



# EPRI DE Presentation

January 2022

*Changing the World's Energy Future*

Christopher S Ritter



*INL is a U.S. Department of Energy National Laboratory operated by Battelle Energy Alliance, LLC*

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# **EPRI DE Presentation**

**Christopher S Ritter**

**January 2022**

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Idaho Falls, Idaho 83415**

**<http://www.inl.gov>**

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# Digital Engineering Presentation to EPRI

January 24, 2022  
INL/MIS-22-65669-Rev000



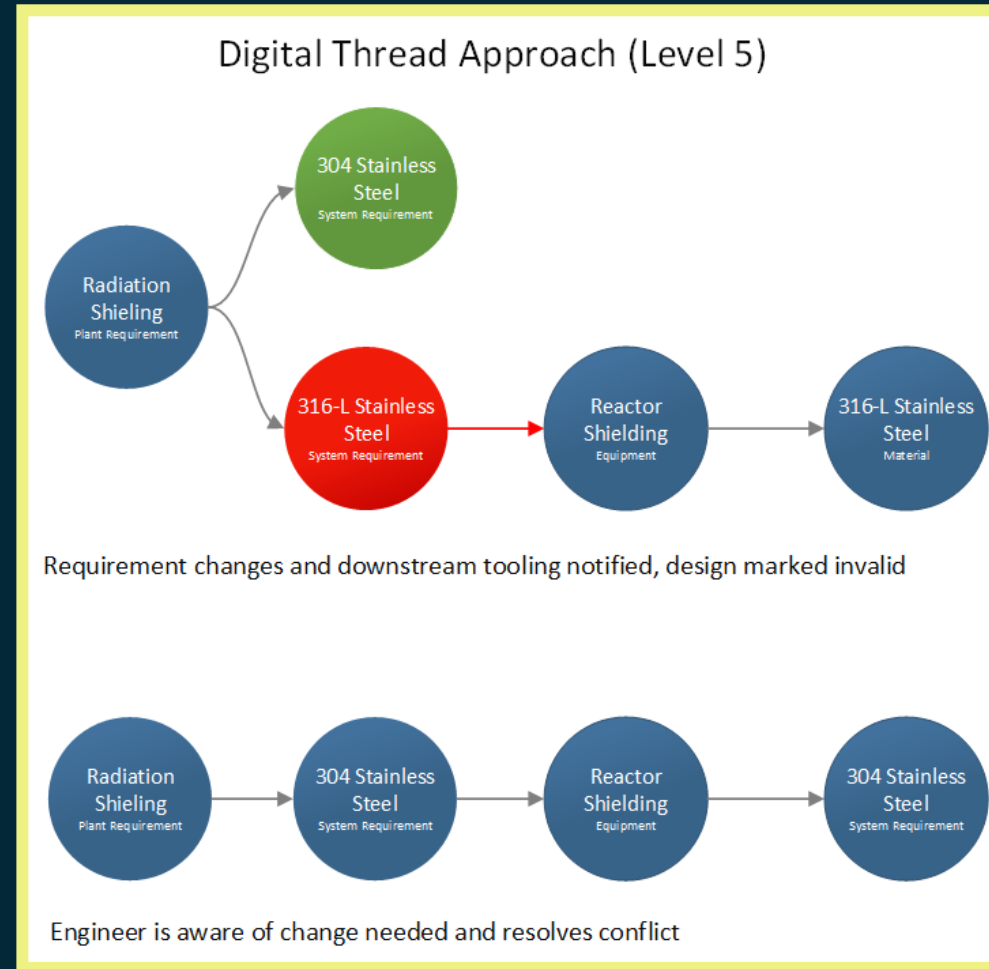
# Digital Engineering Overview

Chris Ritter

*Digital Engineering Department Manager*

# Complex Engineering Challenges

- Nuclear Needs Innovation in America
  - Plant Vogtle
  - V.C. Summer Nuclear Station
  - Westinghouse
- Kilopower Project KRUSTY Test (LANL)
  - Design change from 316-L Stainless Steel to 304 Stainless Steel
  - Miscommunication between reactor and mechanical designers occurred for change in materials of shielding
  - Caused schedule delays
  - Overall project was successful but at larger scale problem would be magnified
- Outside Nuclear Challenges: Joint Strike Fighter, Boeing 787, Airbus A380



# Digital Engineering Advantage

## What is Digital Engineering?

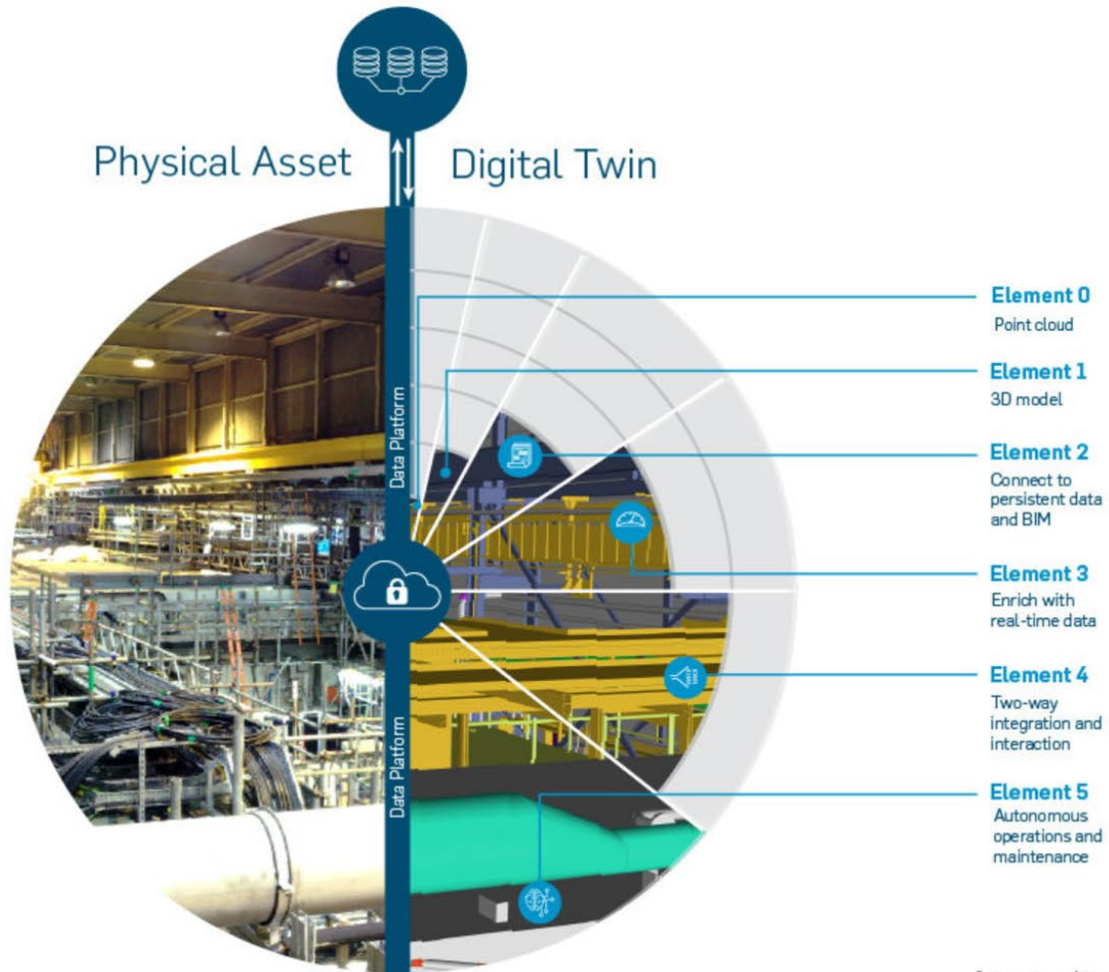
Digital Engineering (DE) embodies a deliberate transformational approach to the way systems are designed, engineered, constructed, operated, maintained, and retired.

## Why?

“Air Force flies 6th-gen stealth fighter – 'super fast' **with digital engineering**” – Air Force has already built and flown a new sixth-generation stealth fighter jet originally scheduled for ~2030 (almost a decade early).



# Autonomous Reactor Digital Twin



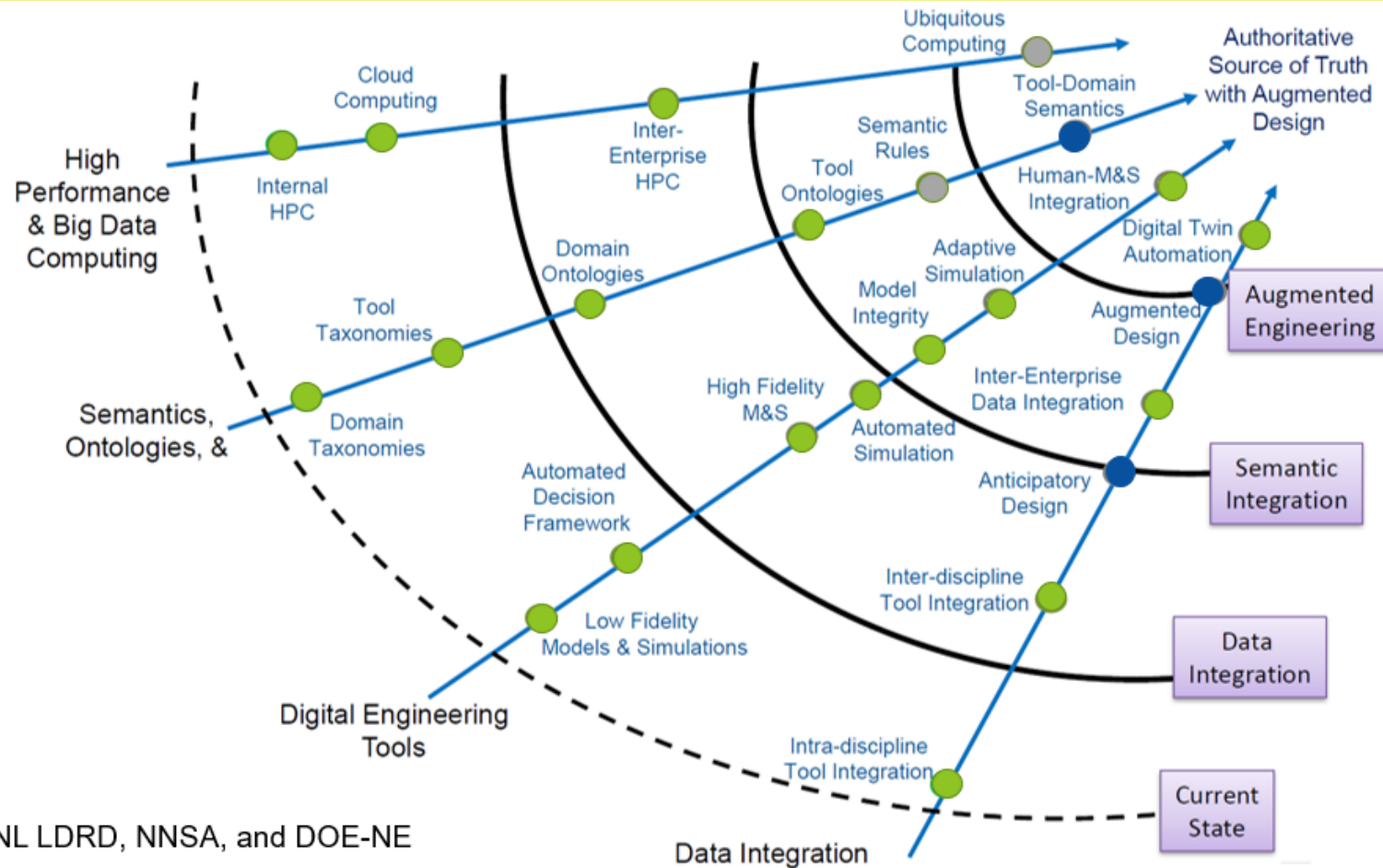
| Maturity Element<br>(logarithmic scale) | Defining principle   | Outline usage  |
|---|--|--|
| 0                                       | Reality capture<br>(e.g. point cloud, drones, photogrammetry)                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brownfield (existing) as-built survey</li> </ul>                                      |
| 1                                       | 3D model<br>(e.g. object-based, with no metadata or BIM)   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design/asset optimisation and coordination</li> </ul>                                 |
| 2                                       | Connect model to persistent data and BIM<br>(e.g. documents, drawings, asset management systems) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4D / 5D simulation</li> <li>Design / asset management</li> <li>BIM Stage 2</li> </ul> |
| 3                                       | Enrich with real-time data<br>(e.g. from IoT, sensors)   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operational efficiency</li> </ul>   |
| 4                                       | Two-way data integration & interaction   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remote &amp; immersive operations</li> <li>Control physical from digital</li> </ul>   |
| 5                                       | Autonomous operations & maintenance  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete autonomous operations &amp; maintenance</li> </ul>                           |

