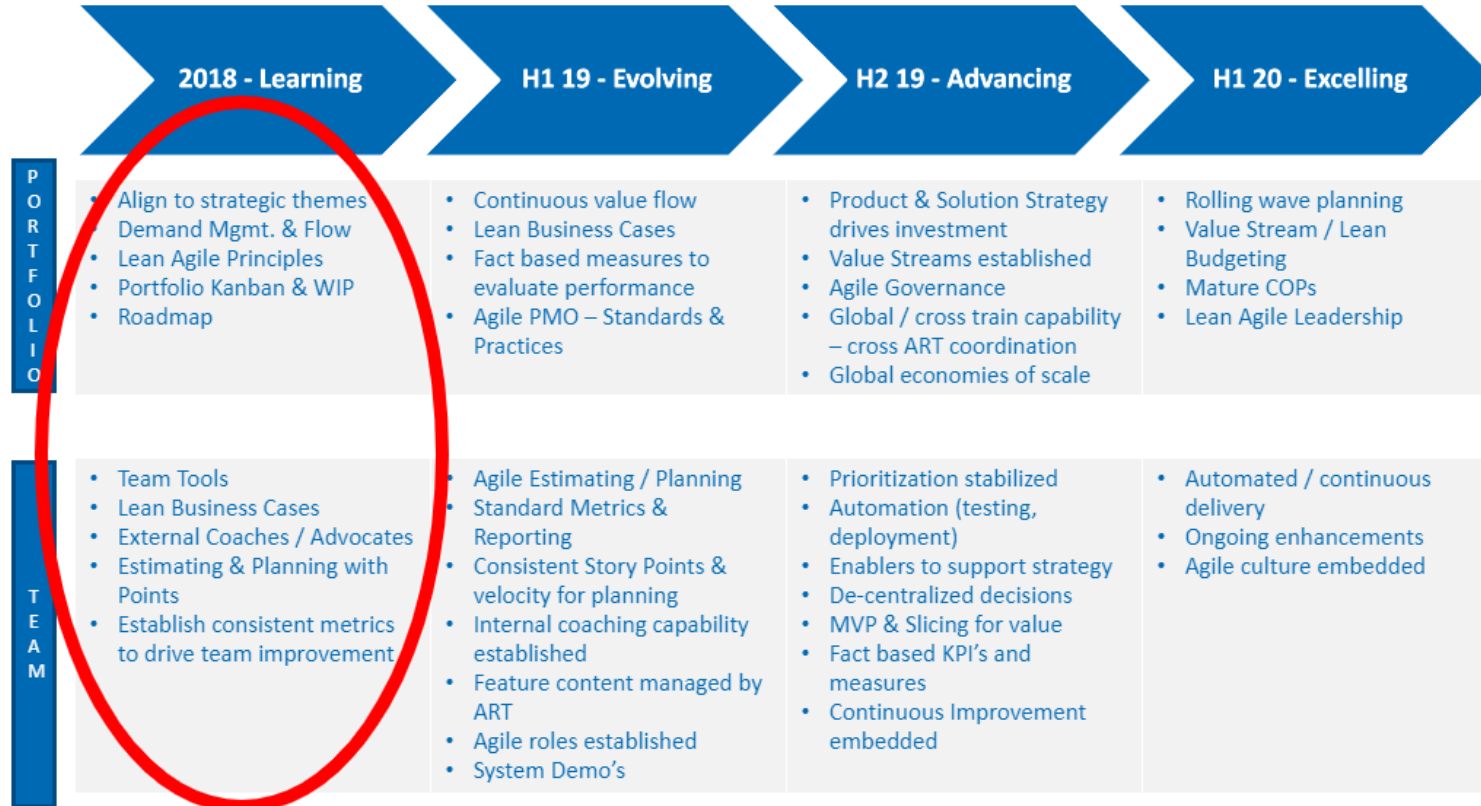
*—a Chief Investment Officer at AAM*

# Critical factors to align teams

## Transformation Roadmap

Version Q4 2018

Top Down (Portfolio) and Bottom Up (Team) focus



**A Transformation Roadmap was created to act as a playbook and guidance for the global transformation.**

*Stabilize upstream demand and flow at the Portfolio and allow ARTs to pull work  
Continue to stabilize and mature the team practices and metrics*

