

First lessons learned from adopting MBSE in early phases of complex satellite systems

Belen Gonzalez

GNSS Evolutions and Strategy Division (NAV-PFS)

29/09/2021

ESA UNCLASSIFIED – For ESA Official Use Only



Content



- 1. ELCANO overview
- 2. MBSE process for ELCANO Phase 0
- 3. Automatic Document Generation

ELCANO overview (I)



PNT services provided by GNSS in **MEO** have become essential for many different commercial, industrial, scientific and safety-critical applications.

GNSS in MEO (GPS, Galileo, ...) represents the backbone of PNT today. However, its service provision is subject to:

- **Limitations in coverage** (multipath errors, outages in urban canyons, limited reach indoor).
- Other **vulnerabilities** (natural or man-made interference, spoofing).

A constellation in LEO may offer:

- Faster dynamics
- Lower signal path loss
- Lower latency
- Frequency diversity

- Small/low- cost satellites
- Global coverage
- Measurement diversity



ELCANO system complexity



- Traditional Satellite Navigation systems:
 - Many stakeholders

High Costs

Interplay of many different disciplines/expertise

Long development times

Risk adverse programs

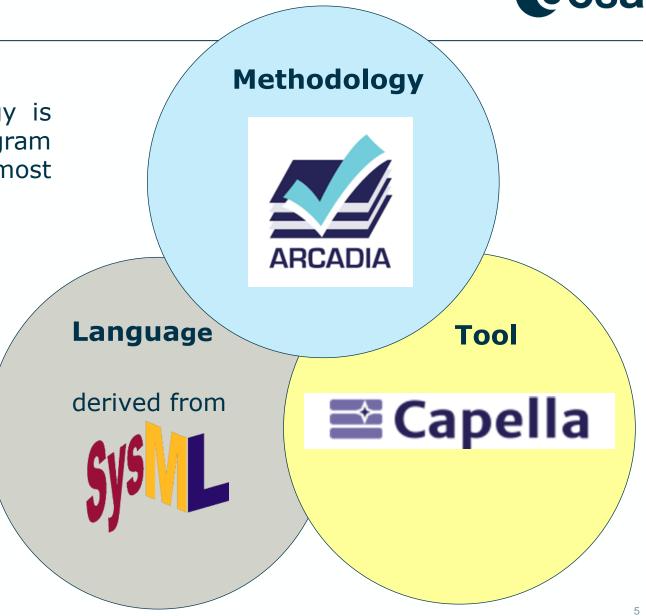
New Space approach: Lower costs & Fast-dynamics developments

- **Interoperable** with existing systems
- Increased autonomy of a potential constellation with hundreds of satellites
- **Scale down size, power and cost** of payload while maintaining quality of service

MBSE methodology used



The fact that tool, language and methodology is incorporated in a single MBSE software program facilitated our final choice of ARCADIA as the most suitable methodology.



