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**Ensuring high quality  
assessment in  
apprenticeships**

# The role of Ofqual in the apprenticeships system



# Regulated qualifications

We regulate



**205**

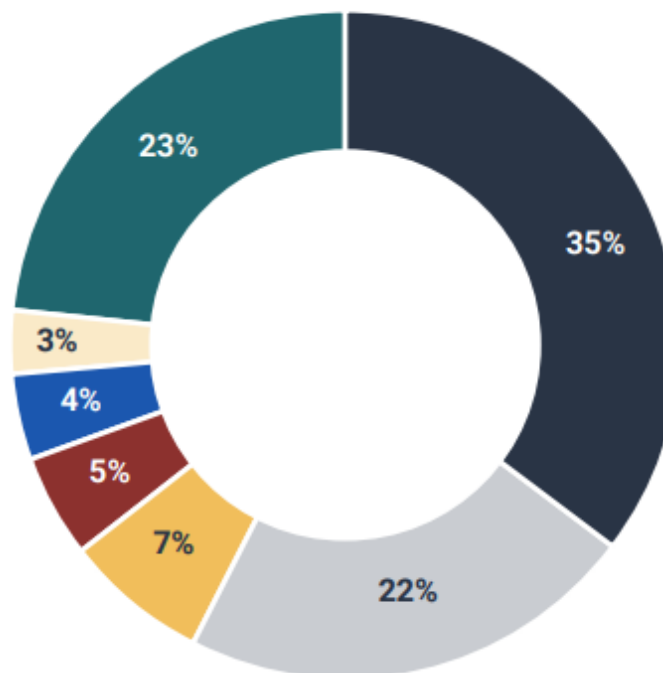
Awarding organisations

Over

**11,600**

active qualifications  
with certificates

Market share by number of certificates in England



# The role of Ofqual in the apprenticeships system

Simplification of External Quality Assurance System

- Reduced number of EQA providers from 15+ to 2



Increased role in the regulation of End-point assessment

- Bringing all end-point assessment within scope of regulation



Transitioning programme in 2 phases

- Currently 496 approved apprenticeship standards under Ofqual regulation from a total of 591



# Ofqual priorities for 2022-25

1. Quality and fairness for students and apprentices

2. Clarity, effectiveness and efficiency in the qualifications market

3. Shaping the future of assessment and qualifications

4. Developing Ofqual as an effective, expert regulator and inclusive employer



# Ofqual priorities for 2022-25


1. Quality and fairness for students and apprentices

## Outcomes

- Students and apprentices taking qualifications can be confident they are assessed fairly
- Qualifications are delivered securely to create a level playing field for all who take them
- Qualifications are valid – they meet their stated aims, support progression and their standards are maintained over time



