

# Digital Engineering Research



## **Keynote:** Model Based Space Systems and Software Engineering - MBSE2020

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Professor of Systems Engineering; Executive Director, SERC

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- **Technical Director** and Senior Technical Staff Member (STSM), Lockheed Martin Undersea Systems; 1997 to 2001
- **Professor** of Systems Engineering, Stevens Institute of Technology; September 2001 to Present;
- **Founding Dean**, School of Systems and Enterprises, Stevens Institute of Technology; March 2007 to December 2016
- **Executive Director** of the SERC; September 2008 to Present;



- In 2008, the DoD released a full and open competitive RFP for a University Affiliated Research Center (UARC) on systems engineering research
- Stevens Institute of Technology led a team that brought together much of the best systems engineering research talent in the nation to form a stable and enduring collaboration to the benefit of the DoD
- Stevens was awarded the SERC in September 2008
  - Vested through a 5-year, renewable, task order based IDIQ contract with DoD
  - Contract renewed in with WHS in September 2018 for the next five years (POP 2018-2023)
  - A second 5 year contract with ACC at Picatinny Arsenal was awarded in Summer of 2018 – this allows outreach of the SERC to the rest of the Federal Agencies
- SERC has been awarded almost \$100M in research tasks (from 2008–2020)
- SERC is unique among UARCs
  - Only UARC funded at the DoD level – USD(R&E)
  - Only UARC consisting of a collaborative network of universities
  - Only UARC created to address the entire domain of systems engineering – education, research, and practice

# The Systems Research and Impact Network



Carnegie Mellon



**STEVENS**  
INSTITUTE of TECHNOLOGY  
THE INNOVATION UNIVERSITY™

The *Networked* National Resource to further systems research and its impact on issues of national and global significance

- **Catalyze** SE researchers and end users
- **Accelerate** SE competency development
- **Transform** SE practice



PENNSTATE



UMASS  
AMHERST



UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY



VIRGINIA TECH.



UNIVERSITY  
of VIRGINIA



OLD DOMINION  
UNIVERSITY



NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL  
AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY



NAVAL  
POSTGRADUATE  
SCHOOL



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE



TEXAS A&M  
UNIVERSITY

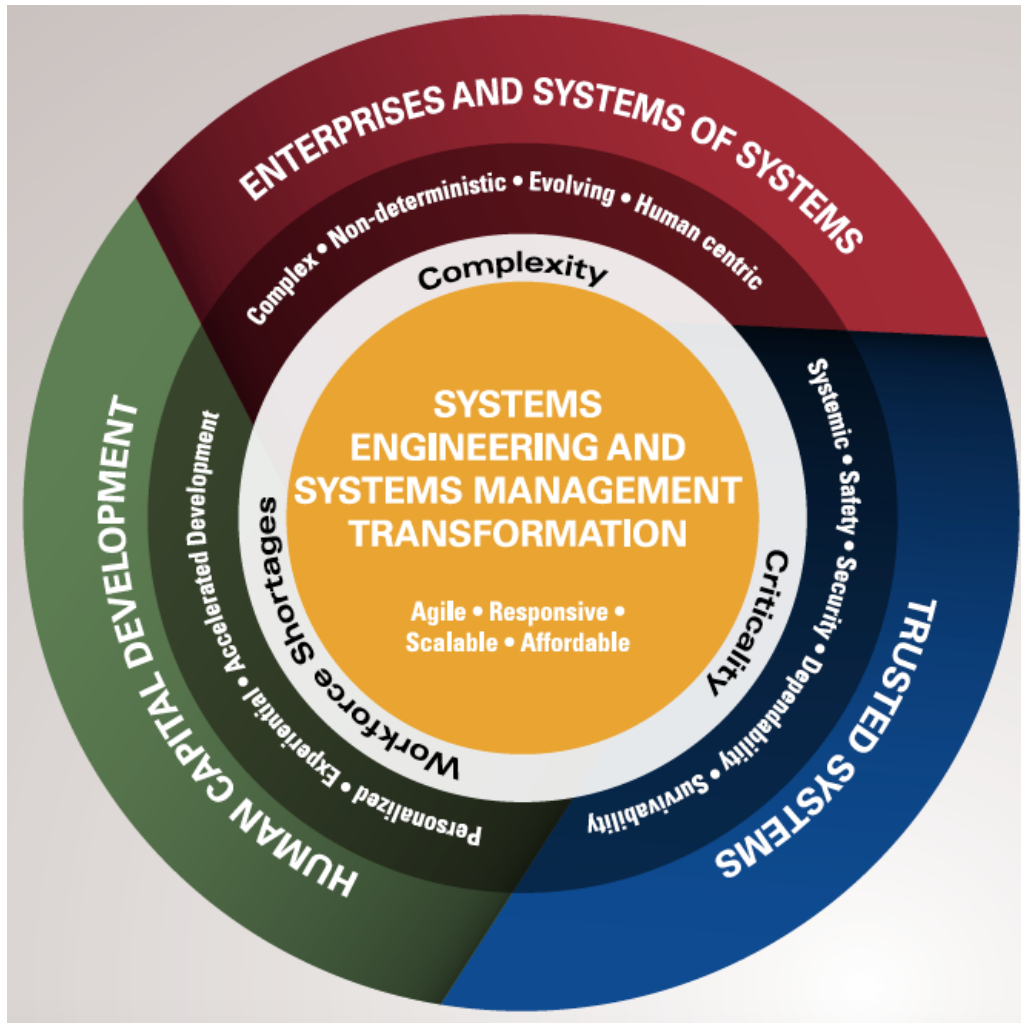


AUBURN  
UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH FLORIDA





## Enterprises and SoS

- *Comprehensive Enterprise/ SoS Modeling and Analysis*
- *Mission Engineering*
- *Digital Enterprise Transformation*

## Trusted Systems

- *Systemic Security*
- *Systemic Assurance*

## Human Capital Development

- *Evolving Body of Knowledge*
- *Experience Acceleration*
- *SE and Technical Leadership Education*
- *Emerging/Critical Human Capital*

## SE & Systems Mgmt Transformation

- *Systems Engineering for Velocity and Agility*
- *Digital Engineering*
- *SE Methods for AI and Autonomous Systems*



# SERC Research Council Members



## Enterprise Systems and Systems of Systems

- ***Dan DeLaurentis, Purdue***
- *Bill Rouse, Georgetown (NAE)*



## Systems Engineering and Systems Management Transformation

- *Barry Boehm, USC (NAE) – RC Chair*
- *Mark Blackburn, Stevens*
- *Paul Collopy, UAH*



## Trusted Systems

- *Peter Beling, UVA*
- *John Colombi, AFIT*
- *Laura Freeman, Virginia Tech*
- *Val Sitterle, GA Tech*