Via CDBB National Digital Twin Programme

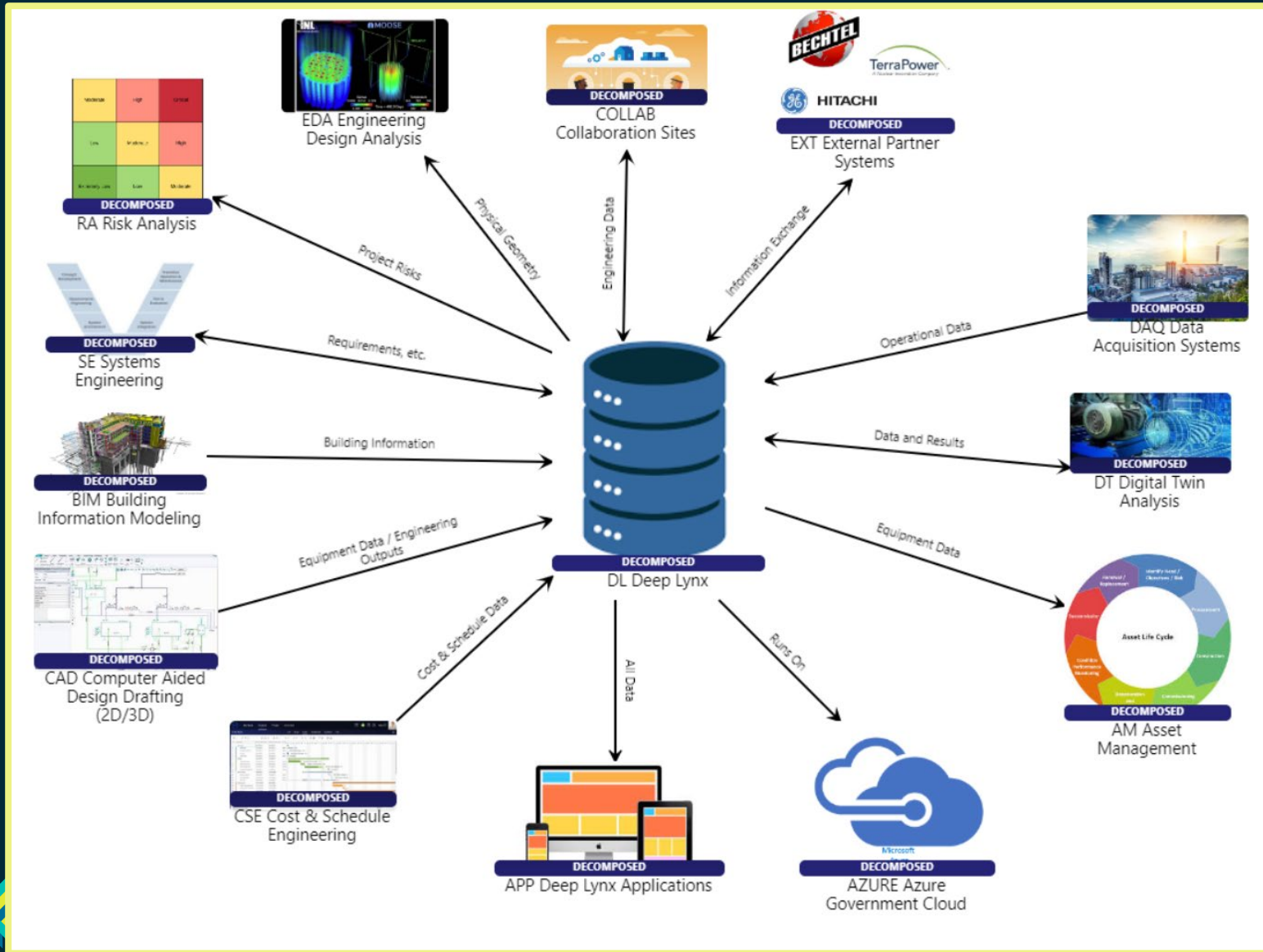
© Simon Evans / 2019



# INL Digital Engineering Status (based on SERC DoD UARC plan)



# Digital Engineering Projects in Nuclear



- Already central to the following projects nuclear digital engineering and digital twinning strategies:
  - DOE NE LWRS Datawarehouse
  - INL MAGNET Digital Twin
  - Commercial Sodium
  - DOE NNSA DE
  - DOE NNSA Safeguards Digital Twin
  - DOE NE NRIC Test Beds
  - INL TTRC
  - DOE NE VTR
  - DoD Pele Project



# NRIC Test Beds

**Phil Schoonover**

*NRIC Senior Program Manager*

**Peter Suyderhoud**

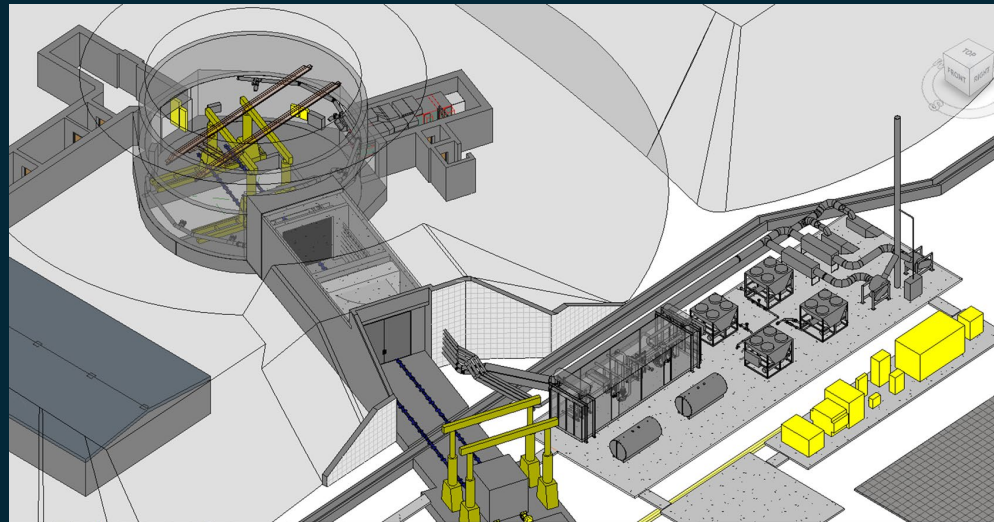
*Model-Based Design Group Lead*

# Why NRIC Needs Digital Engineering

- Digital engineering provides for the most secure, highest quality, most accessible, fastest execution of large scale and complex projects
- NRIC is charged with making nuclear development and commercialization better, faster, and cheaper to support the industry and enhance public acceptance
- NRIC expects to “Do it right.” every time and provide the most advanced look at reactor and testbed integration and designs

# Laboratory for Operation and Testing in the United States (LOTUS) Test Bed

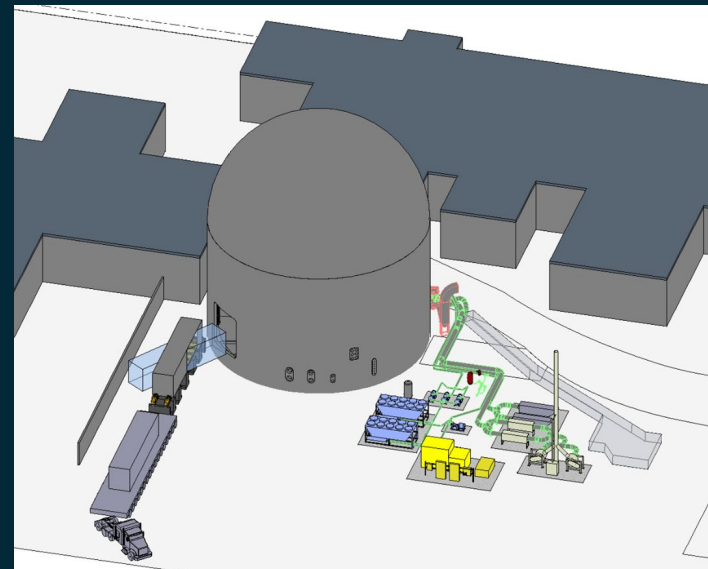
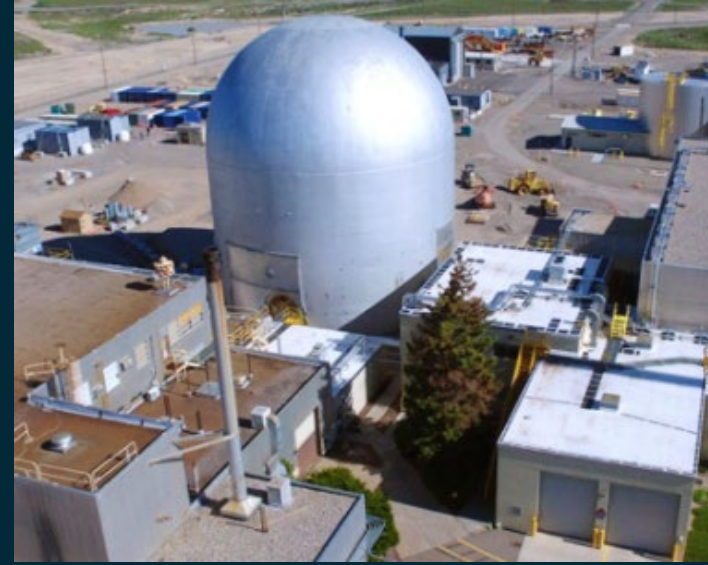
- Refurbished Zero Power Physics Reactor (ZPPR) Facility at INL
- $< 500$  kWth reactor experiments
- Safeguards Category I material
- 15+ new or modified systems
  - Direct reactor cooling, confinement space cooling, normal and backup power, etc.
- Compatible with molten salt concepts





# Demonstration and Operation of Microreactor Experiments (DOME) Test Bed

- Refurbished Experimental Breeder Reactor (EBR)-II Facility at INL
- < 20 MWth reactor demonstrations
- Safeguards Category 4 material
- 10+ new permanently installed systems
  - Over/under pressure protection, ventilation, containment isolation, pressure vessel penetrations, etc.
- Compatible with HTGRs, GFRs, mobile reactors, etc.