# Ofqual priorities for 2022-25

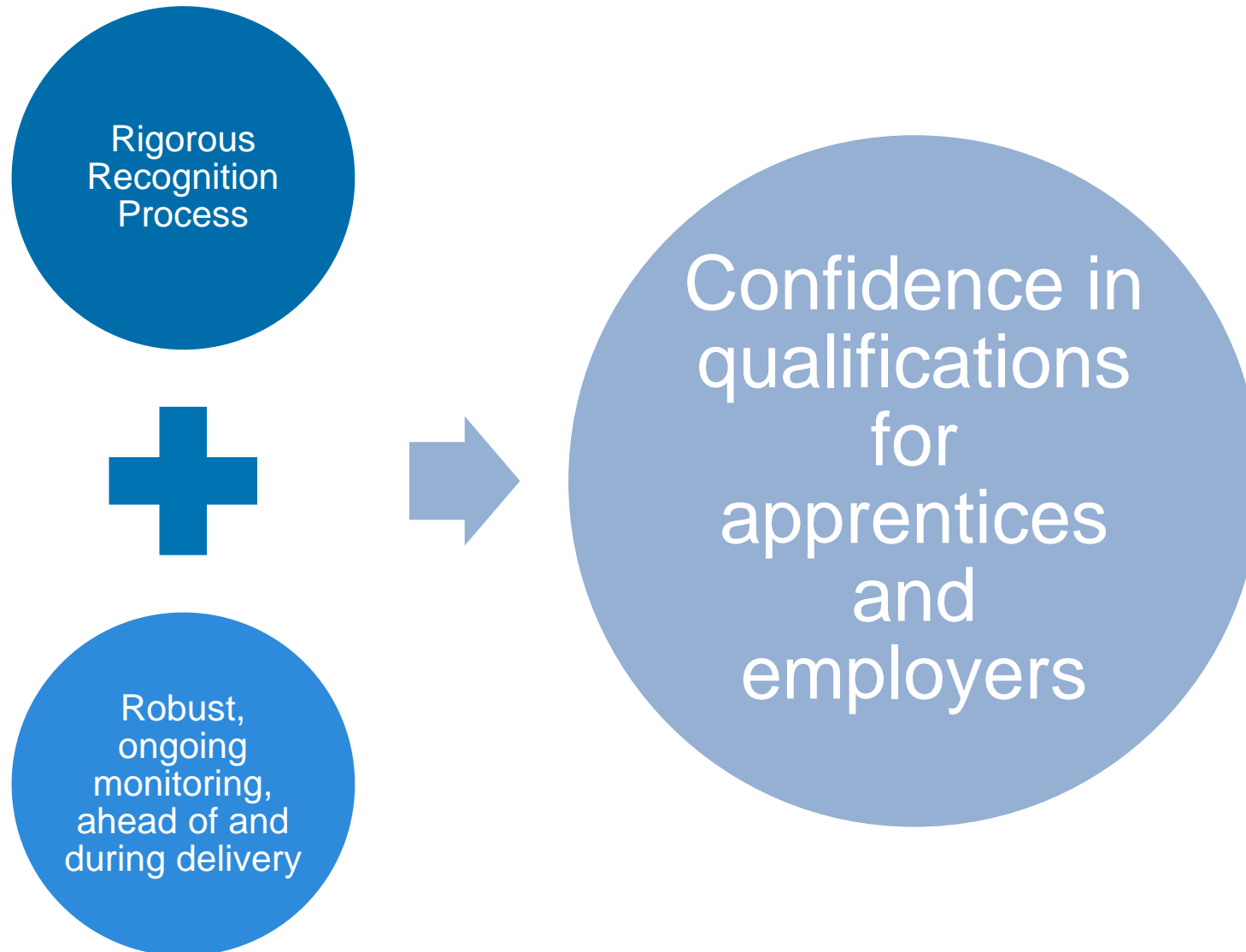
An illustration of a person with dark skin, wearing a yellow long-sleeved shirt and blue trousers, walking towards the right. They are holding a large, stylized compass with both hands. The compass has a white face with a blue and red needle, and the cardinal directions W, N, E, and S are marked. The background is white.

2. Clarity, effectiveness and efficiency in the qualifications market

## Outcomes

- Students, apprentices, schools, colleges, employers and all who use and rely on qualifications are well informed and have confidence in them
- Regulation which supports a coherent and navigable qualifications market for students, apprentices, employers and other qualifications users

# The benefits of the regulation of End Point Assessments







## IfATE works with employers to create standards and assessment plans

- Determining where new standards are needed
- Developing standards including KSBs and deciding how KSBs should be assessed
- Approving all standards and assessment plans
- Recommending funding bands
- Standards reviews