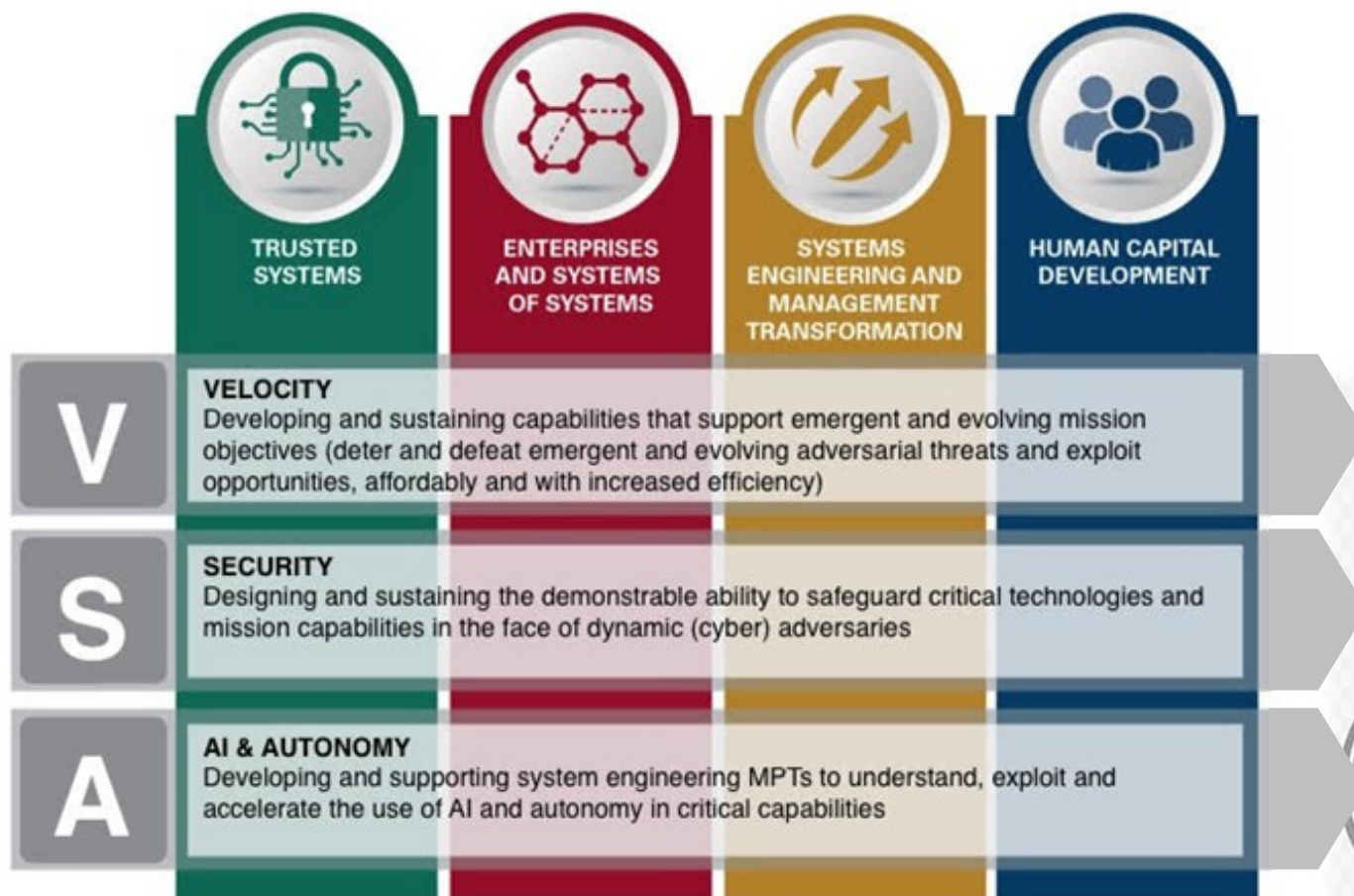


## Human Capital Development

- *Cliff Whitcomb, NPS*



## *Mission Engineering*

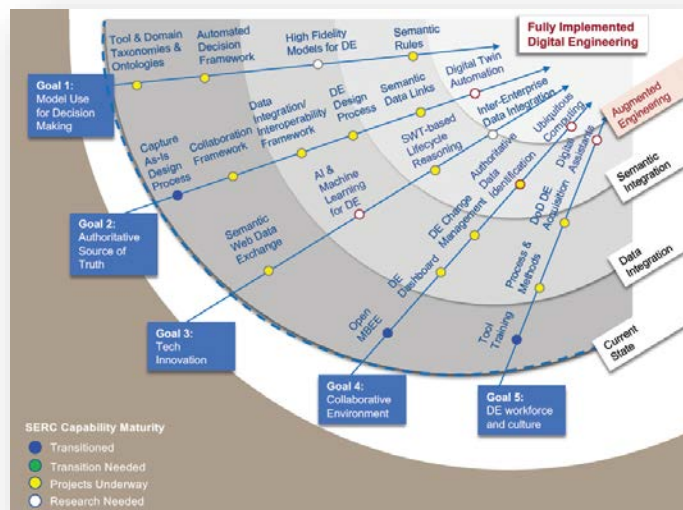


## SERC Technical Plan Roadmaps

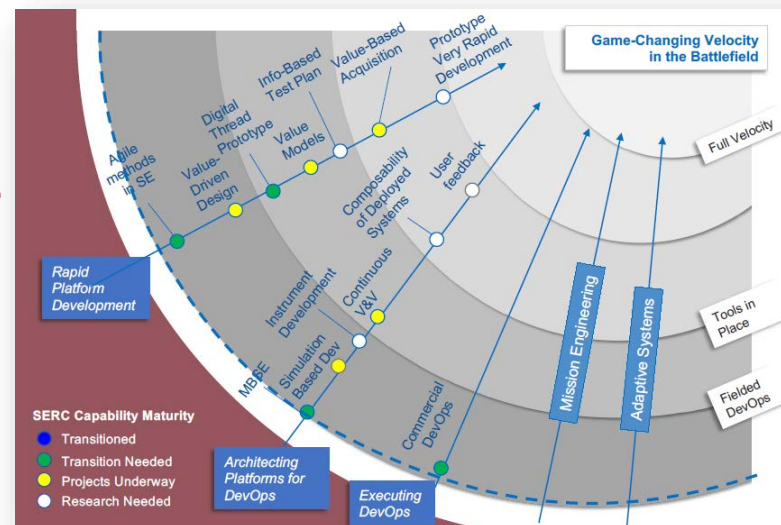


## *Digital Engineering*

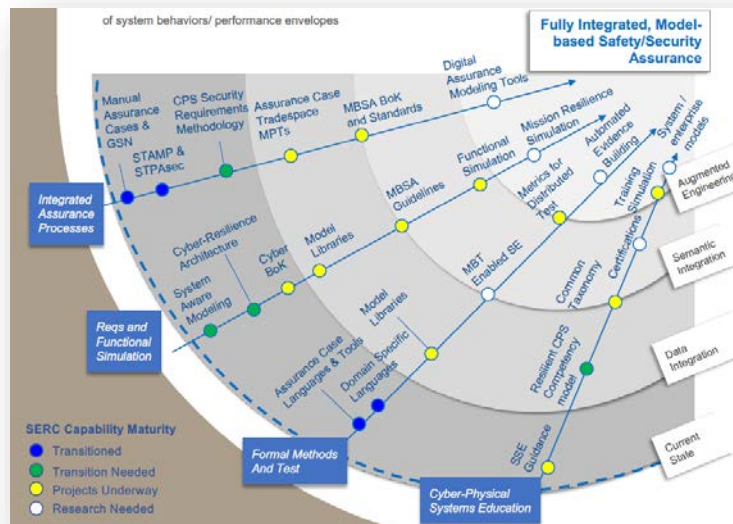
## Digital Engineering



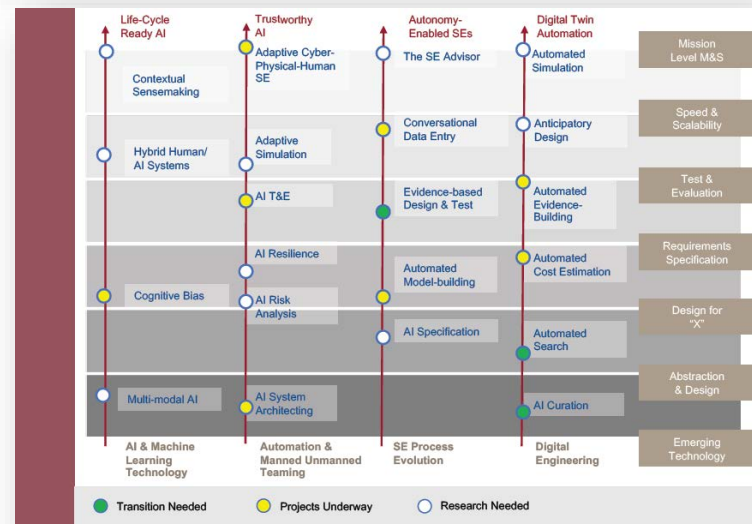
## Velocity



## Security

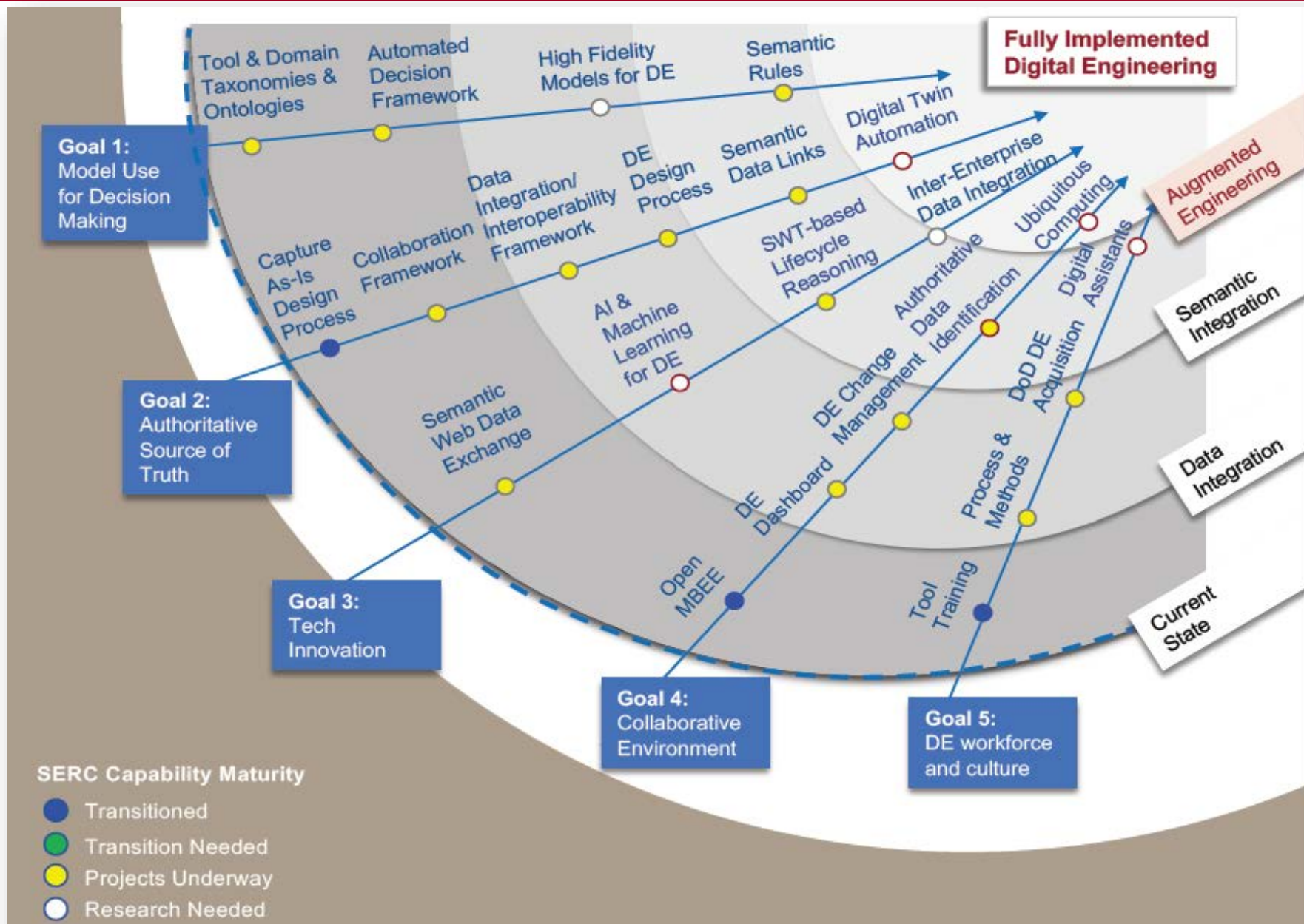


## AI & Autonomy





# Digital Engineering Roadmap – the Enabler



# DoD DE Strategy – Discussion Framework

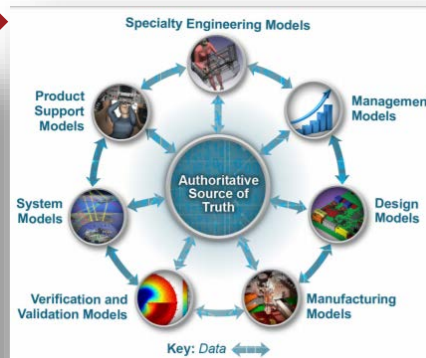
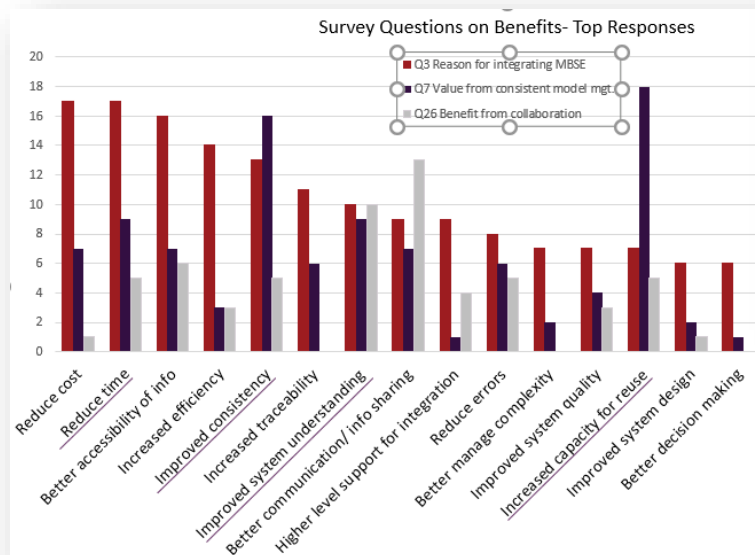
- DE/MBSE helps refactor and strengthen implementation of Systems Engineering principles (Goal 3)
  - Represent Structure, Behavior, Interfaces, Requirements and related interactions
  - Can characterize different levels of abstraction – Mission, System, Subsystem where different types of methods are needed
  - Can generate “documents/specifications” based on stakeholder-relevant views
- DE requires a formalized system/design representation that links information in an Authoritative Source of Truth (Goal 2)
- Need computation and methodological infrastructure for access and visualize on need-to-know basis (Goal 4)
- Semantically linked system/design information to enable tradespace analyses and decision making (Goal 1)
- USE CASEs to present research progress



Extending the DoD Digital Engineering Strategy to Missions, Systems of Systems, and Portfolios  
 P. Zimmerman, T. Gilbert, J. Dahmann  
 22nd Annual NDIA Systems and Mission Engineering Conference  
 Tampa, FL | 23 October 2019

# Digital Engineering Transformation

- Will change the way **Engineering** is done
- Will change the way DoD **Acquisition** is done



- Will change the way we view **quality** and **agility**

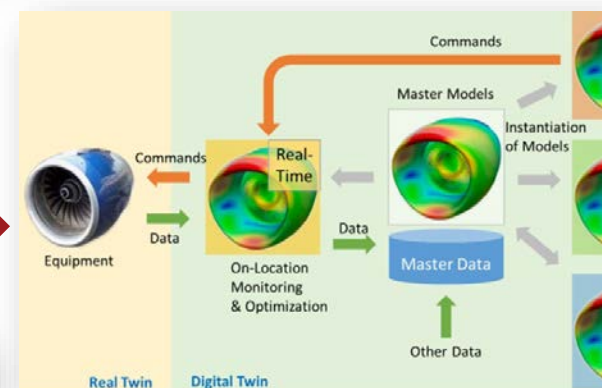
- Will change the way systems get **deployed**

Systems engineering will lead the effort to **drive out unnecessary complexity** through well-founded architecting and deeper system understanding

A **virtual engineering environment** will incorporate modeling, simulation, and visualization to support all aspects of systems engineering by enabling improved prediction and analysis of complex emergent behaviors.

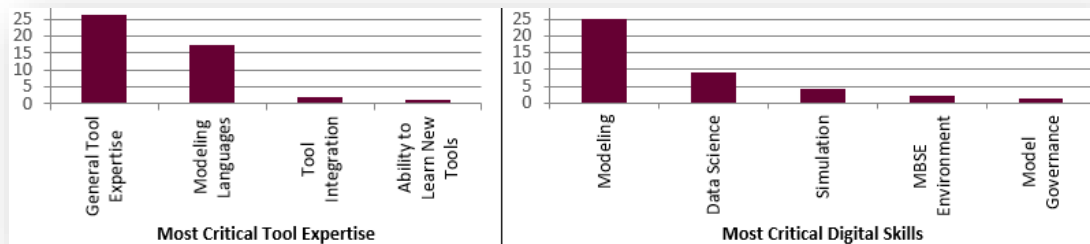
Composable design methods in a virtual environment **support rapid, agile and evolvable designs of families of products**. By combining formal models from a library of component, reference architecture, and other context models, different system alternatives can be quickly compared and probabilistically evaluated.