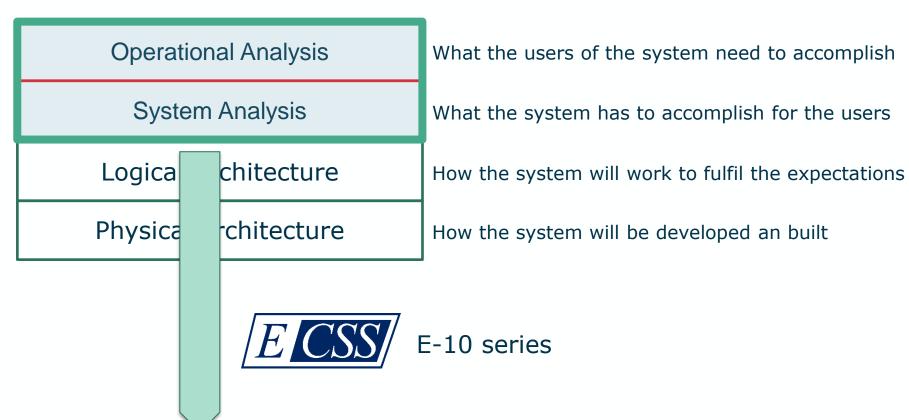
Architecture Levels - Arcadia



ELCANO Phase 0

Needs Understanding

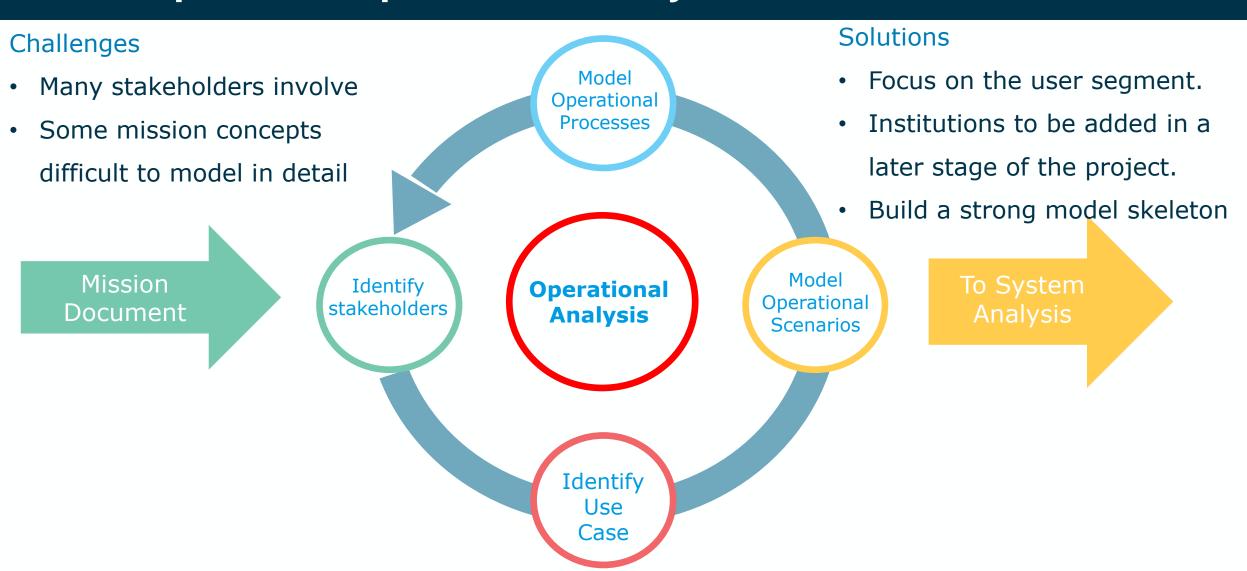
Solution Architectural Design



Specification/ Problem Space (black box)