## IfATE's Employer Directory supports EQA activities and provides occupational expertise and insights

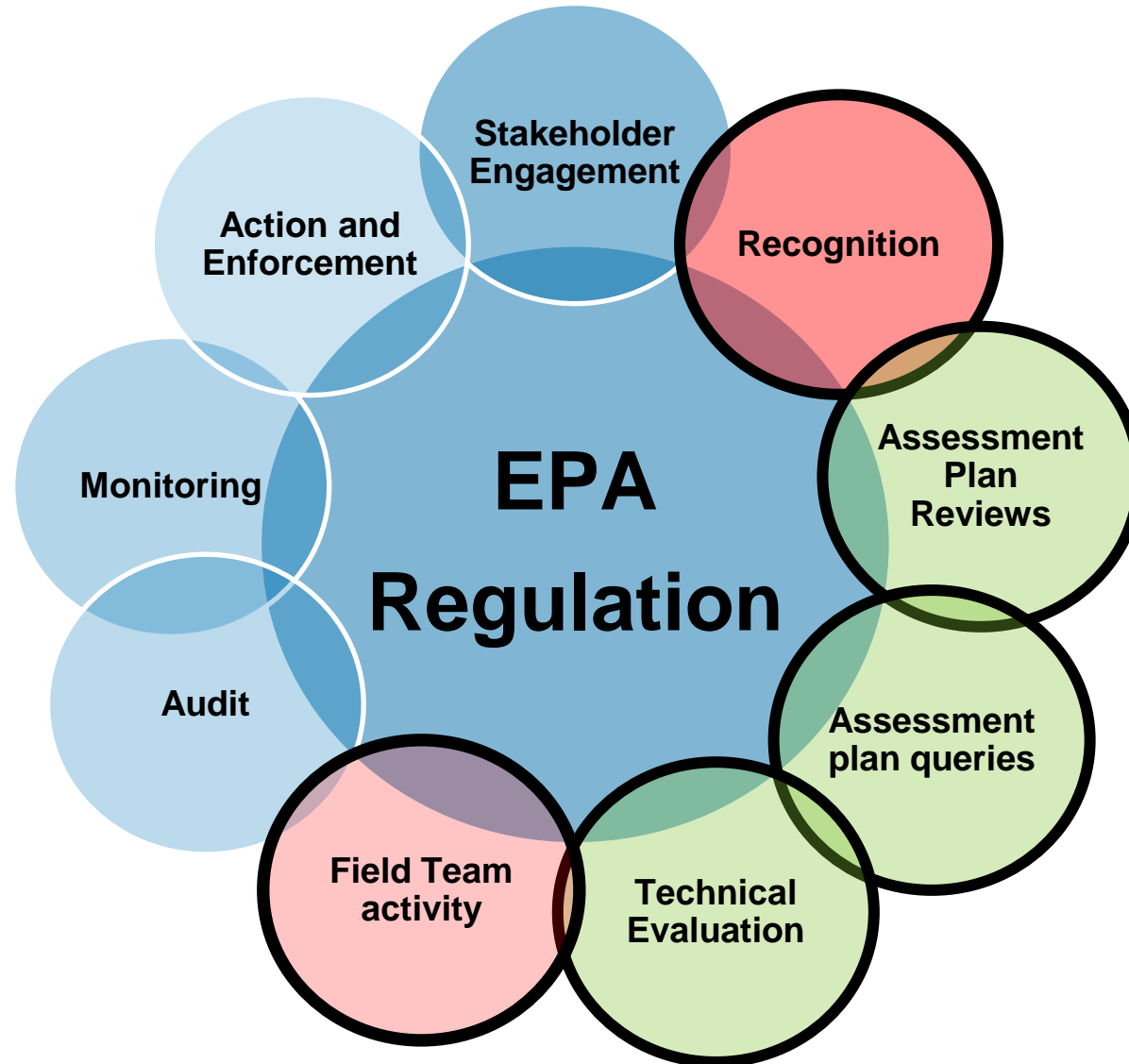
- 56 organisations have been approved to the Employer Directory to support EQA activities led by Ofqual and OfS
- The Directory covers 253 different apprenticeship standards
- Employer Directory Organisations can access thousands of individuals, each with specific occupational knowledge
- Following discussions with EDOs and other professional and membership bodies, we are planning to expand the ED with broader membership that can provide occupational expertise and insights across all IfATE's qualifications and projects