INCOSE SE Vision 2025/

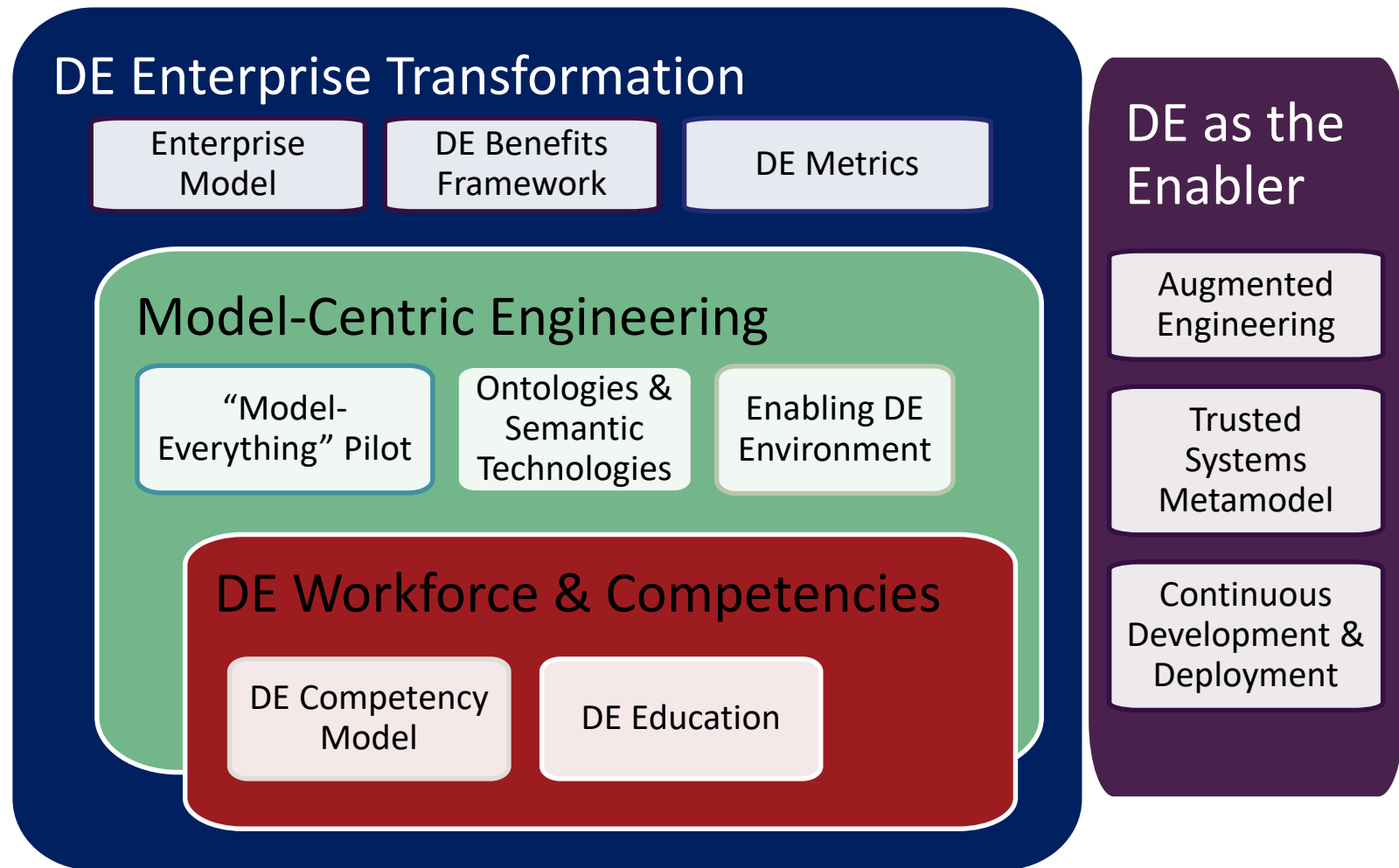


Report: Industrial Internet Consortium: Digital Twins for Industrial Applications.

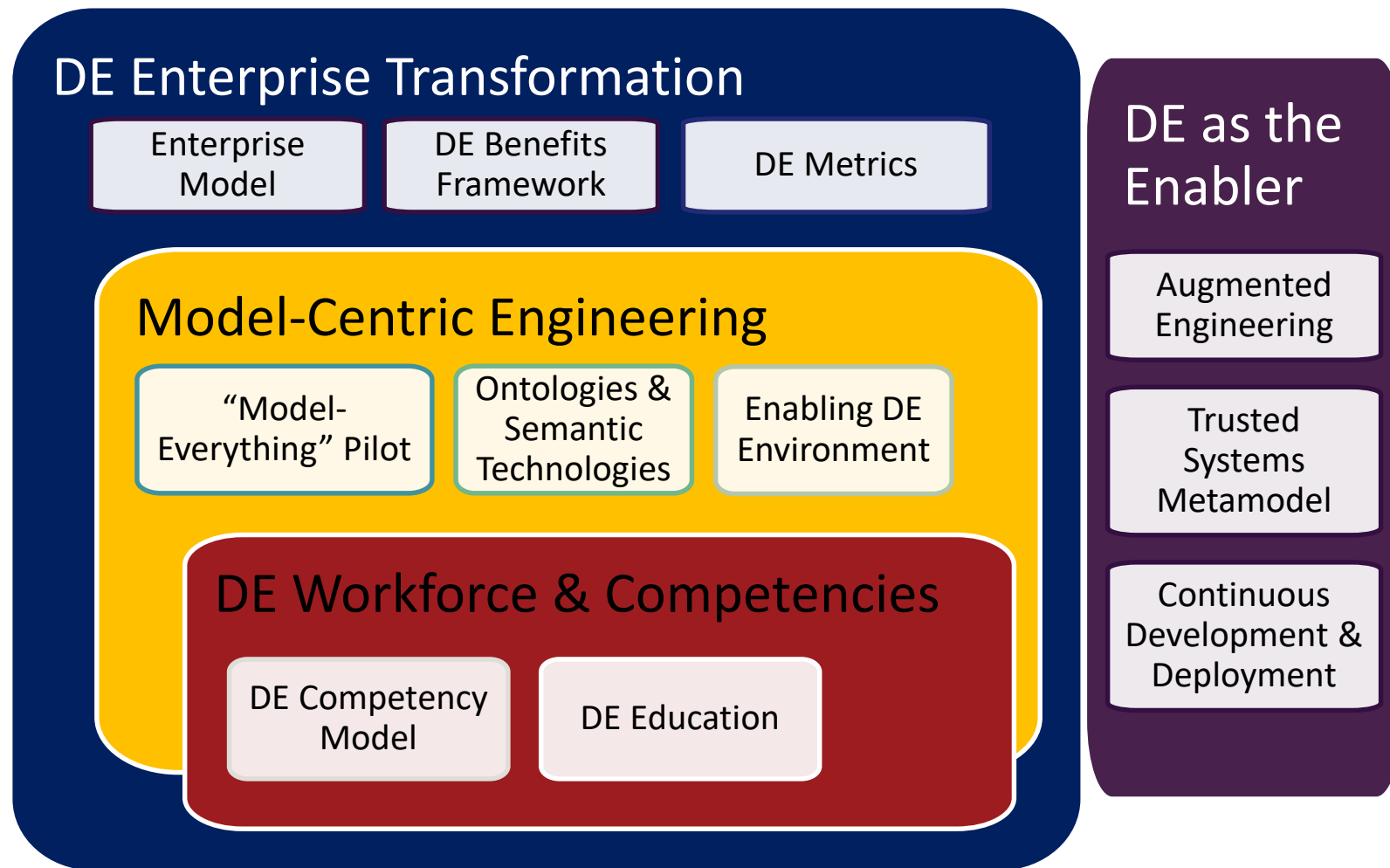
- Will change our **workforce**



Data from SERC-SR-2020-001, Benchmarking the Benefits and Current Maturity of MBSE







## Use Cases to Convey how Digital Engineering will Transform Systems Engineering, from the Perspective of a Chief Engineer

### Use Case #1

Round trip from Mission Level  
Analysis to Component Level  
Analysis and back

### Use Case #2

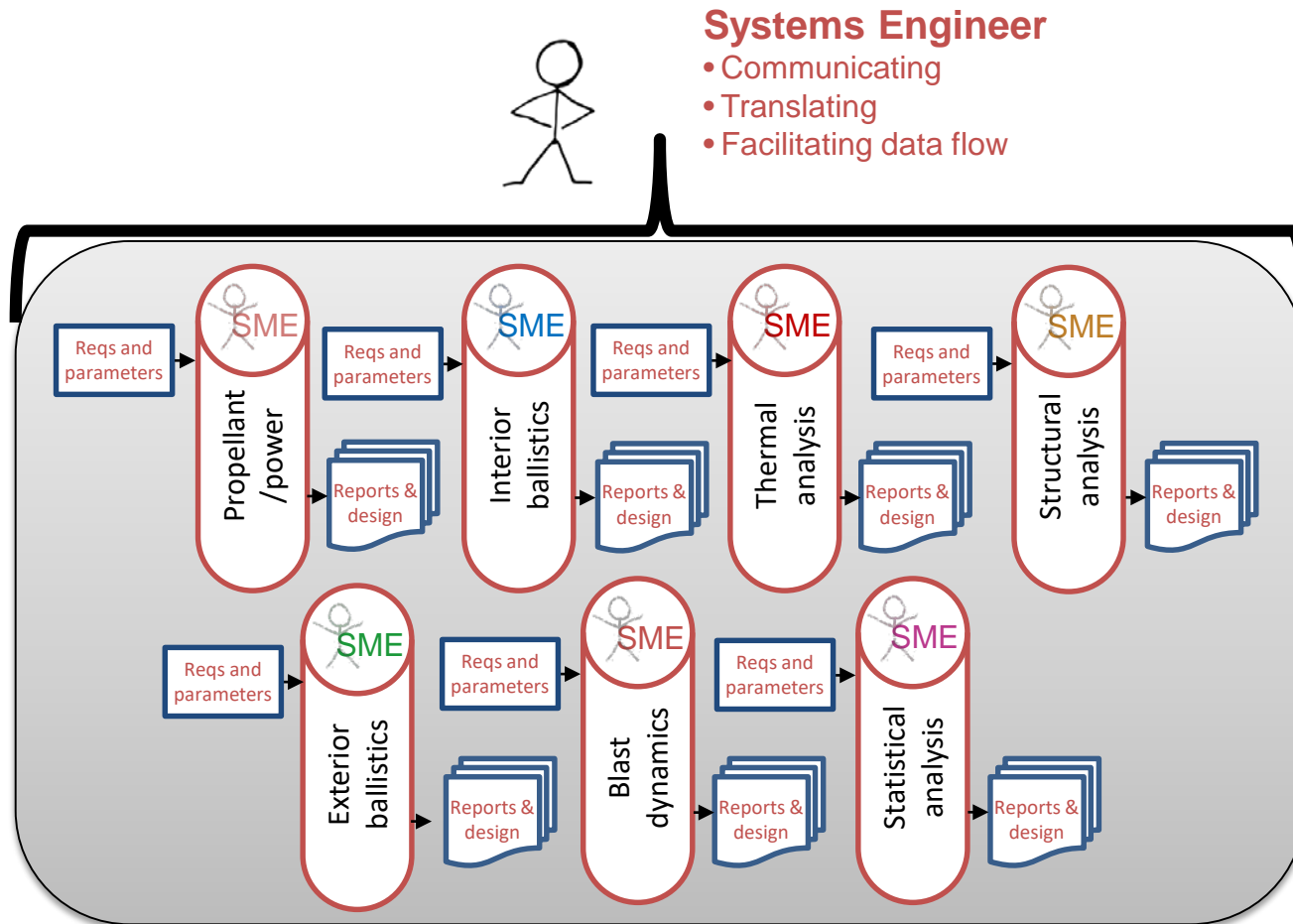
Digital Signoffs in  
Authoritative Source of Truth  
using a Collaborative  
Environment

### Use Case #3

From Configuration Management  
to  
Model Management

Selected commercial software products are identified in this material. These products are only used for demonstration purposes. This use does not imply approval or endorsement by Stevens, SERC, or CCDC/ARDEC, NAVAIR, nor does it imply these products are necessarily the best available for the purpose. Other product names, company names, images, or names of platforms referenced herein may be trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies, and they are used for identification purposes only.