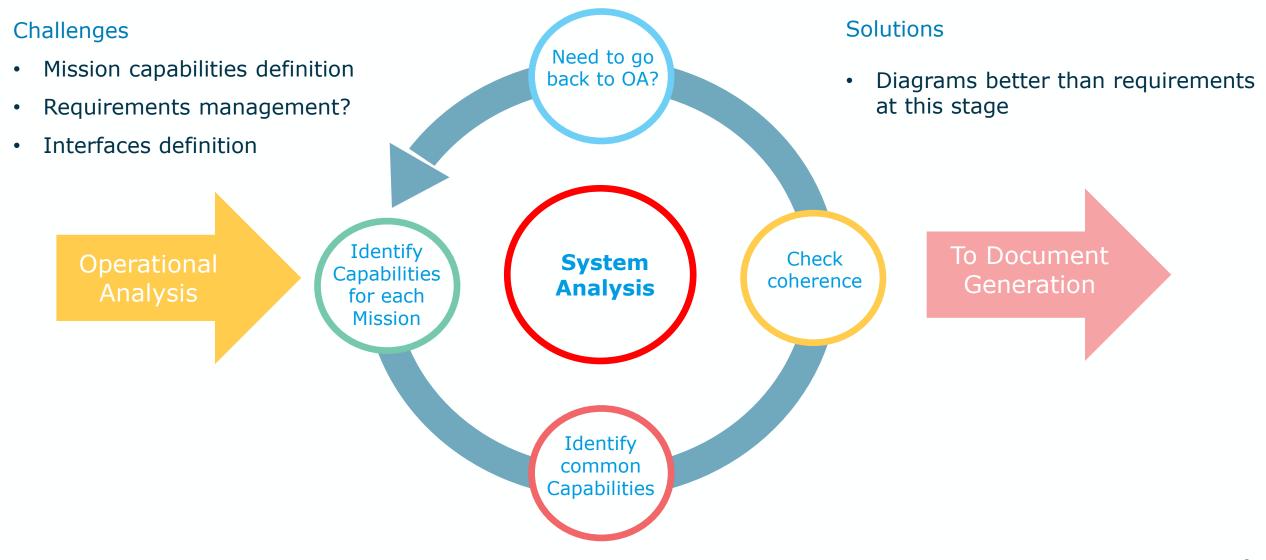
MBSE process. Operational Analysis





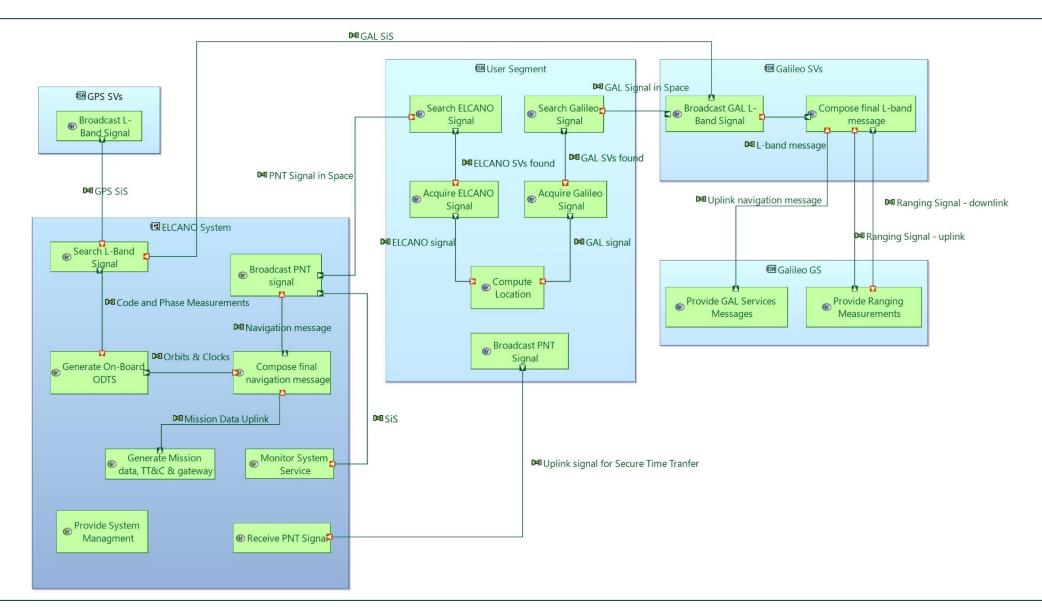
MBSE process. System Analysis





System Architecture in broadcast PNT from LEO



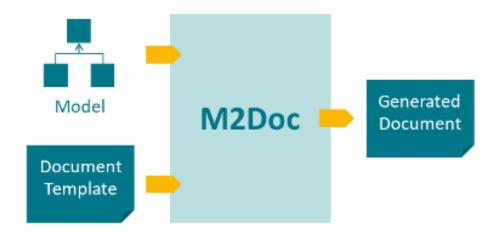


Document Generation with M2Doc



What is M2Doc?

- An open-source add-on by Obeo that is used directly in Capella.
- M2Doc takes Word templates written in a language built on top of AQL as inputs to generate documents automatically directly from the model.
- It enables flexible and custom document generation.



Document Generation with M2Doc



Why do we needed M2Doc?

For complex systems: thousands of documents need to be created and maintained throughout the system life cycle.

Their production, and maintenance require significant effort from all parties.

Manually (Copy/Paste info from the model)	With M2Doc	
Long process every time you need to update the document	Time investment is made once (when the template is written)	
Prone to error	Validation every time it generates a document	
Difficult to verify consistency and completeness of the document.	A change in the model is reflected in the document	
Every one in the SE team can do it	You need someone in the SE team that can code templates	

Document Generation process



Challenges

- Start from zero -> Little documentation available
- Learn to navigate model

Dealing with coding errors

Model in Capella

Start new template

new M2D

M2Doc

Deal with

compilation

errors

Solutions

- Training
- Time investment
- Forum consultation

Know metamodel and code Word Documents

Achievements

- Master the M2Doc tool
- Create process to automate documentation generation.

Master AQL

Achievements

- Coded templates for large documents (~200 pages)
- Coded more simple templates to check progress of the model: its completeness and coherence.

Document Generation Example



2.1 Operational Analysis

Total Operational Activities Operational Activities realized in System **Functions** Operational Activities with description

2 Model Status

2.1 Operational Analysis

Total Operational Activities	10
Operational Activities realized in System Functions	7 / 10
Operational Activities with description	0/10
Operational Activities with a Status associated	4/10
Operational Interactions	48
Exchange Items in OA	0

This type document allows to do a quick check of the status of the model: completeness, justification and coherence.

Conclusions



- M2Doc is a very powerful tool. It was proved very useful too generate large and very complete
 documents from the model. Together with the HTML export of the model provides a full vision of the
 model.
- Considerable time investment to learn to master it. However, the coded templates can be used as a skeleton to develop more complex templates and validate the model as it evolves.
- The model coherence is essential to be able to navigate every part of the element to: extract children, parents, exchanges, description, status...

From my experience, I would recommend to use M2Doc for complex systems which have to undergo major reviews/milestones.