# NRIC Digital Engineering Requirements

- Full documentation of all project requirements in a living single source of truth
- Tools for plant-level architecture, interface management, and functional analysis
- 3D modeling for design, simulation, and analysis.
- Democratized access to all data in real time with cloud-based infrastructure
- Concurrent, collaborative engineering processes with access for all project stakeholders and design agencies

# NRIC Digital Engineering Solution

- IBM Engineering Lifecycle Management DOORS Next: An enterprise level, database driven, requirements, verification, and traceability tool
- Innoslate: Database-driven, architecture and Model Based Systems Engineering (MBSE) tool
- PTC Creo: CAD software suite
- PTC Windchill: Enterprise level PLM/PDM, model and document configuration management and change control tools





# Starting the NRIC Digital Thread

- Deep Lynx Data Warehouse
- Ion Digital Engineering Application Suite (IDEAS) interface.
  - A unified web application that holds all adapters and utilities created for NRIC
  - Available at <https://denric.azureacc.inl.gov>
- File Tracer: an application to create and view the connections between MBSE data and a 2D CAD file.
- PLM API: a REST API for PLM tool interactions.
- Requirements Adapter: automatically transfers project requirements defined in IBM DOORS to Innoslate



# Microreactor Applications Research Validation and Evaluation (MARVEL)

Yasir Arafat

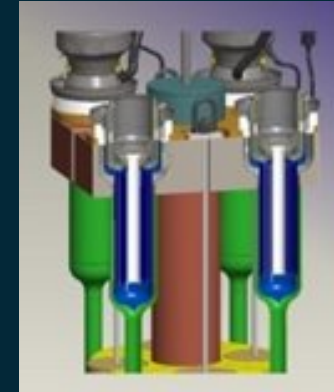
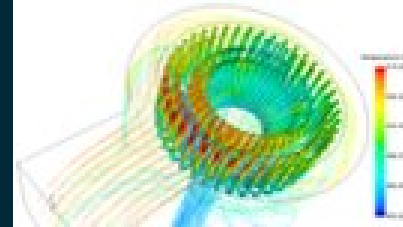
*MARVEL Project & Technical Lead*

Paul Plachinda, P.h.D.

*Digital Design Scientist*

# Project Parameters

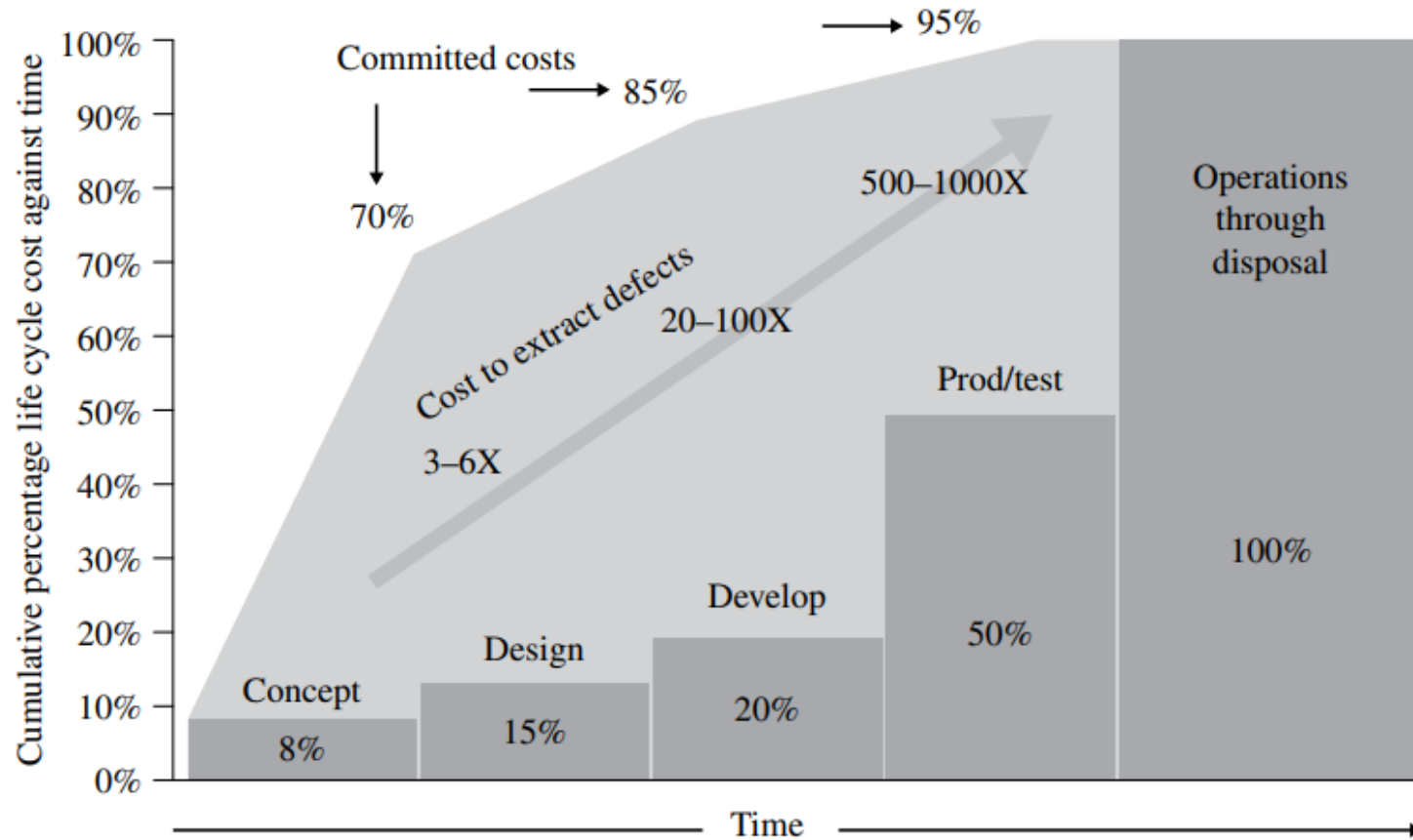
- *Inspired by* SNAP 10A
  - Fuel pins: TRIGA Fuel, UZrH1.6 , 19.75 % enriched, OD, 30wt% uranium
  - Thermal Power – 100 kWth,
  - Four BeO ex-core reactivity control drums, with B4C poisons
- **Primary Circulation** (natural convection) – NaK eutectic
- **Secondary Circulation** (natural convection) – PbBi eutectic
- **Power Generation:** Four helium Stirling engines @ 400–500 C inlet T
- Electrical Output ~20 kWe
- Max High Grade heat ~ 45 kWth @ 450°C
- Max Low Grade heat ~ 75 kWth @ 50°C



# Project Goals and Objectives

- Goal:
  - Rapid development of a small-scale microreactor that provides a test platform for microreactor applications
- Primary Objectives:
  - Produce an operational microreactor in the most accelerated timeline possible
  - Project shall result in an operational reactor that produces combined heat and power (CHP) to a functional microgrid
  - Transfer lessons learned to commercial developers

# Why Systems Engineering?



[Source: INCOSE Systems Engineering Handbook]

- Other industries have successfully adopted SE:
  - Aerospace
  - Aviation
  - Automotive
  - Defense
- The Return on Investment for SE effort can be as high as 7:1 for programs expending little to no SE effort. For programs expending a median level of SE effort, the ROI is 3.5:1.
- Data shows that a spend of 8% of project budget on effective Systems Engineering - much less than you typically spend on fixing errors - reduces the average cost of projects by >20% and increases your likelihood of delivering on time by 50%.

# Model-Based Systems Engineering (MBSE)

- Legacy SE processes have flaws
  - Document-based (i.e. Word, PDF) processes are time intensive and costly
  - Impact analysis is completely manual
  - Databases are used after the fact to stash already-completed information
  - Software & design tools are disparate and siloed
- Is this “wrong”? No, but it’s not efficient.
- Model-Based Systems Engineering (MBSE)
  - Shift from a document-based approach to the use of models/databases for information exchange using a MBSE platform (Innoslate)
  - Models form an integral part of the technical baseline
  - Departure from static PDFs