# Example: As-Is Engineering – Document Intensive with Disciplinary Stovepipes



# Example: Cross Domain Relationships Needed for System Trades, Analysis and Design

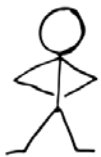
- Scenario Refueling UAV
- Valve – Cross-domain **Object**
- Mechanical **Domain**
  - Valve connects to Pipe
- Electrical **Domain**
  - Switch opens/closes Value
  - Maybe software
- Operator **Domain**
  - Pilot remotely sends message to control value
- Communication **Domain**
  - Message sent through network
- Fire control **Domain**
  - Independent detection to shut off valve
- Safety **Domain**





# Opportunities to Refactor and Improve the As-Is Analysis & Design Process

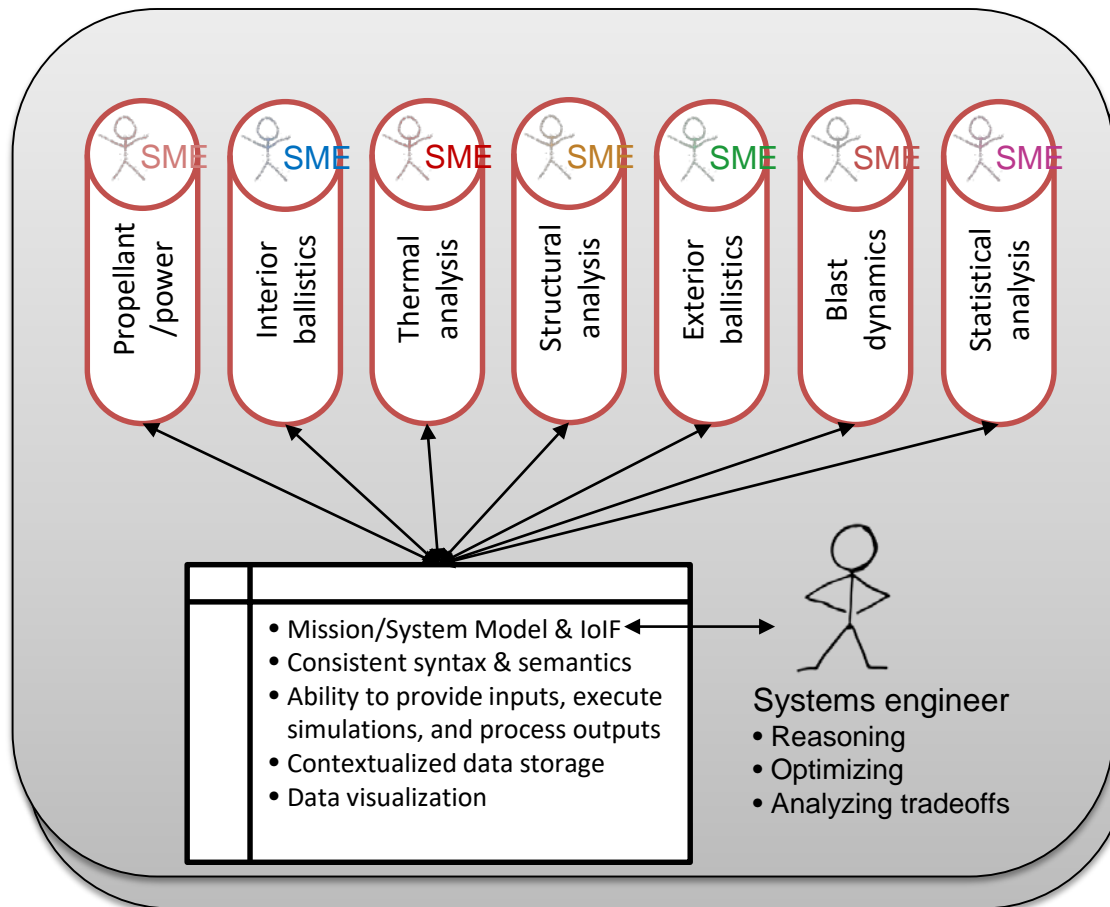
- **Lots of software tools** – used for different analyses, by different communities
- **Lack of tool integration and interoperability** – different syntaxes, variable names & terminologies, and units, plus the need for SME input
- **Lack of consistency in modeling process and methods** – if an update is made one place, it's a challenge to ensure that it propagates into other models
- **Time consuming and labor-intensive to iterate** – making a small change somewhere requires substantial additional work everywhere
- **Difficulty in using models for strategic decisions** – non-SMEs have difficulty running and interpreting results to fully understand trends and tradeoffs



Systems Engineer

**Systems Engineers are expected to facilitate and overcome all these issues in the current design process.**

# Aspirational High-level Research Vision, facilitated by Digital Engineering



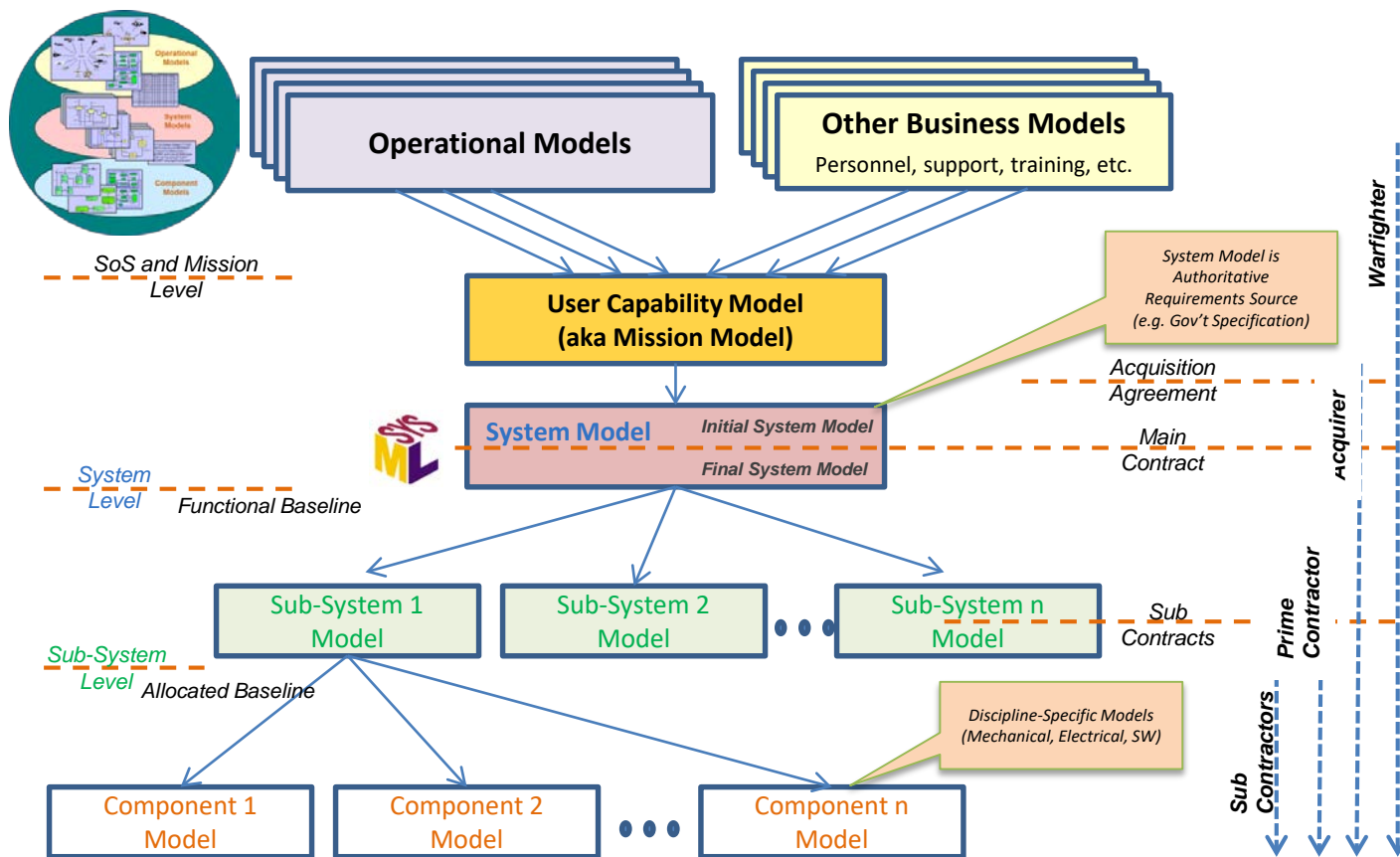
Strategic/mission-level decision-maker

- Setting requirements & objectives
- Exploring tradeoffs
- Adjusting requirements & objectives based on capability information

# Enabling Concepts – Not an Exhaustive List

- **Descriptive models**
  - They have a formal syntax and semantics reflected with a graphical language
  - They represent Structure, Behavior, Interfaces, Requirements and related Interactions
  - They can characterize different levels of abstraction – Mission, System, Subsystem where different types of methods usually apply
  - They can generate “documents/specifications” based on stakeholder-relevant views
- **Modeling Methods and Methodology**
- **Ontologies and Semantic Technologies enabler for interoperable AST**
  - Provides a means to link data across all domain (like the Internet)
  - Provides semantics to support Knowledge Representation, which is an enabler for AI
  - **Interoperability and Integration Framework (IOIF)**
- **Enabling Digital Engineering Environment**
- **Multi-Disciplinary Design Analysis and Optimization**
  - Enabling Technologies for Tradespace Analysis
- **Modeling Pattern (s)** characterizes “integrated” interplay of three related aspects
  - Target system (Sub-System 1)
  - “Designing” system – processes, methods, models, tools and computing infrastructure (Sub-System 2)
    - Model of the Target system is actually part of System 2
  - “Evolving” system – encapsulates both Target and “Designing” system (System 3)
  - There are continuous dynamics that influence all three systems

# Modelling Levels where Appropriate Model Methods are Needed for Different Concerns

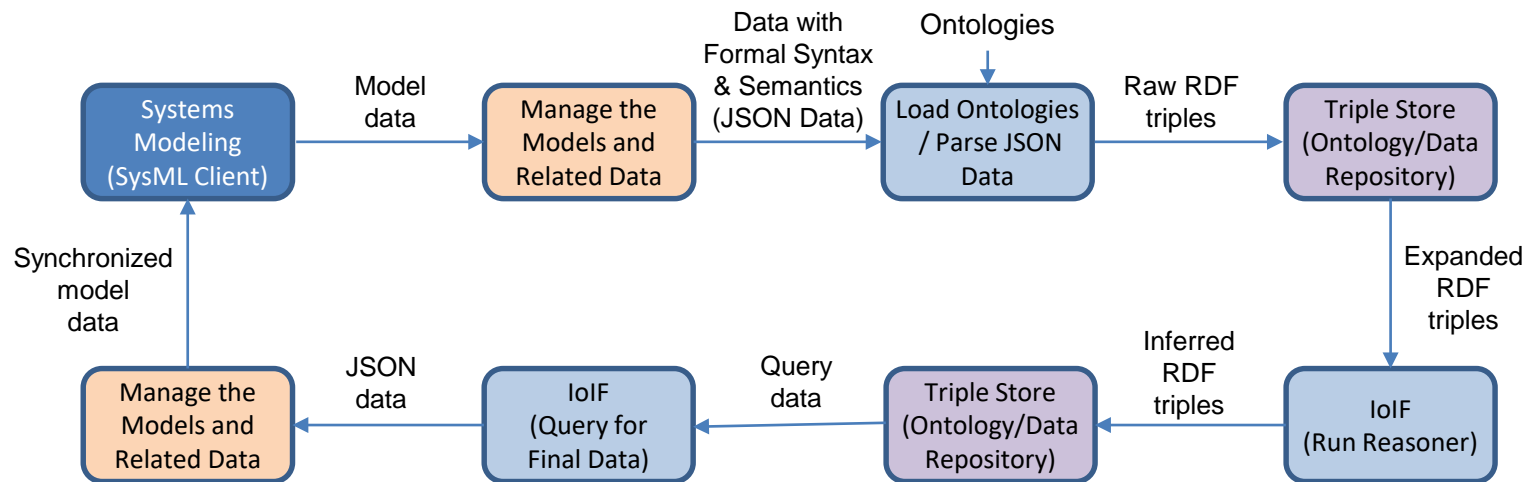


NAVAIR Public Release 2017-892. Distribution Statement A – "Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited"