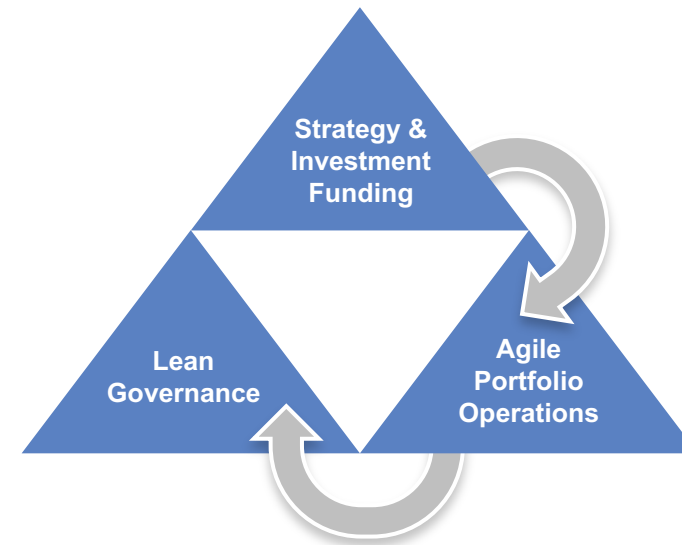


# Critical factors to align teams

## Lean Portfolio Management and Investment funding

### Create one global backlog prioritized by senior stakeholders

- Conducted regular Portfolio Syncs to keep priorities and execution transparent on cadence aligned with quarterly PI Planning
- Introduced new processes, artifacts and approvals with full support from the C-suite and revamped intake process to integrate into the Portfolio Kanban
- Introduced role of Epic Owner and transformed 4 separate PMO functions into one global APMO group