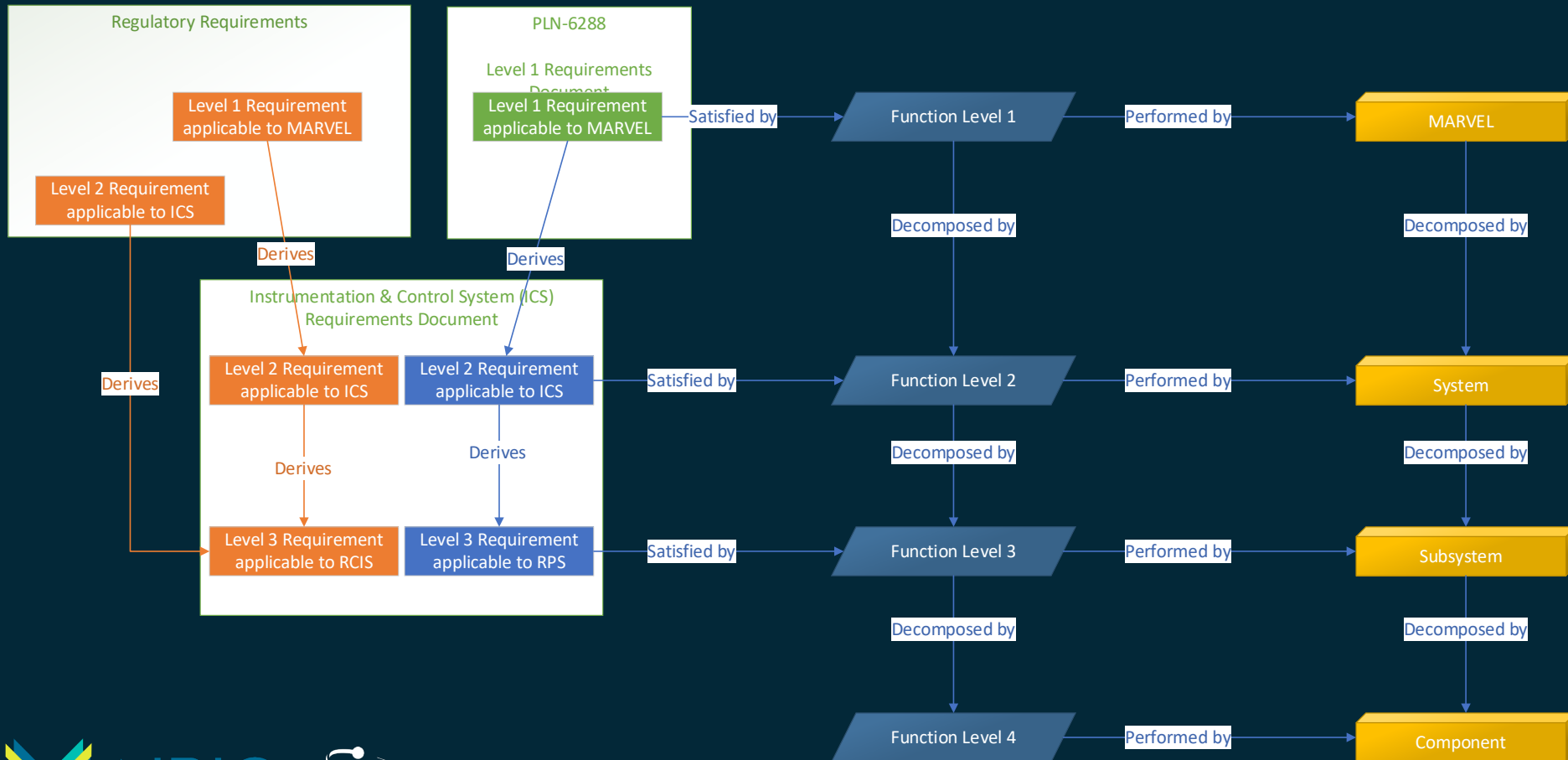
# Developing an MBSE Framework/Schema

## Three Primary Tenets of Systems Engineering

### Requirements Management

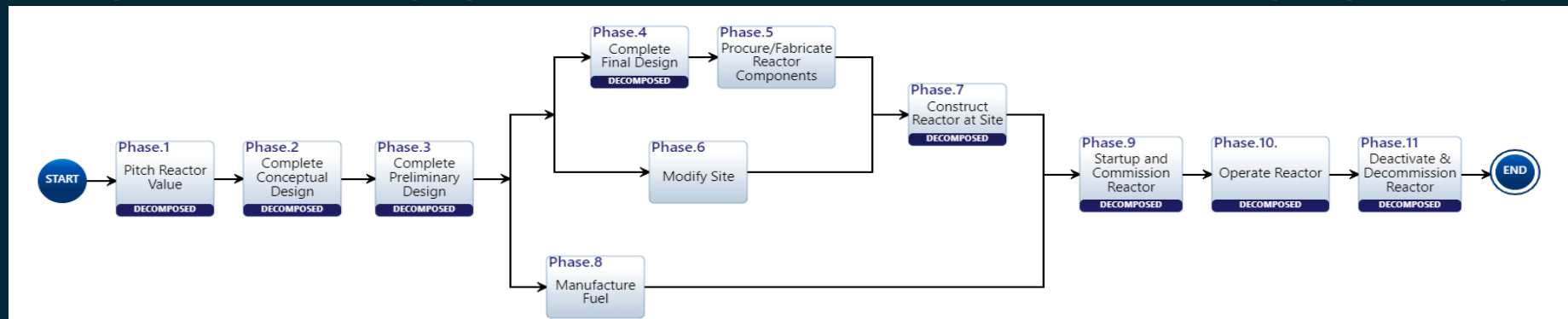
### Functional Modeling & Analysis

### Physical Architecture



# Functional Modeling & Concept of Operations

- Need to establish the functional requirements of the end system
  - Traditionally: Use the “shotgun” approach or whatever comes to our heads in the moment – typically leads to gaps in coverage
  - MBSE: Sequentially and systematically lay out and order the envisioned functions to understand relationships, dependencies, and the flow of operations
- This forms the Concept of Operations (ConOps) or how the system will work in its intended environment
- The ConOps leads to a physical architecture and a baseline of project requirements

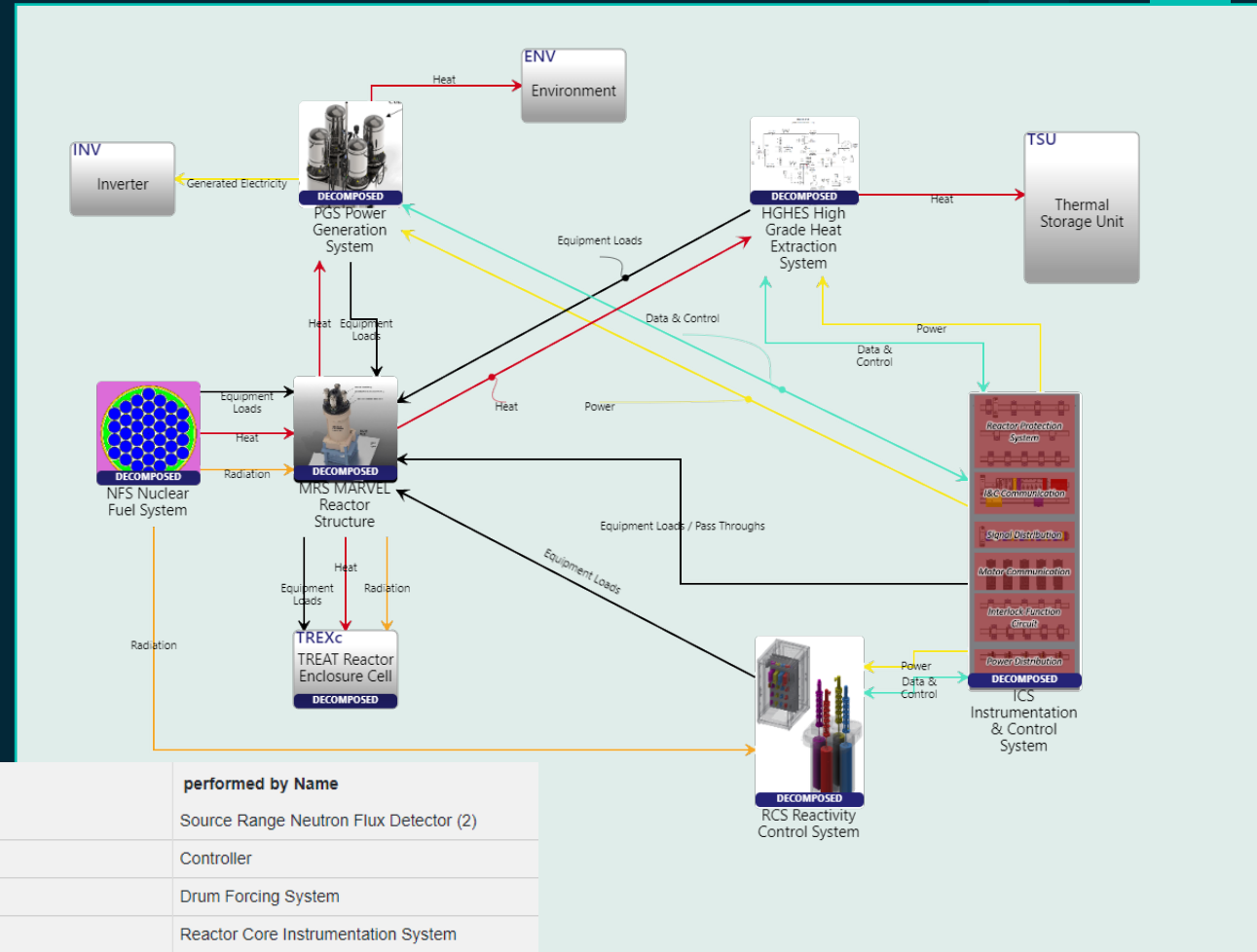




# Synthesizing a Physical Architecture

- Once the functional baseline is established, a physical architecture or design can be developed to match or perform the functions envisioned for the system

- Develop Process Flow Diagrams (PFDs)
- Define system, subsystem, and component interfaces
- Build relationships between functions and systems to validate the ConOps is fulfilled by the physical design



| Number      | Name                                | performed by Number | performed by Name                      |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Phase.9.3.3 | Measure Neutron flux                | RCIS-NFI-0002       | Source Range Neutron Flux Detector (2) |
| Phase.9.3.4 | Compare flux to the expected values | MCS-CTRL-9046       | Controller                             |
| Phase.9.3.5 | Increase reactivity by rotating CDs | DFS                 | Drum Forcing System                    |
| Phase.9.3.6 | Measure reactor physics parameters  | RCIS                | Reactor Core Instrumentation System    |



# Molten Chloride Reactor Experiment (MCRE) ARD

Nick Smith

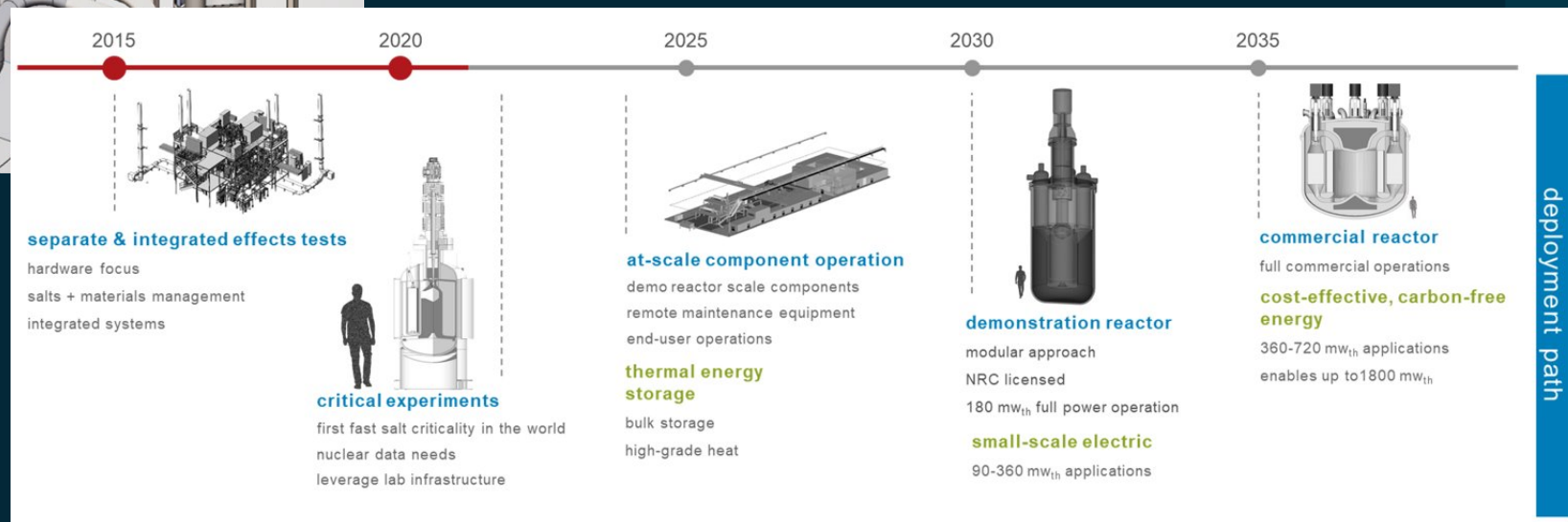
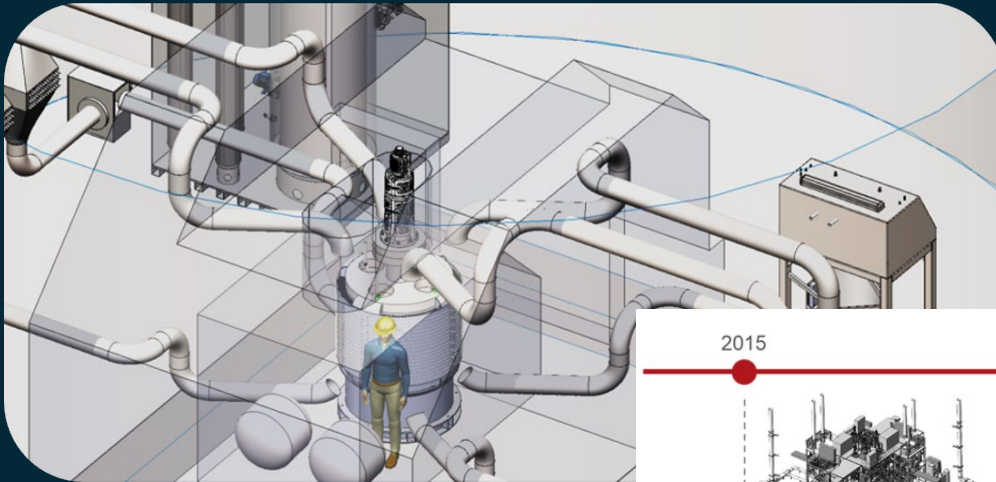
*INL MCRE Project Director*