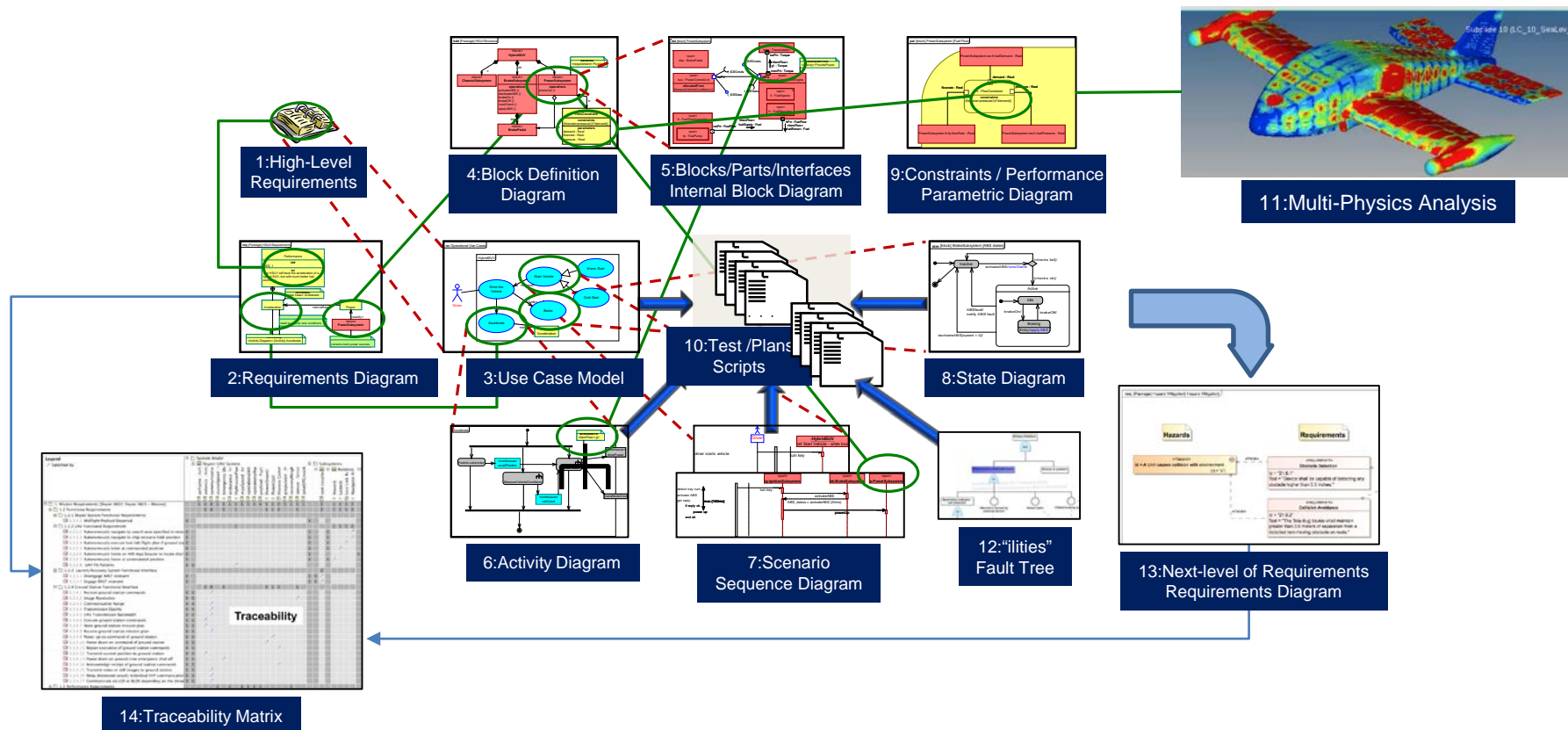
# Component Data Flow for Full “Round Trip”

- Full round trip from System Modeler, through MMS, IoIF, and then back to Systems Modeler, with visualization in View Editor

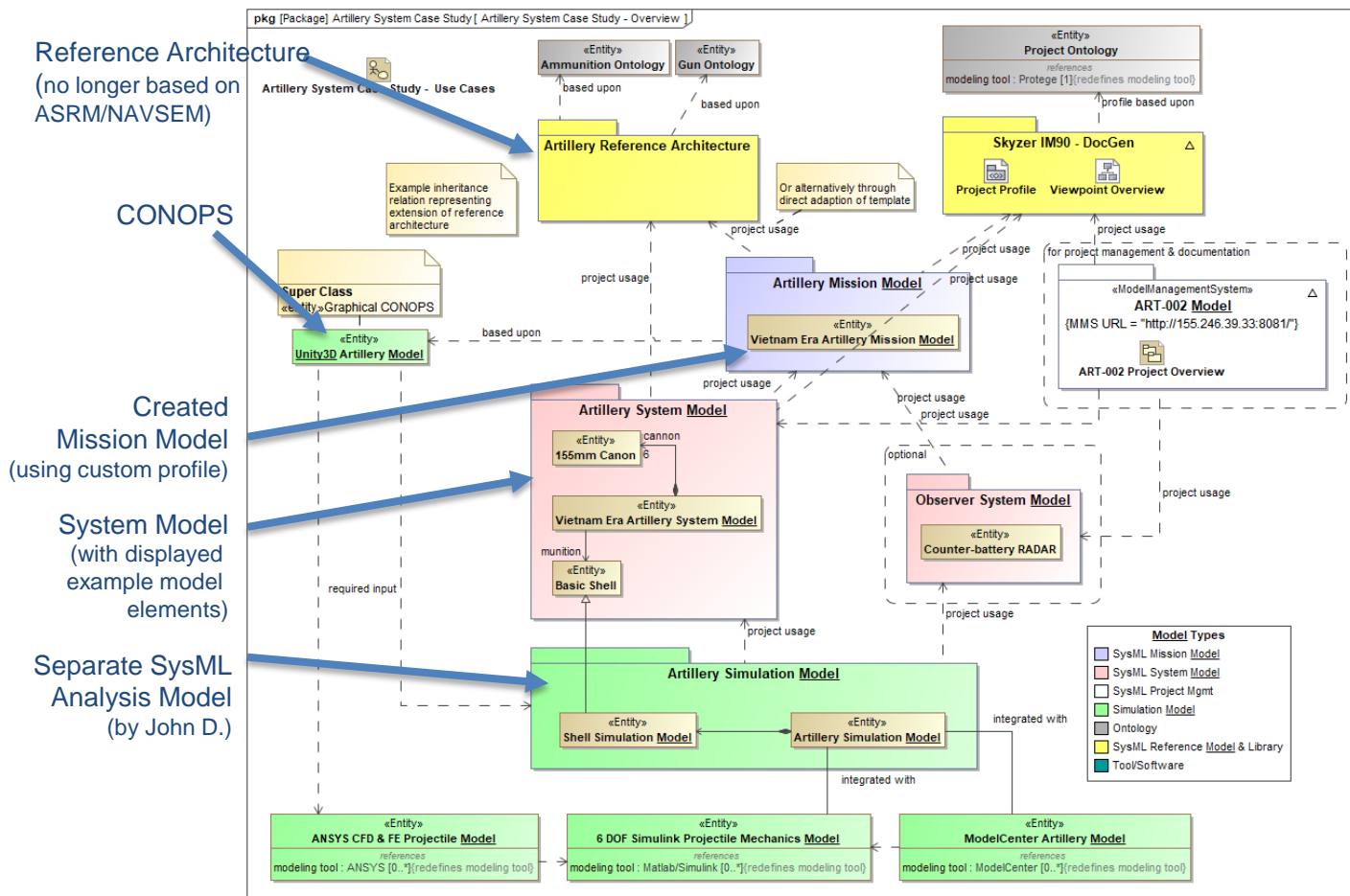


RDF: Resource Description Framework is W3C standard for data interchange on the Web  
 JSON: Java Script Object Notation is a human/tool readable lightweight data-interchange format

# Linking Mission & System Level Modeling with Component Level Parametric/Physics Based Modeling

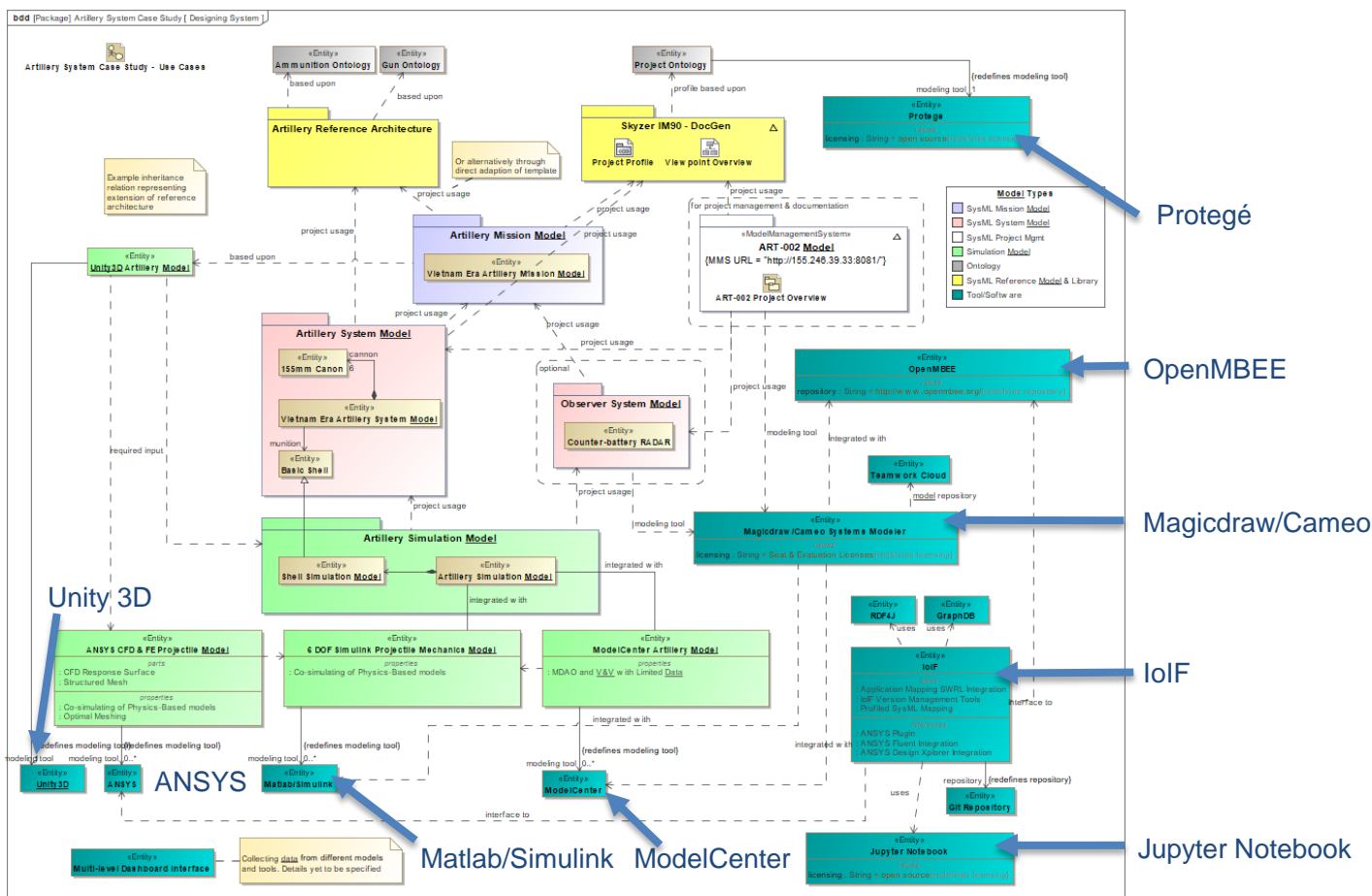


# Use Case “Full Stack”



UNCLASSIFIED

Distribution Statement A: Approved for public release. Distribution is unlimited.