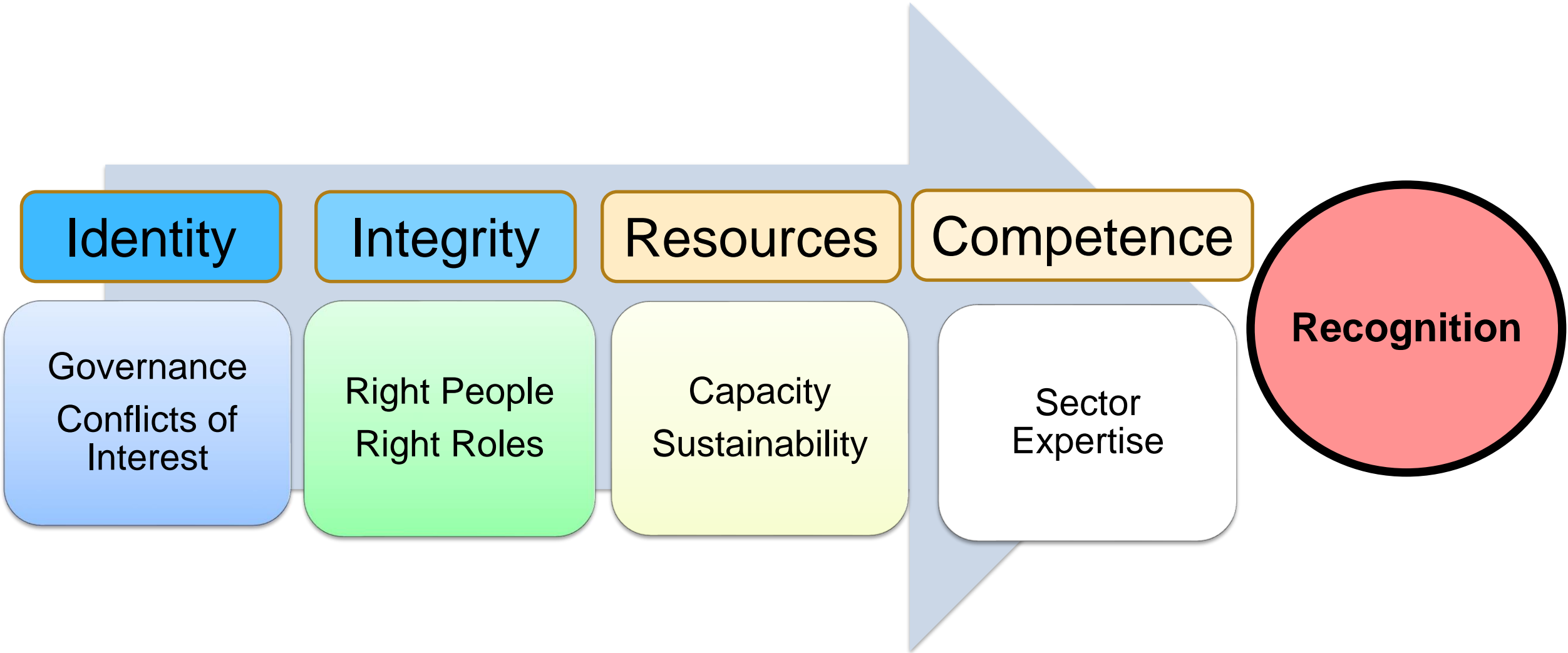
## Apprentice Panel

- IfATE set up a panel in 2017 to ensure we heard the views of apprentices. It includes apprentices across all 15 routes
- The panel meets regularly with IfATE's Board and other groups to share insights and challenge policies. It has also fed into DfE apprenticeship policy
- The apprentices have undertaken surveys of apprentices and developed recommendations
- [Raising the Standards](#) is a guide aimed at employers, training providers and apprentices to help improve the quality of apprenticeships and the experience of apprentices
- A similar panel is planned for other TE learners

# Regulation of Apprenticeship End Point Assessments



# The recognition process

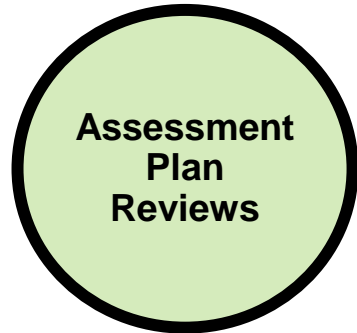


# Assessment plans

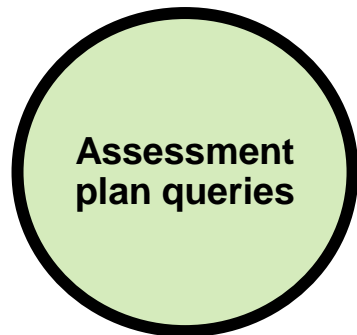
## What are Assessment Plans?

- Developed by the Trailblazer (employer group) and IfATE
- Document which defines what should happen in the End Point Assessment
- What assessments methods, duration, numbers of questions, rules around delivery...
- It is a 'blueprint' for the assessment
- Defines the thing we regulate

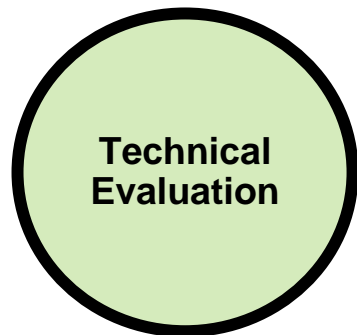
# Assessment plans and technical evaluation



- High level advice to IfATE



- Support EPAOs in their interpretation
- Use of Employer Directory / professional bodies



- Review of assessment materials through technical evaluation
- Use of assessment and sector experts



## **Field Team activity**

- Risk Based
- Direct engagement with End Point Assessment Organisations (EPAOs)
- Gather information through interviews, meetings and observation
- Work with employers and industry professionals to gain insight
- Enable more targeted and efficient use of our regulatory tools
- Support continuous improvement



# In action: A Case study- Financial Services

## ○ The issue:

- EPAOs use the published assessment plan to develop their EPA
- As part of a review of assessment plans Ofqual identified unclear grading information and a lack of detail of EPA assessment methods on a standard

## ○ What we did:

- Undertook a technical review of the standard, considering two of the EPAOs delivering the EPA
- Engagement with EPAOs to identify approach and rationale
- Intelligence gathered identified a risk to fairness and comparability
- Field Team held an EPAO forum to support a joined-up approach

## ○ The outcome:

- Clarity to EPAOs and the implementation of a single approach
- Greater fairness to apprentices and confidence in the validity of results



# We'd love to hear from YOU!



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