Peter Suyderhoud

*Systems/Digital Engineering Lead*

# MCRE Overview

- The Molten Chloride Reactor Experiment (MCRE) is a liquid fueled, fast spectrum, HEU, experimental reactor that will operate in the LOTUS test bed at INL
- It will be the second large demonstration undertaken by Southern Company and TerraPower along the Molten Chloride Fast Reactor (MCFR) development path



# INL Scope of Work

During this 5-year project INL will develop salt containers, synthesize fuel salt, install MCRE in LOTUS, operate the reactor, and D&D MCRE at the end of the project.

## MCRE Fuel Salt

- Fuel Salt Containers (FSC)
- Irradiated Salt Containers (ISC)
- Fuel Salt Synthesis Line (FSSL)
- Production of MCRE Fuel Salt

## MCRE-LOTUS

- Design Integration
- Quality Assurance
- Environmental
- Nuclear Safety
- Safeguards & Security
- Construction Integration
- Operations
- D&D

## Technology Development Fuel Salt

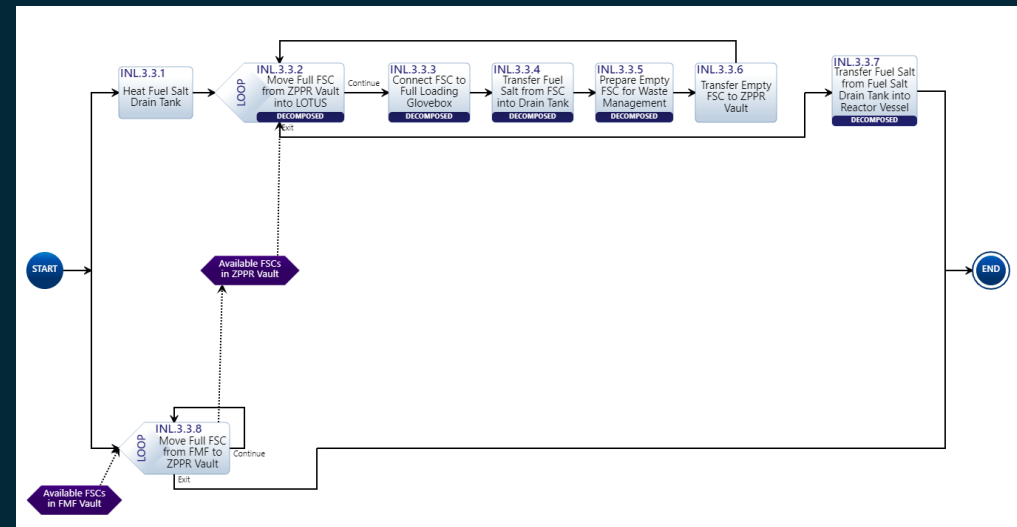
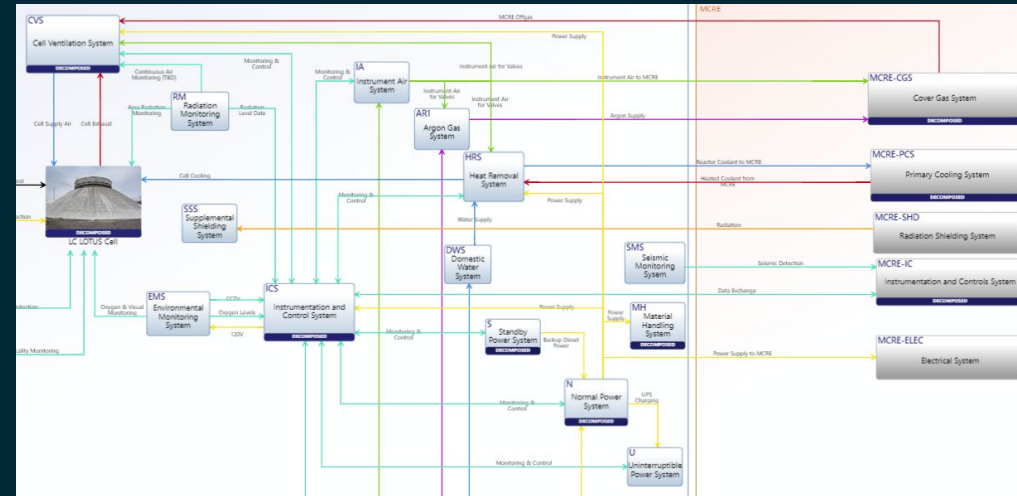
- Clean Fuel Salt  
TH-Properties
- Fuel Salt Capsule Irradiation
- Irradiated Fuel Salt  
TH-Properties
- Chemical Speciation  
and Transport Phenomena

# Project Challenges

- Complex interfaces
  - Integrating a nuclear island, balance of plant, and fuel management capabilities – each developed by separate organizations working in siloed networks
  - Interface Requirements
- Fuel salt synthesis technology development
- Maintaining QA

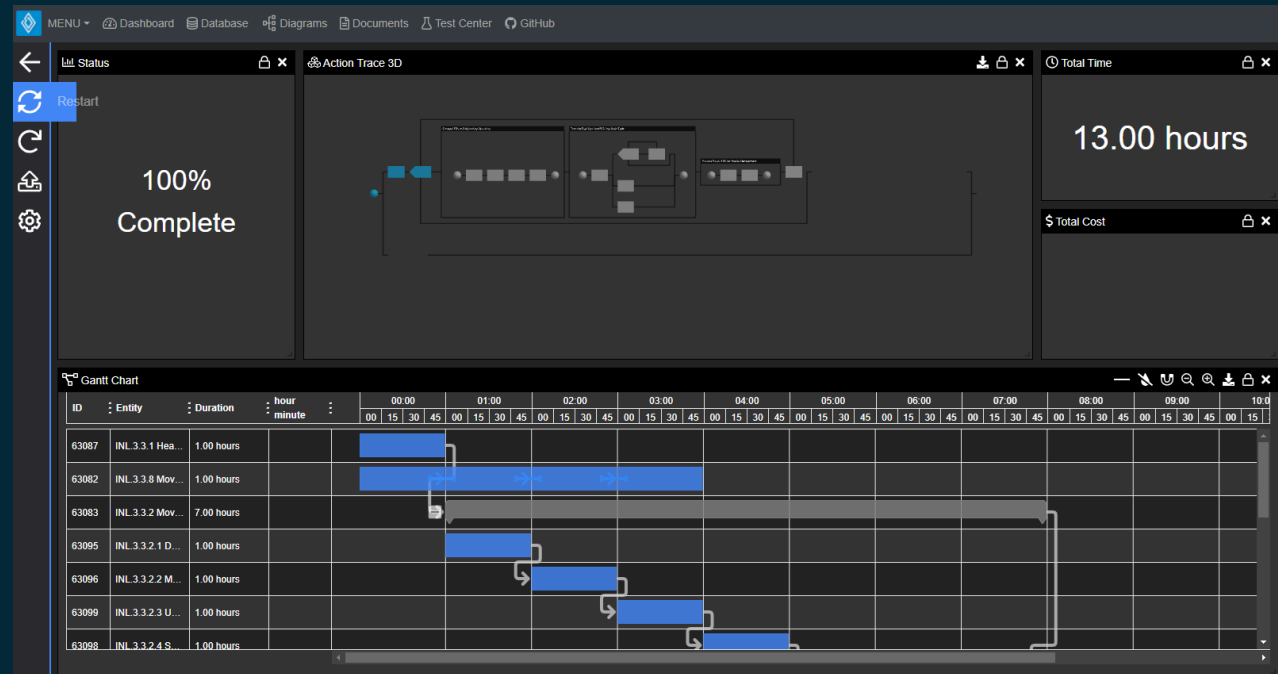
# MBSE Will Help Mitigate These Challenges

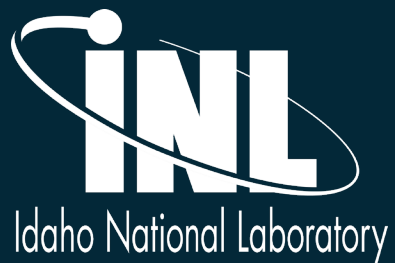
- Functional modeling within a cloud-based, real-time platform will ensure all team members have access to a single source of truth and are working to the latest Concept of Operations
- Physical modeling ensures the interface between two entities is shared and agreed upon vs. maintained in two separate systems



# Model Execution/Simulation

- Executing functional models can provide estimates of:
  - Process duration
  - Resource consumption
  - Project cost
  - Critical path activities
- All in support of performing analysis of alternatives (AoA), Trade Studies, etc.