## DE Enterprise Transformation

Enterprise  
Model

DE Benefits  
Framework

DE Metrics

## Model-Centric Engineering

“Model-  
Everything” Pilot

Ontologies &  
Semantic  
Technologies

Enabling DE  
Environment

## DE Workforce & Competencies

DE Competency  
Model

DE Education

## DE as the Enabler

Augmented  
Engineering

Trusted  
Systems  
Metamodel

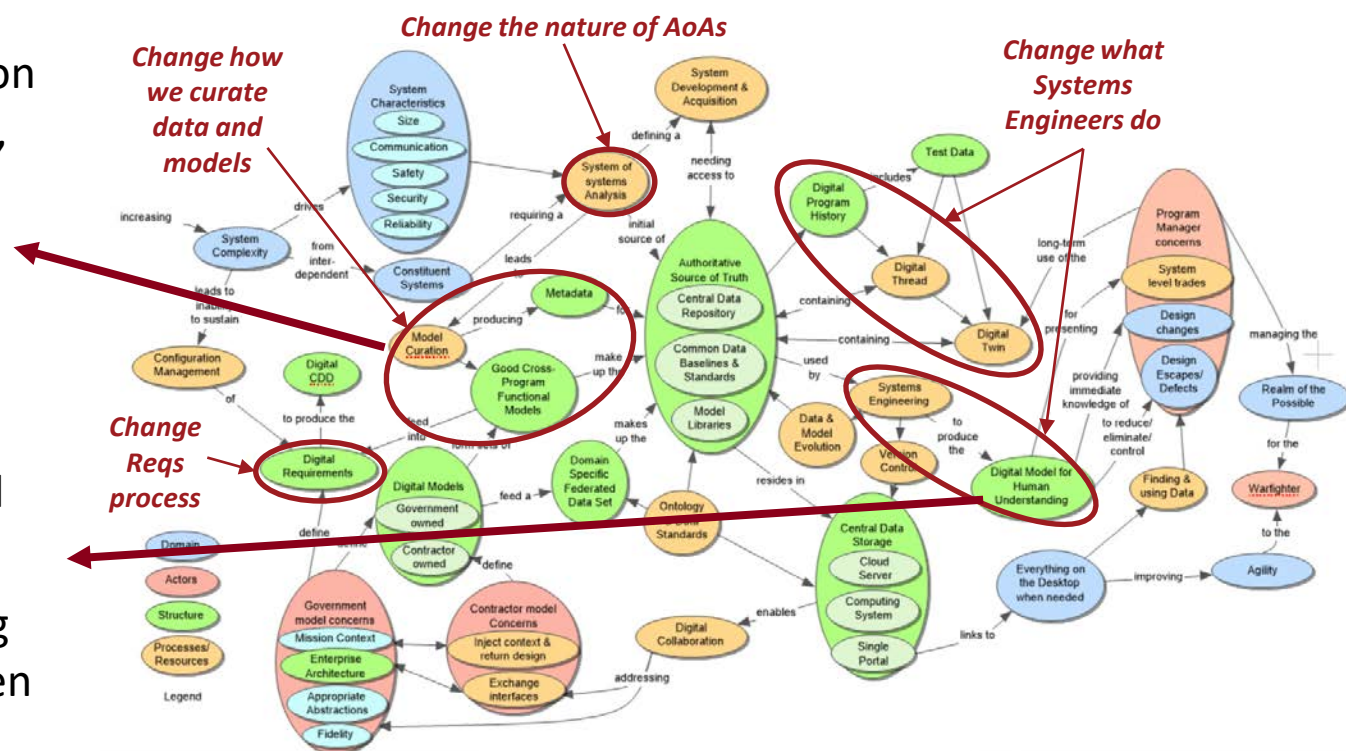
Continuous  
Development &  
Deployment

# How do we know if an organization has adopted Digital Engineering?

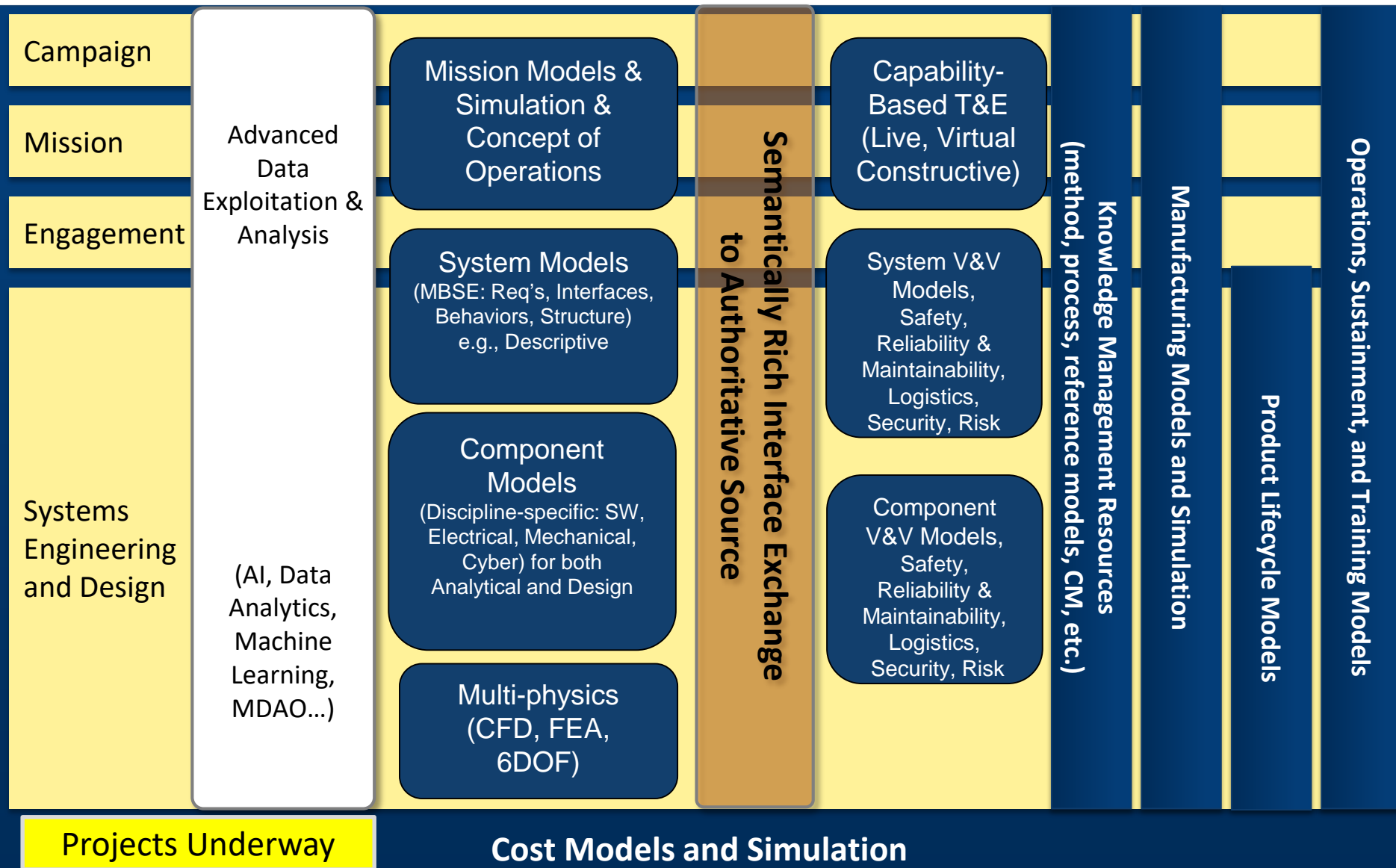
- It has a documented business strategy for use of models/digital artifacts and top-down executive level support for Digital Engineering transformation
- It has an established infrastructure for a **Collaborative Integrated Modeling Environment** (IME) and the associated **Authoritative Source of Truth** (AST)
  - Well defined model management processes. This includes methods, methodologies, tools and licenses, a model curation activity, and model exchange practices
  - Established model quality assurance (validation, issue tracking, and improvement)
  - Established means for linking descriptive system models with discipline specific models
  - Established procedures in place for conducting model and modeling reviews directly in the IME and AST across disciplines and across customers/suppliers
  - Established means for generating stakeholder role-specific views directly from the AST
- Established policies and procedures for using models/digital artifacts for contracting and contract deliverables (including procedures for dealing with data rights and IP rights)
- Established workforce development based on modeling methods using case studies in business relevant domains of interest

# Enterprise Modeling of the DoD Digital Information Exchange Process

- Conceptually modeled the 5 goals of the DoD Digital Engineering Strategy to identify necessary acquisition enterprise changes
- Current research projects:
  - DE Metrics (WRT-1001) determine critical ROI measures and improved SE value indicators
  - Model Curation (WRT-1009) curation practices, enablers, and technical innovation opportunities
  - DE Workforce (WRT-1006) DE competency model for DAU
  - DE Policy – building model using DocGen



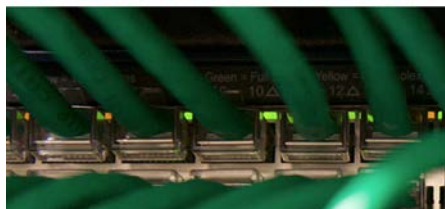
# Reference Architecture for an IME in support of Digital Engineering



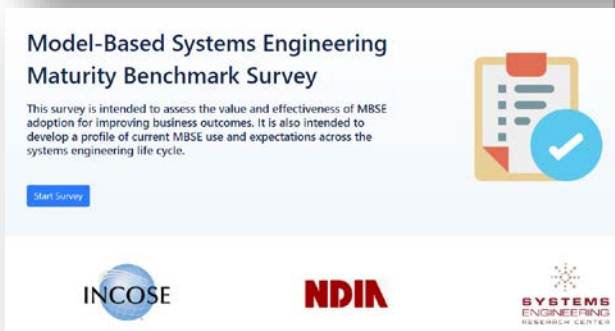
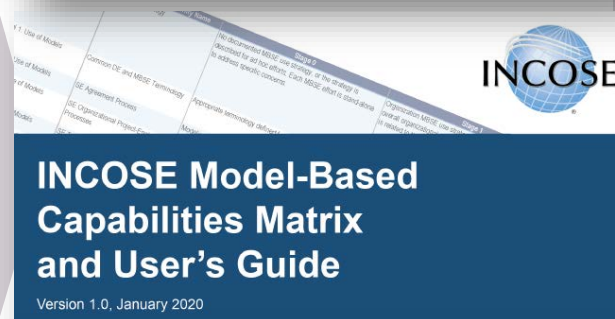
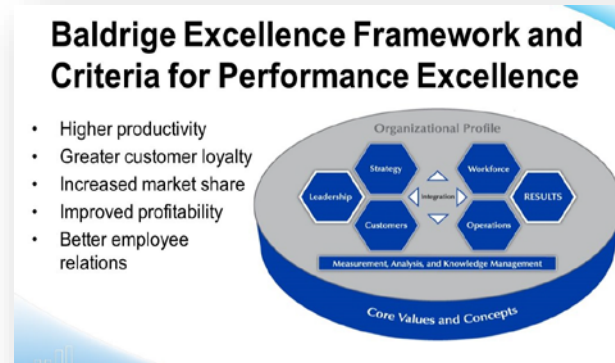
## Pain Points



Digital Engineering, Digital Thread Training



## Adoption, Capabilities, Benefits



## Frameworks

**DE Metrics Framework:**  
Digital Engineering Value, Benefits, and Adoption

**DE Competencies Framework:**  
Digital Engineering, Digital Analytics, AI & Machine Learning

# Summary DE Success Measures Framework

Models are used to inform enterprise and program decision making

An enduring, authoritative source of truth is used over the lifecycle

Use technological innovation to improve engineering practices

Infrastructure and environments support improved communication and collaboration

Transform culture and workforce engineering across the lifecycle

## Quality:

- Reduce Errors/Defects
- Improve System Quality
- Improve Traceability
- Reduce Cost

## Knowledge Transfer:

- Better access to information
- Better communication/info sharing
- Collaboration

## Velocity/Agility:

- More Reuse
- Improve Consistency
- Increase Efficiency
- Support Integration
- Reduce Time

## User Experience:

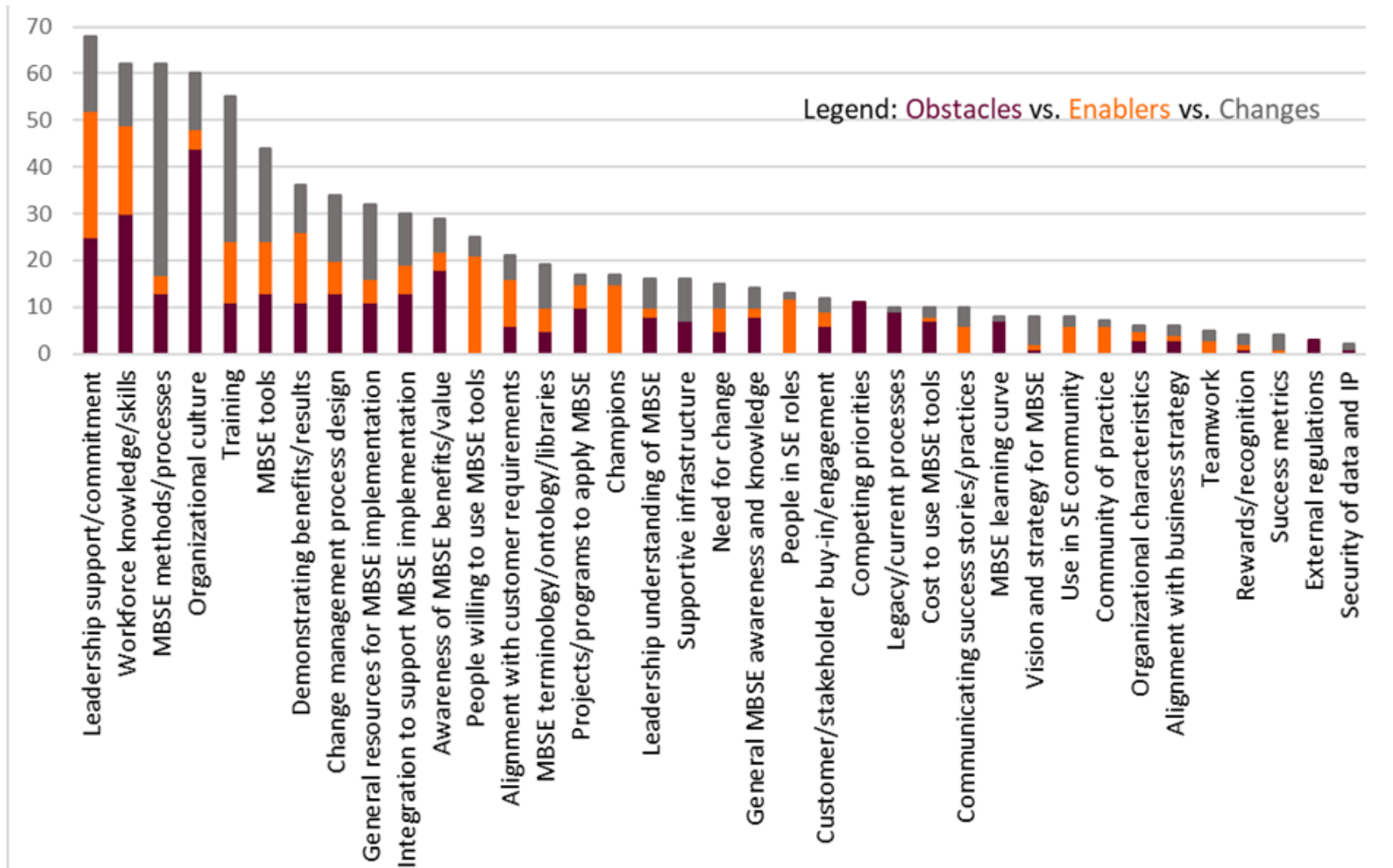
- Manage Complexity
- Improved System Understanding
- Automation