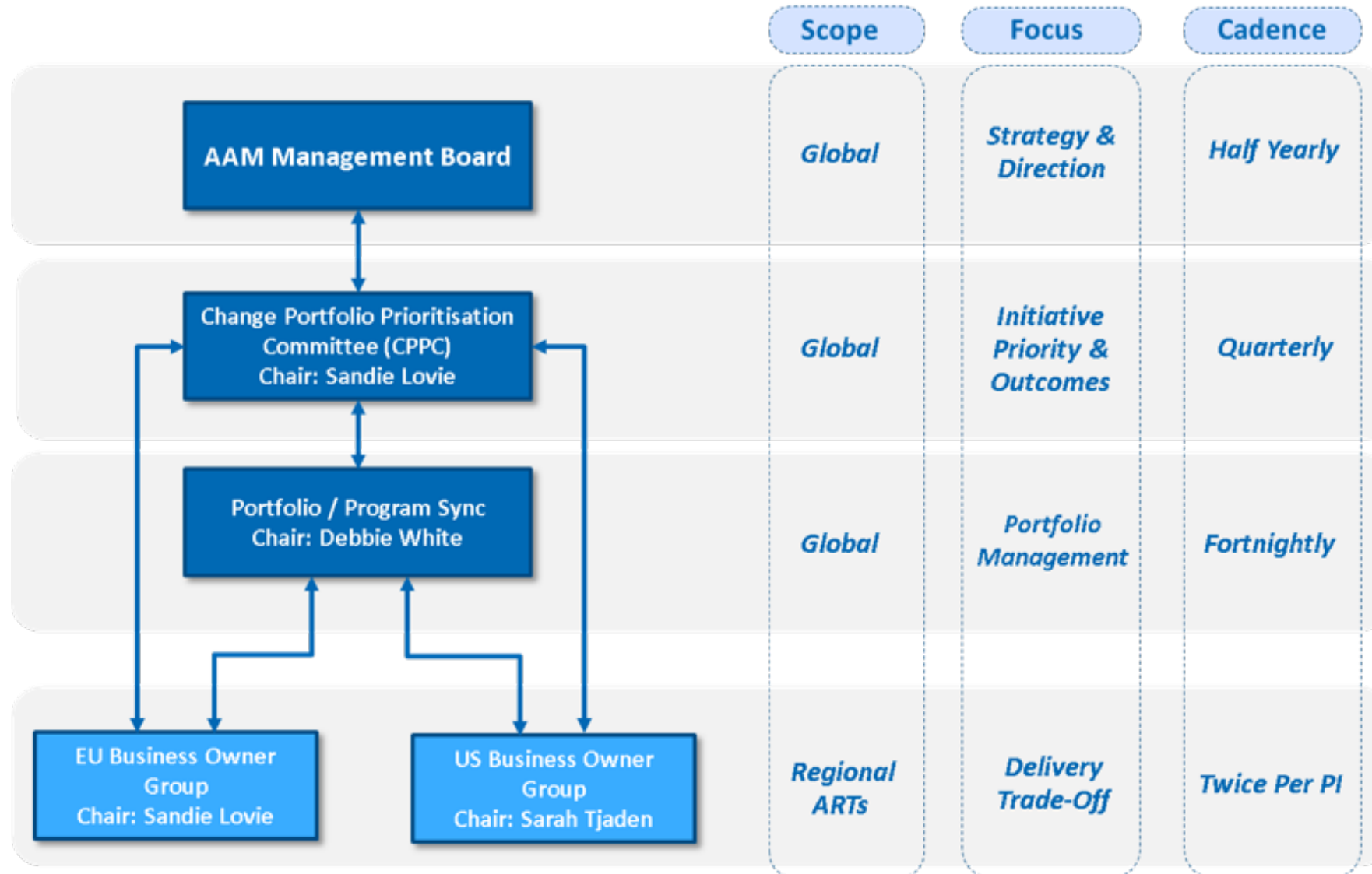


### *The Funding Challenge.....*

- *Started funding trains rather than funding project/initiatives*
- *Principle was understood, however detailed (ART) resourcing requests were not*
- *Executive understand the agility benefits or however a traditional cost accounting we still have issues*

# One Global Change management framework replaces three separate frameworks

## Revised governance after global restructure



# Critical factors to align teams

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## Copious Communication and Synchronized planning

### All ARTs plan on the same cadence

- Synchronized all planning events and iterations across time zones
- Encouraged cross-border Epic owners to join planning in person as able

### Nothing beats team collaboration

- Used tools available to document decisions and collaborate/communicate across time zones (Jira, Confluence, MS teams)
- Communication during planning weeks and in between; collaboration opportunities are plentiful!
- Socialized global features or Epics between teams
- Shared country-based readouts with dependencies

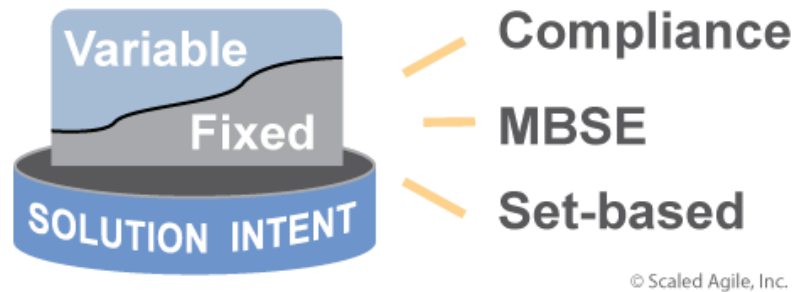


*“I think the fact that the IT staff are more educated about what the business needs is a great outcome!”*

Stephanie Phelps – Global Director of Reporting and Control

# Critical factors to align teams

## Agile architecture



### Apply consistent expectations to roles and artifacts; enable teams to rely on meaningful guidance

- Standardized the roles of Enterprise Architects, Solution Architects and System Architects across the globe
- Partnered specialized technical development knowledge with Architecture Introduced the Solution Intent artifact on portfolio level
- Mapped Architecture Artifacts and process to integrate with Portfolio and Program Kanbans
- Dedicated Enterprise Transformation Coaching to help with the transformation

# Our biggest learnings.....