# MAGNET

**Jeren Browning**  
*Group Lead, Digital Engineering*

**John Jackson, Ph.D.**  
*National Technical Director —  
DOE Microreactor Program*



# Microreactor AGile Non-Nuclear Experimental Test Bed (MAGNET)

- General-purpose, non-nuclear microreactor test bed
- Thermal-hydraulic and materials performance data for design performance verification and analytical model validation (V&V)
- Expandable design with capability to demonstrate an integrated power conversion unit (PCU)
- Advanced sensors identification, development, and testing for potential autonomous operation
- Enhance readiness of public stakeholders, particularly DOE laboratories and the U.S. NRC, to design, operate, test, and license microreactor components



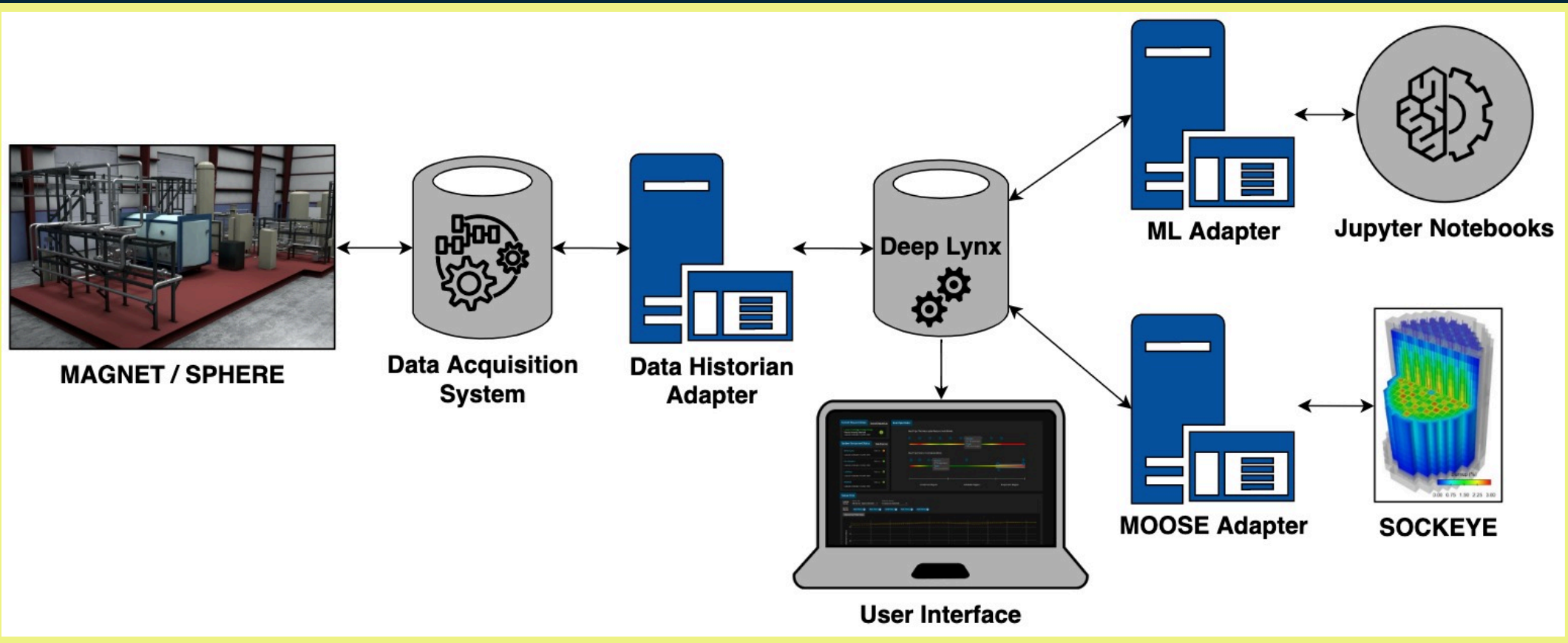
- Construction complete
- I&C installation evolves as necessary
- System commissioned August 2021
- Updating for He component testing

| Parameter       | Value   |
|-----------------|---|
| Chamber Size    | 5 ft x 5 ft x 10 ft   |
| Heat Removal    | Liquid-cooled chamber walls, gas flow                                     |
| Connections     | Flanged for gas flow and instrumentation feed through and viewing windows |
| Coolants        | Air, inert gas (He, N <sub>2</sub> )                                      |
| Gas flow rates  | Up to 43.7 ACFM at 290 psig   |
| Design pressure | 22 barg   |
| Maximum power   | 250 kW  |
| Max Temperature | 750 C   |
| Heat Removal    | Passive radiation or water-cooled gas gap calorimeter                     |

# Digital Twin Goals

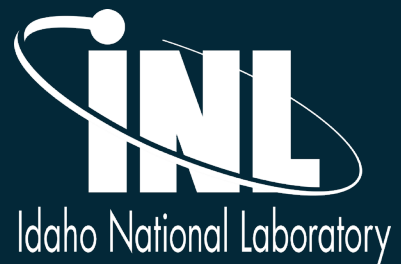
- Provide unattended operation and remote monitoring of a live asset
- Create reusable components to establish a digital twin framework
- Three core functionalities:
  - Multiphysics modeling
  - Machine learning/artificial intelligence
  - Data acquisition system integration

# Architecture



- More information:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40RFNtcrE1Q>



# Beartooth

**Kaleb Houck**

*Architect, Digital Engineering*

**Troy Burnett**

*Project Engineer, Beartooth*

# Beartooth Nuclear Material Testbed - Background

- Evolving Civilian Nuclear Fuel Cycle
  - Global civilian fuel cycle is going through a rapid transformation
    - Movement to smaller reactors
    - New reactors are using new fuels (HALEU, Pu, Th, etc.)
    - New materials and technology (Additive Manufacturing, malonamide, etc.)
- Support for Modern Non-proliferation Mission
  - Current capabilities aging and insufficient
  - US leadership being lost to other countries (France, Russia, China, India, South Korea)
  - New R&D Capability needed to close gap!