## Adoption:

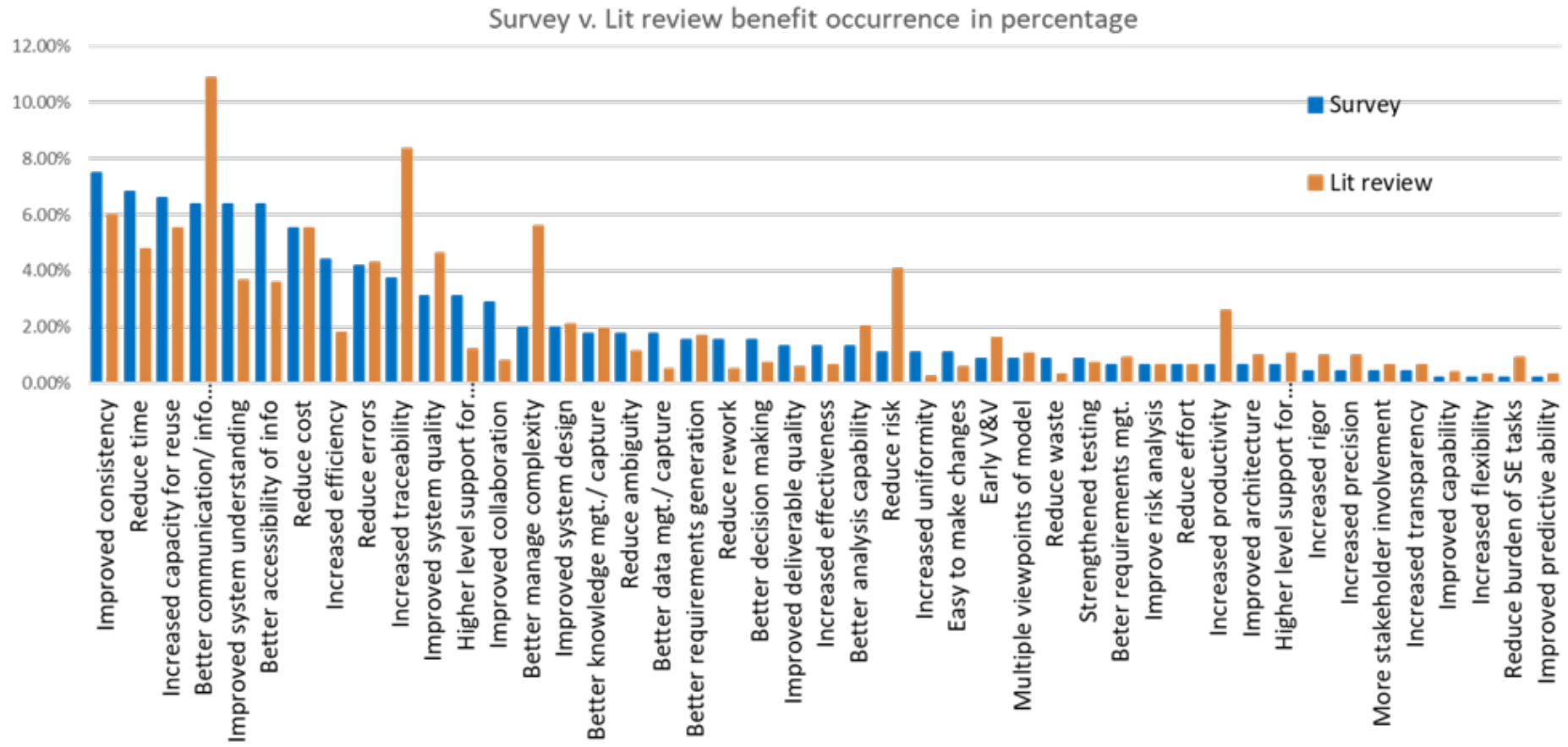
- Methods/Processes
- Roles/Skills
- Training/Tools
- Leadership support
- Change Mgmt Process
- Resources



Obstacles, Enablers, and Changes for DE Adoption, ranked by Frequency of Mention



## Top Cited DE Benefits Areas from Literature and Survey Results



## RESULTS OF THE SERC | INCOSE | NDIA MBSE MATURITY SURVEY ARE IN

June 10, 2020

<https://sercuarc.org/results-of-the-serc-incose-ndia-mbse-maturity-survey-are-in/>



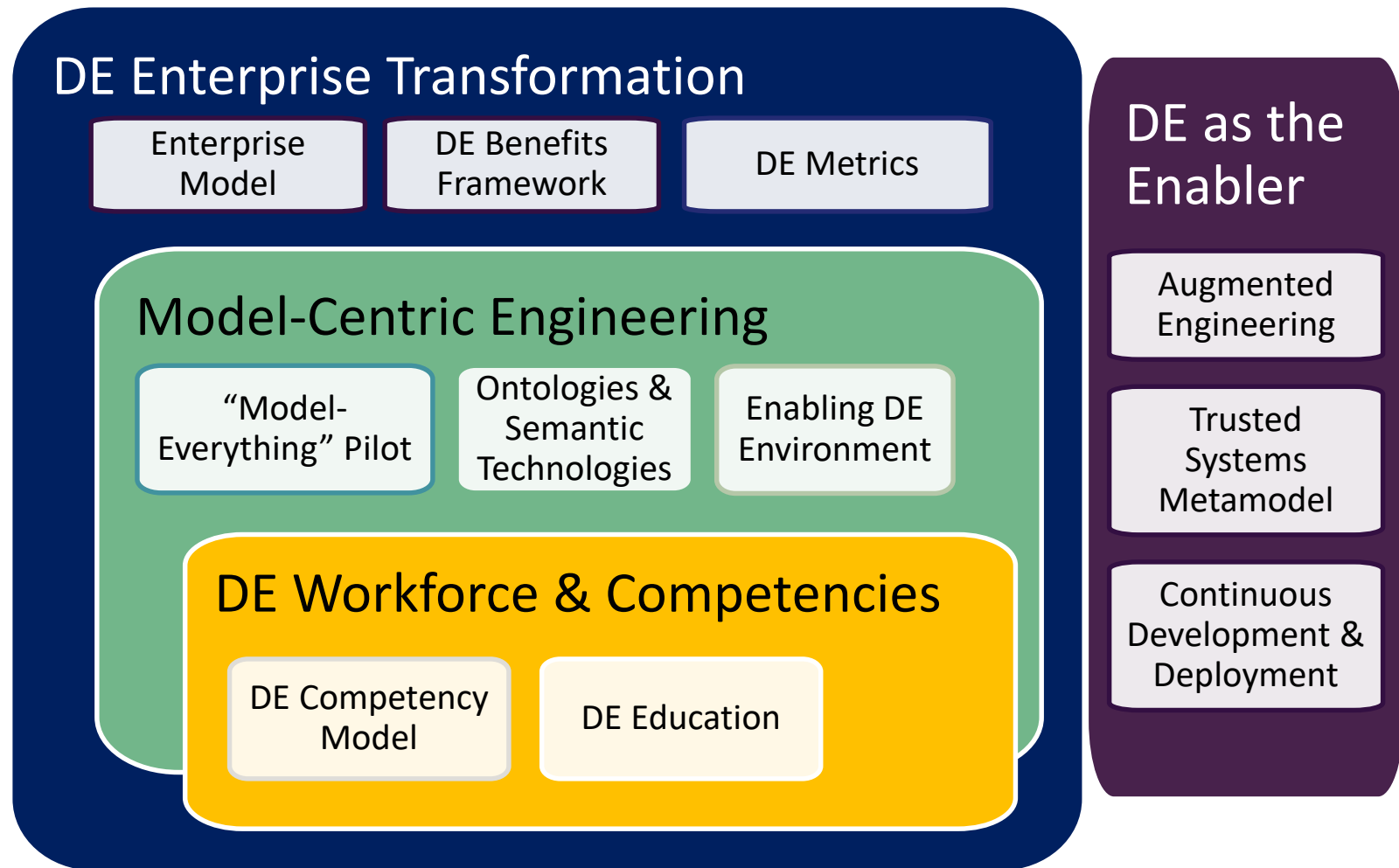
**June 8, 2020** – Summary Report Task Order WRT-1001: Digital Engineering Metrics  
Supporting Technical Report SERC-2020-SR-003  
[View the DE Metrics Summary Report \(June 8, 2020\)](#)



**March 19, 2020** – Benchmarking the Benefits and Current Maturity of Model-Based Systems Engineering across the Enterprise Results of the MBSE Maturity Survey / Part 1: Executive Summary  
[View the SERC-2020-SR-001 report on the results of the MBSE Maturity Survey](#)