# MBSE Efforts around Beartooth

Light Phase Flow

Organic Phase Flow

I&C Data Acquisition

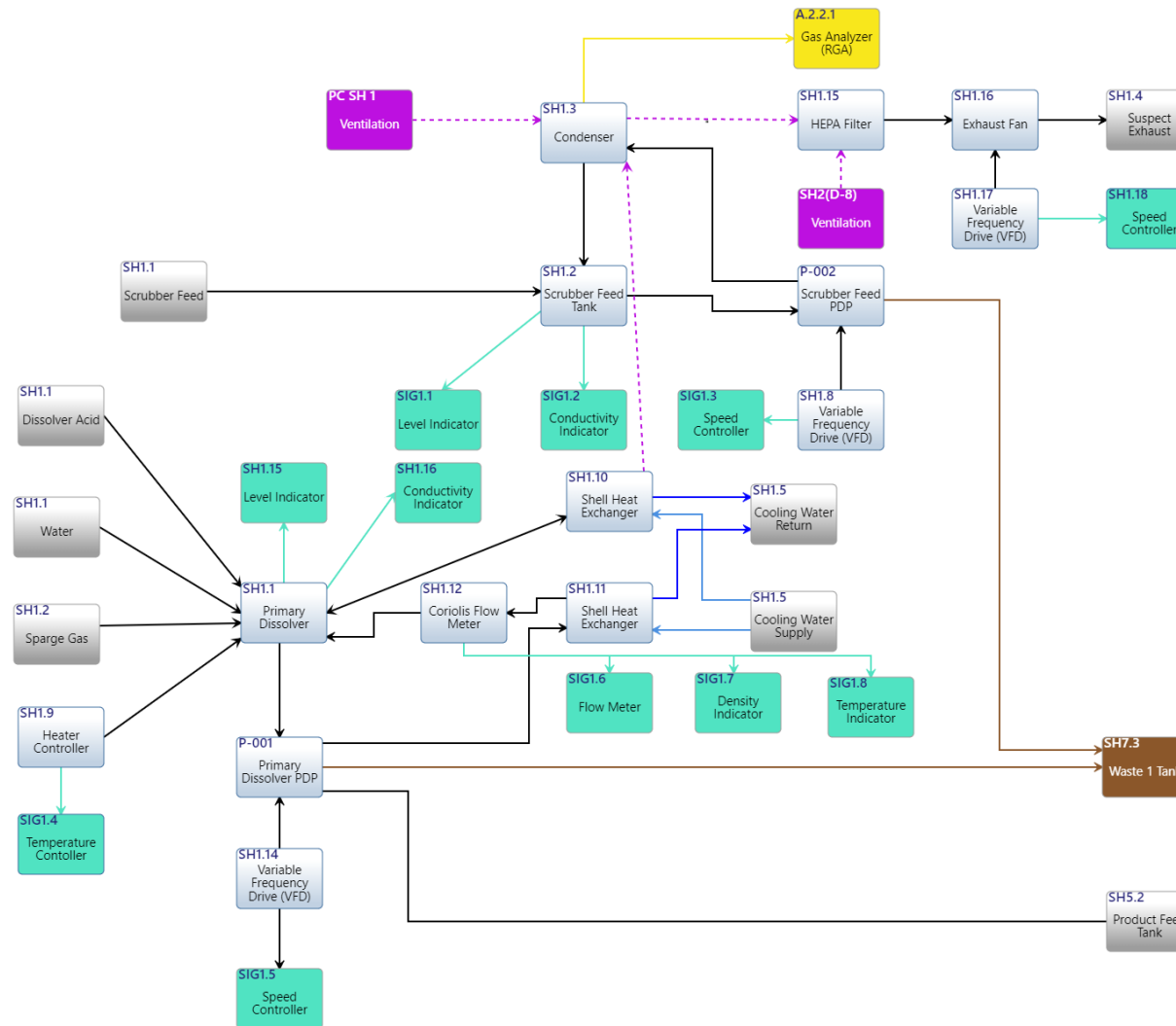
Mission Sensor DAQ

Utilities

Heat System

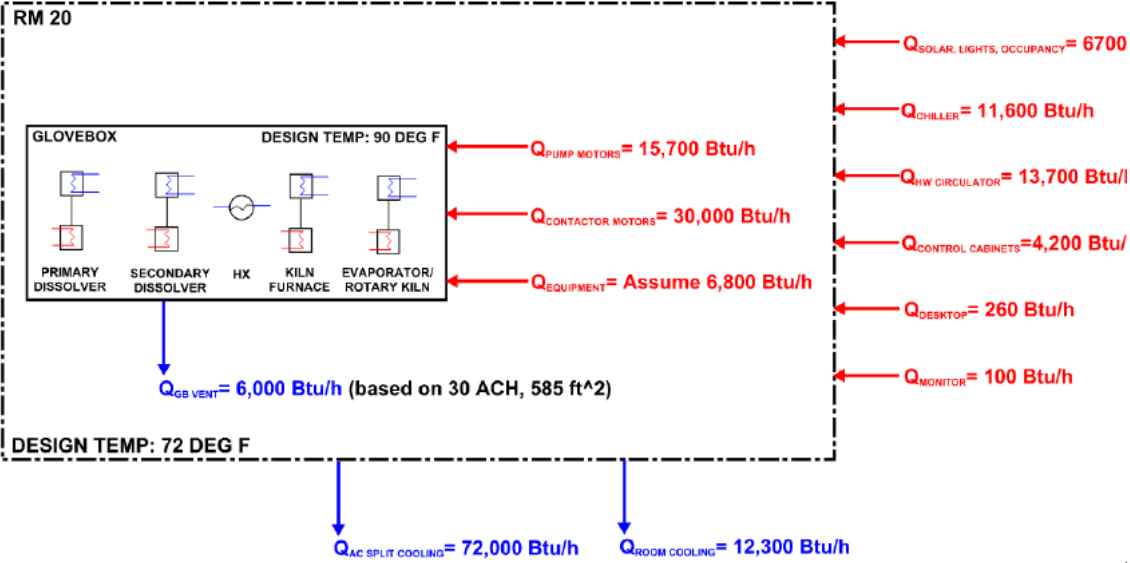
Cooling System

Waste Stream





ESTIMATED TOTAL COOLING LOAD: BTUH= 89,000



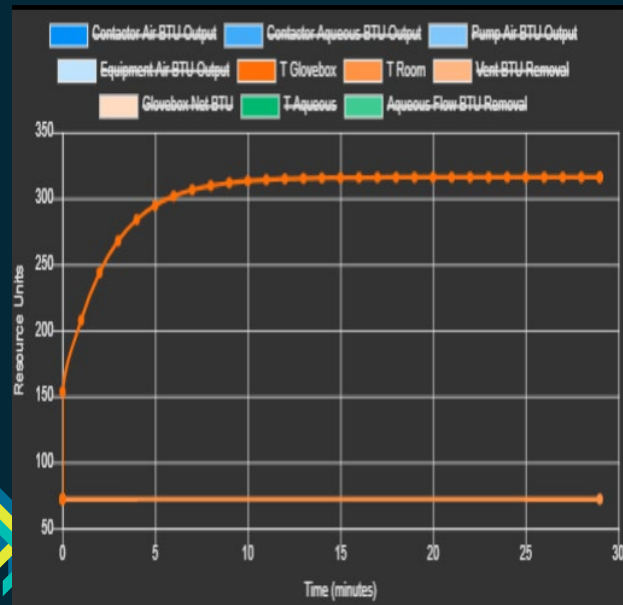
First observation: Pumps/Contactors are cooled by solution flow (modeled)

Still too hot: Evaporators/Dissolver/Kiln also transmit energy to solution. Not modeled yet, need solution heating.

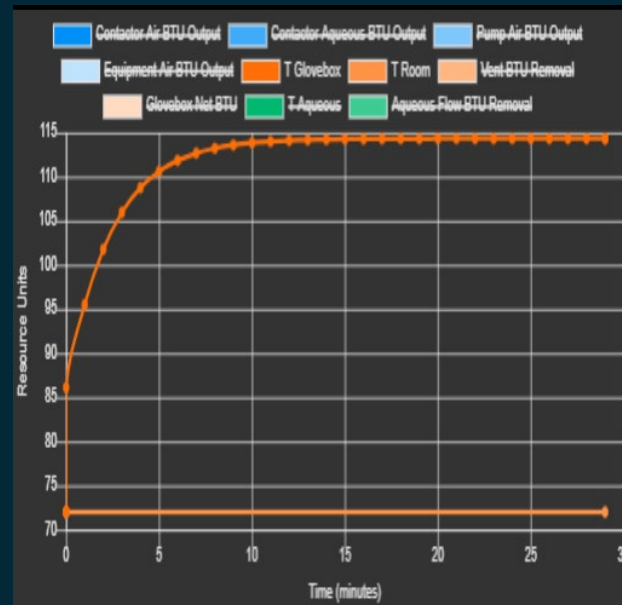
Once solution thermal modeling complete: helps satisfy heating requirements of dissolver.

Figure 23. HVAC Cooling Loads

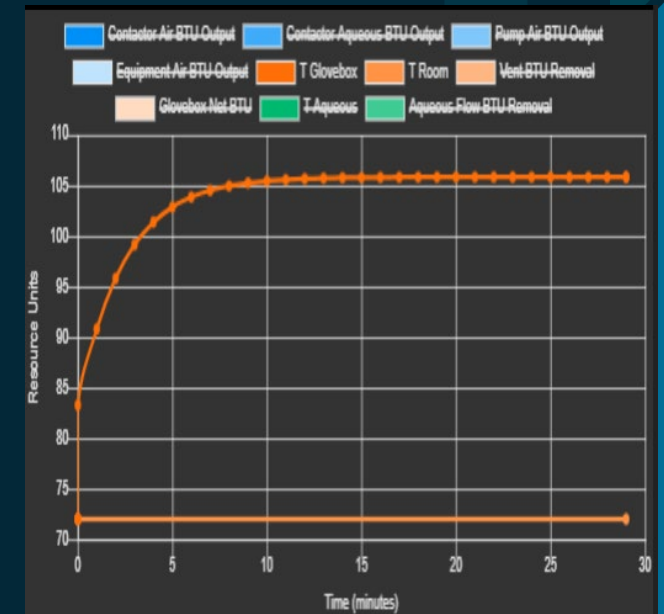
## CDR Assumptions



## 95% BTU to Solution Flow



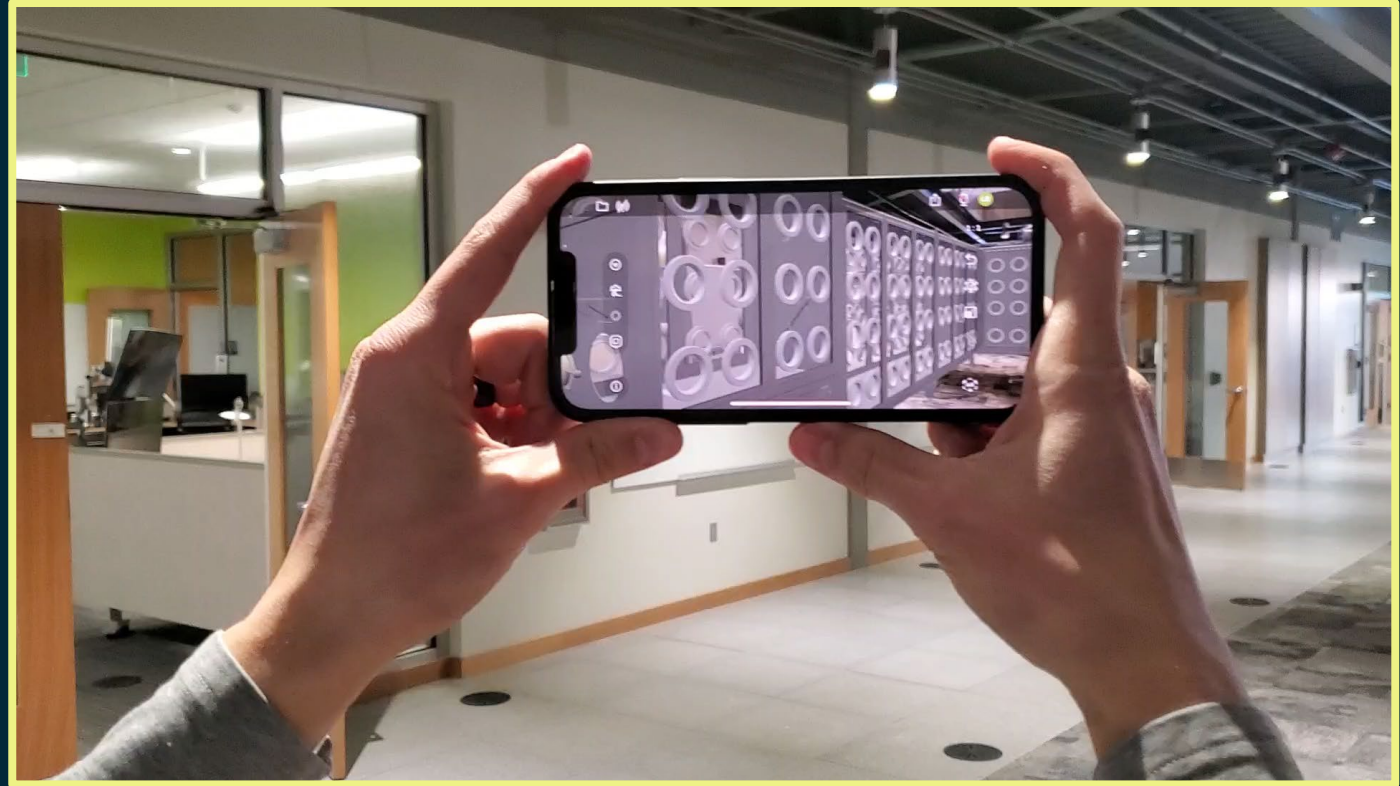
## 99% BTU to Solution Flow





# Augmented Reality for Design Review

- Used in Preliminary Design to collaborate on the model
- Light weight way to collaborate and review. Send as a 'Box-like' link to be viewed on phones and tables
- Can be made to scaled to table size to 1-1 size



# Mixed Reality for Design Review

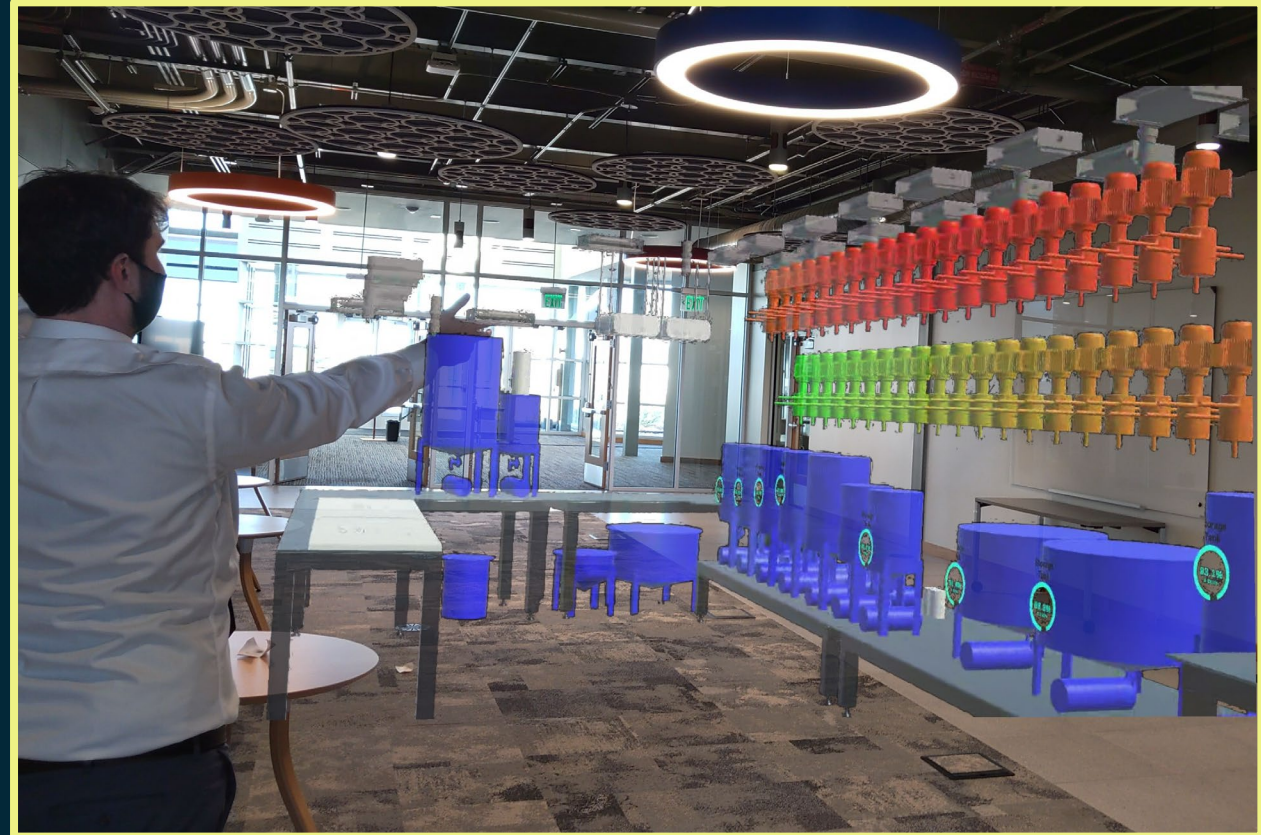
- Used in Preliminary Design to verify the model by INL, DOE-ID, and Walsh Engineering
- Provides a true dimensional understanding of the design by allow people to interact with full size model
- Created questions by end users on various aspects of the design that 2D models did not elicit