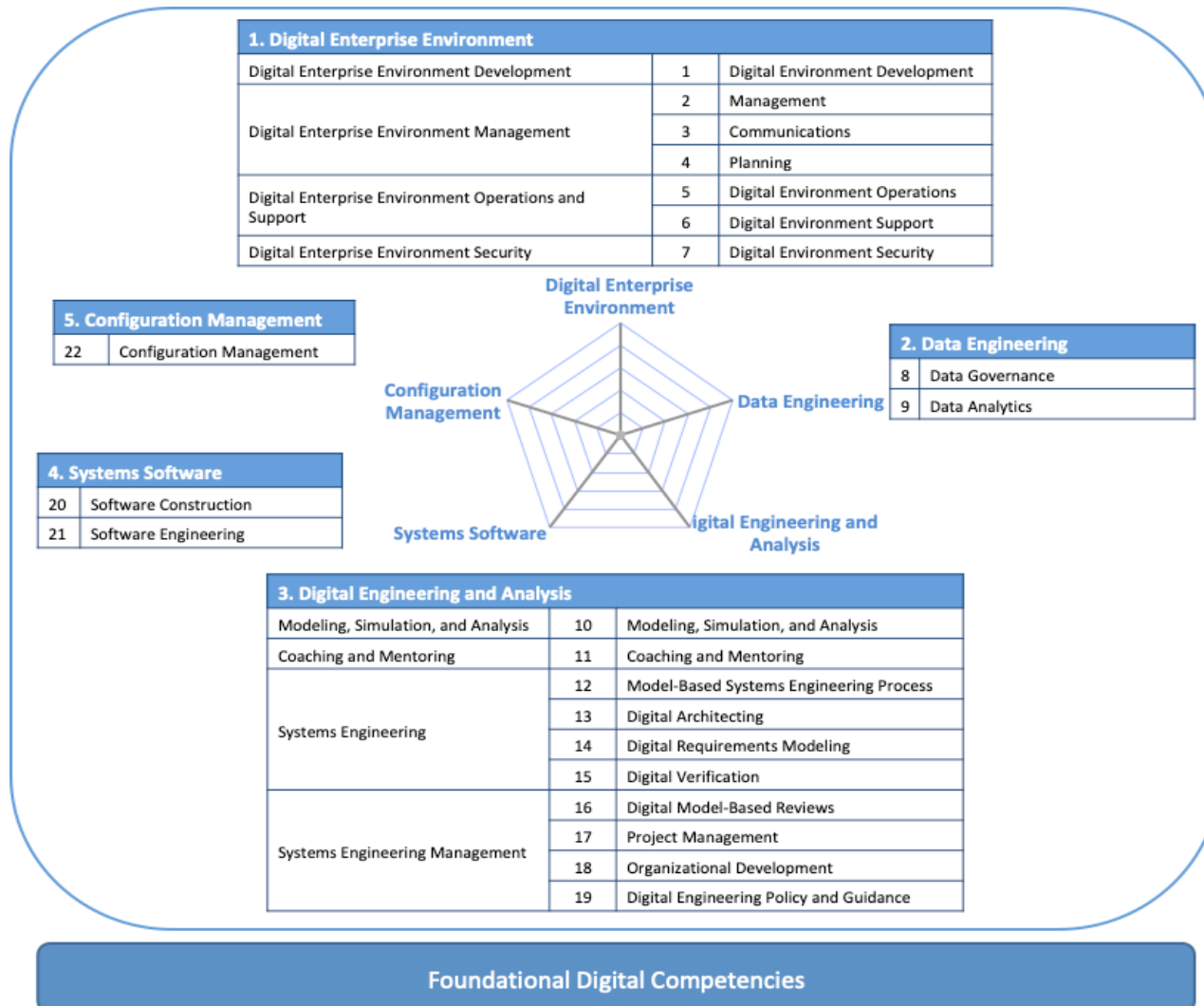


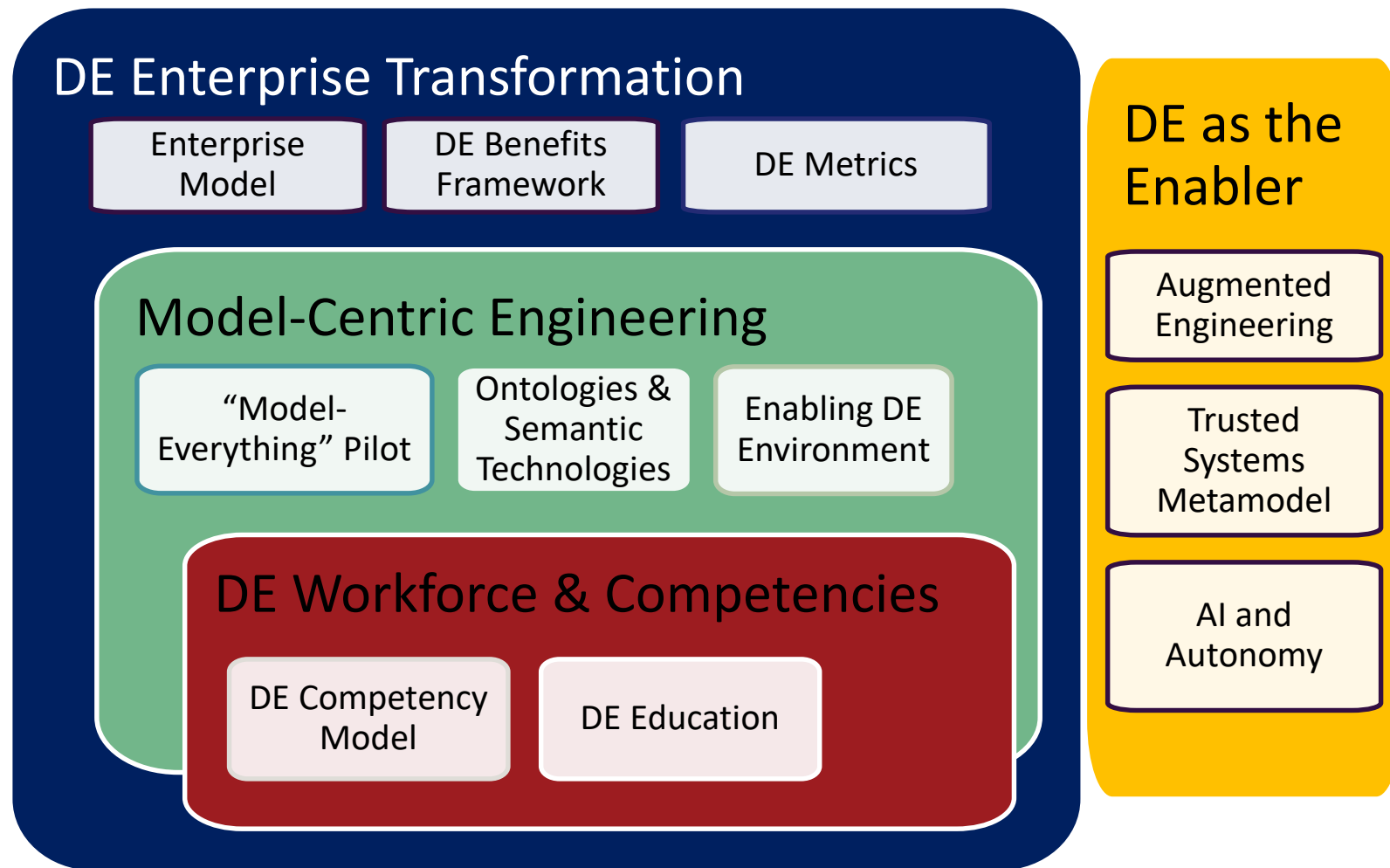
**June 8, 2020** – Task Order WRT-1001: Digital Engineering Metrics Technical Report SERC-2020-TR-002  
[View the Digital Engineering Metrics Full Technical Report](#)



# Digital Engineering Competency Framework (DECF)

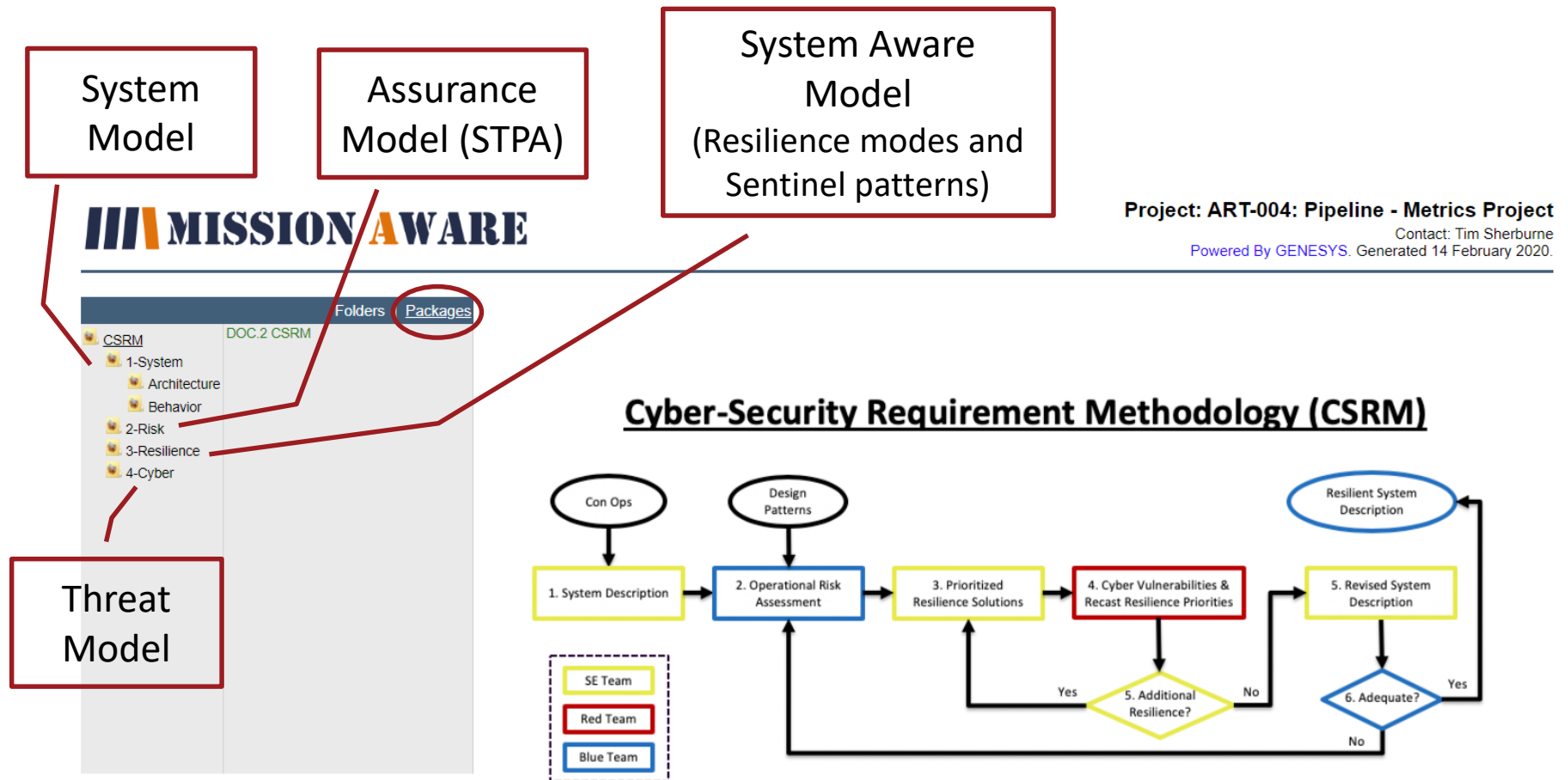
There are 5 competency groups and 22 competencies identified for the DECF







# Standard SE Process Methodology for Designing Resilience into Cyber-Physical Systems



Ready for  
Transition

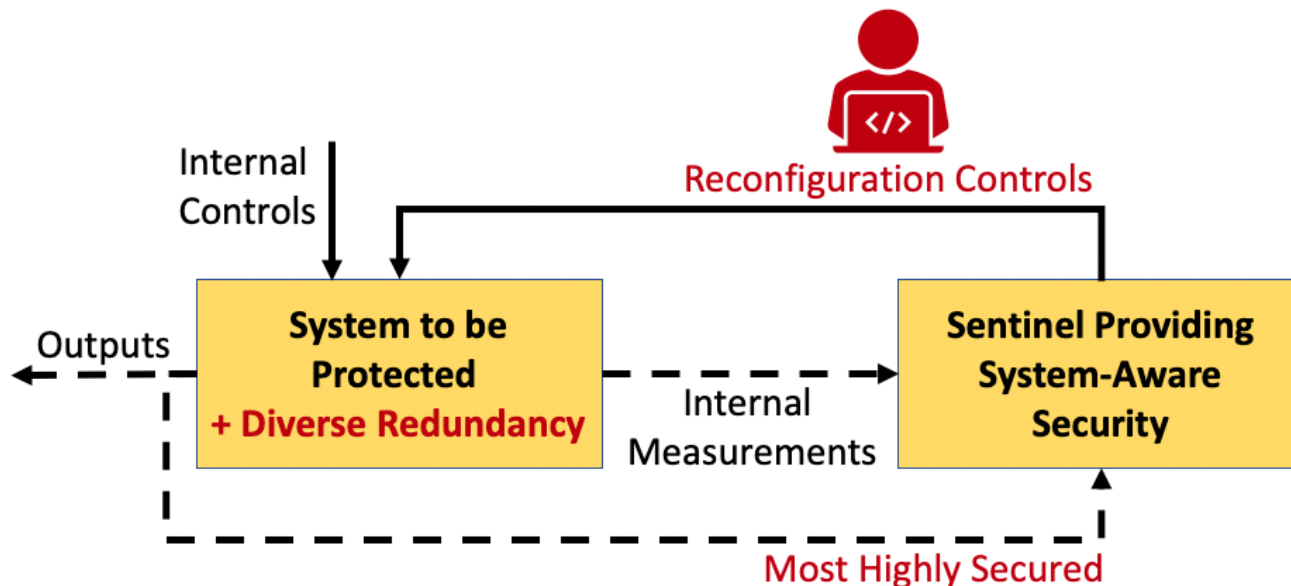
Select "Packages" -> "CSRM" to navigate model per CSRM Steps  
NOTE: click package icon to expand section

Project: ART-004: Pipeline - Metrics Project

# Mission Aware Cyber Resilience

- System design for **Resilient Modes**: distinct and separate methods of operation of a component, device, or system based upon common resilience design patterns such as diverse redundancy.
- System monitoring via a **Sentinel** design: another design pattern responsible for monitoring and reconfiguration of a system using available Resilient Modes.

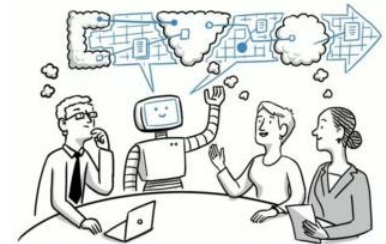
**SERC has demonstrated the effectiveness of these patterns in live red team testing of UAVs, Automobiles, 3D printers, and Military armament**



Transitioned

# Key AI/Autonomy Research Goals

- **AI for SE:** AI/ML to support the practice of SE
  - Support scale in digital model construction
  - Create confidence in design space exploration
- **SE for AI:** SE approaches to systems with AI/ML capabilities
  - Principles of learning-based systems design
  - Models of life cycle evolution, Model curation methods
- **Lifecycle Ready AI:**
  - AI-related agility: new SE methods and tools that anticipate adaptation
  - Technical and management policies that assure lifecycle-ready AI
- **Systems Validation of AI:**
  - Early visibility for deployment, validation of post-deployment changes
  - System level testbeds – to study systems, not just data & algorithms



- Thanks for inviting me to be a part of this year's Model Based Space Systems and Software Engineering Symposium – MBSE2020. I really wish we could have done this in person;
- Given the unique nature of this year's Symposium, please feel free to reach out to me at [dinesh.verma@stevens.edu](mailto:dinesh.verma@stevens.edu) if you have any follow up questions or interest in any of the research projects reviewed in this briefing.