# Mixed Reality for Digital Twin Prototyping

- Demonstrated the digital thread platform, DeepLynx, providing real-time data into Beartooth model
- Demonstrate possibilities unique operational and experimental views into testbed





# Configuration Management and Document Control

**AnnMarie Marshall**

*Manager of Configuration Management,  
National Reactor Innovation Center*

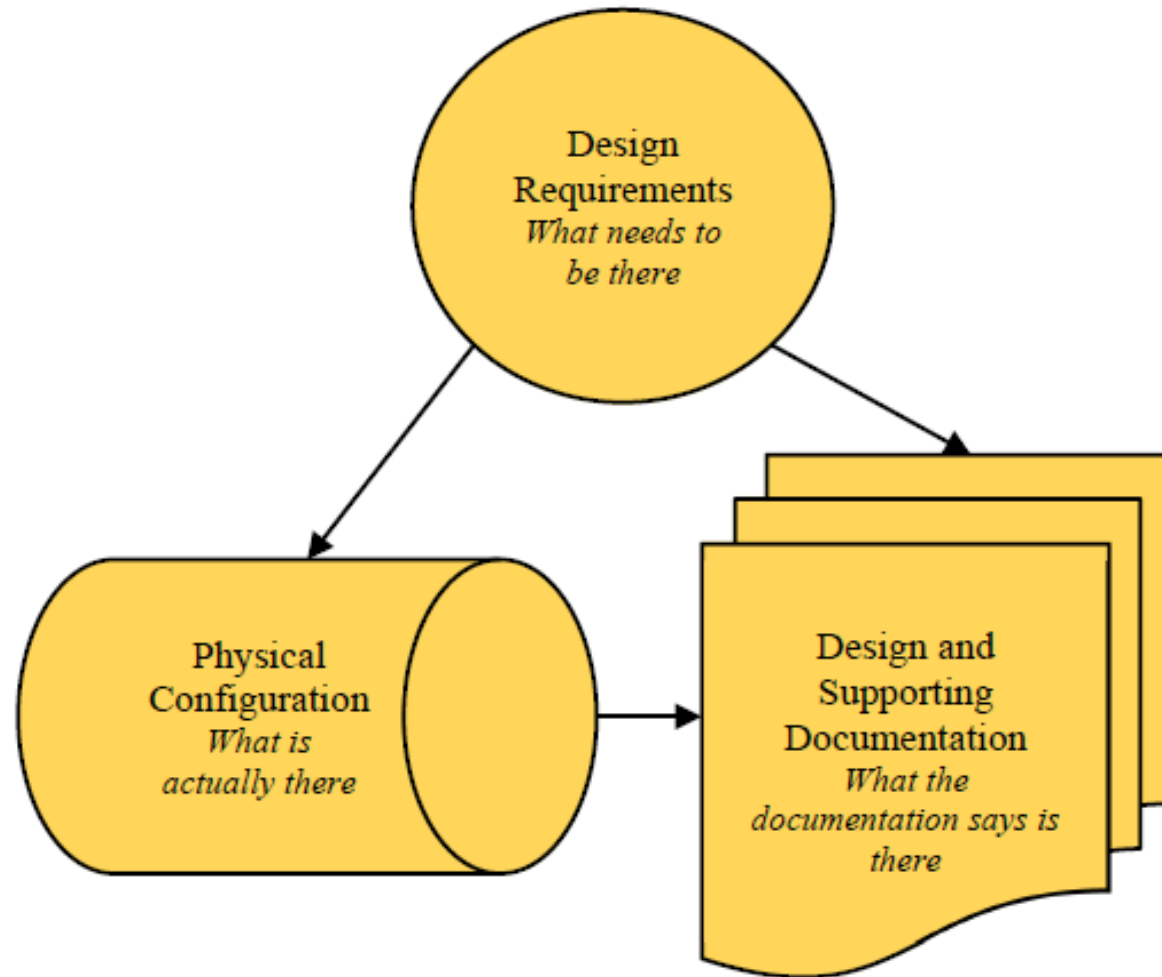
# What is Configuration Management

CM is defined as the **process** that controls the activities, and interfaces, among design, construction, procurement, training, licensing, operations, and maintenance to ensure that the **configuration of the facility is established, approved, and maintained.**

CM frequently includes CM as well as Document Management, Records Management, Change Control, and Requirements Management.

# What is Configuration Management

The objective of CM is to establish **consistency** among **design requirements, physical configuration, and the associated documentation** (drawings, analyses, and specifications) and activities. This allows the facility operator to maintain configuration consistency throughout the life of the facility.



NRIC



# Existing

INL has an established home built EDMS that has been in place for years. This system meets all NQA-1 requirements for change management, but it isn't an industry known CMIS (Configuration Management Information System).

- Document Centric
- Doesn't include structures, systems, or components (SSCs)
- Provides traceability within documents but not to SSCs
- Some metadata but nothing associated with plant, facility, or system
- Requirements are static in documents



# Future

NRIC is working to implement a more advanced system that will provide, not all, but more CMIS like functionality

- Includes structures, systems, and components (SSCs)
- Traceability of documentation to SSCs
- Integrated with the requirements which are in the living database of DOORS-NG
- All documents in one system as the single source of truth – One project at a time
- Include functions of document control, records management, and change control.



# NQA-1 Qualification Plans

Ross Hays

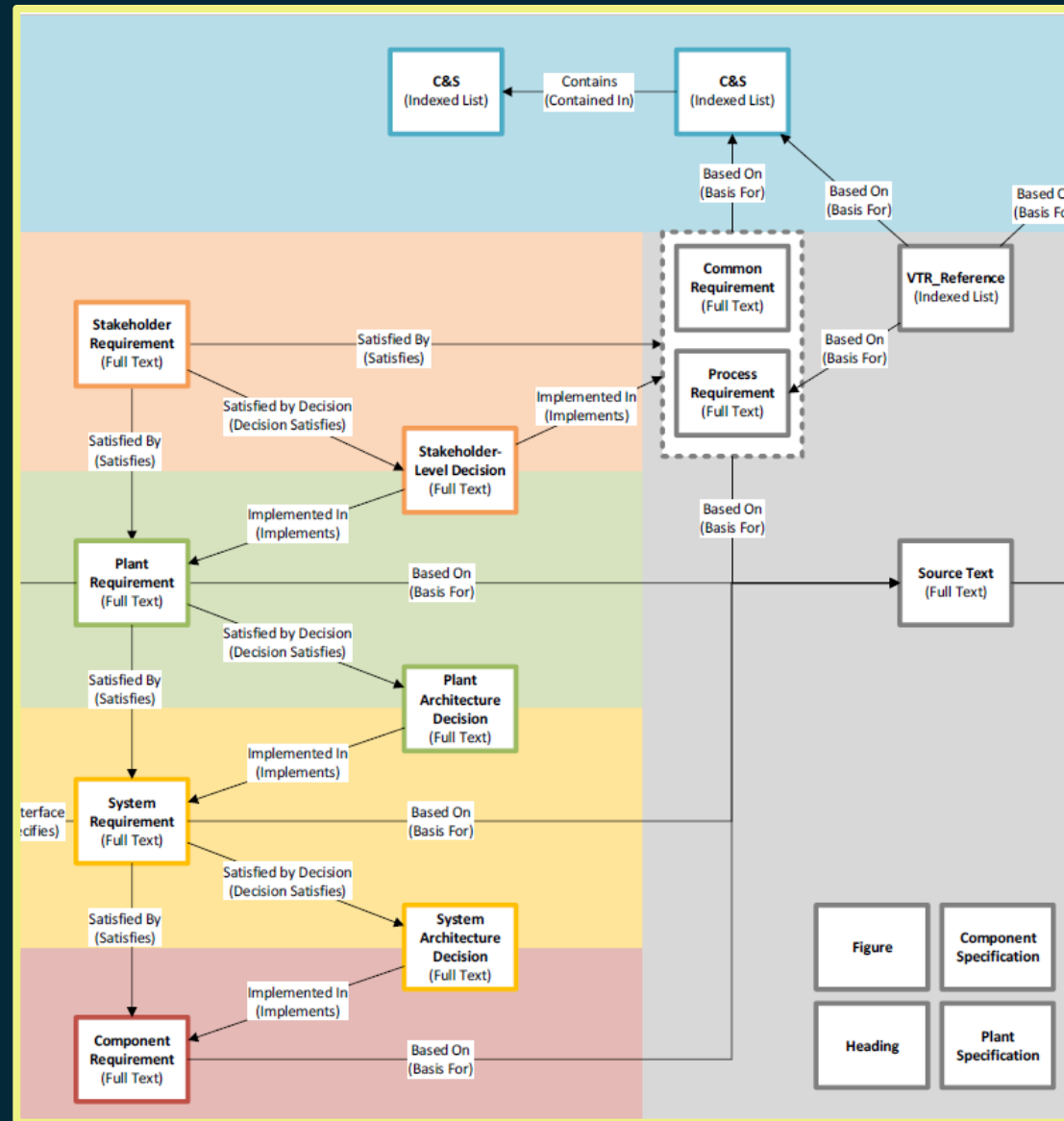
*Principal Investigator,  
Sodium Digital Engineering Collaboration*

# ASME NQA-1

- Sets out quality assurance **requirements** for nuclear facility applications
- We already support design processes for nuclear facilities that have complex requirements
- **Leverage the existing tools and expertise!**
  - Multiple RM tools available (DOORs, Innoslate)
  - Outreach to existing efforts (MOOSE, MC-21, etc.)
  - System engineering experts
- Requirements to drive software
  - Developmental processes
  - Acceptance test design

# Create Reusable Requirement Hierarchies

- Parse requirements into DOORs identifying
  - Policy decisions
  - Configuration elements
  - Necessary Documentation
  - Necessary Test Cases, results
- Policy decisions may drive certain requirements, e.g.:
  - Use of previously provisioned tools
  - Incumbent workflows
- **By explicitly mapping these decisions, sections of requirement tree may be re-used under different contexts**



# Anticipated Benefits

- Streamlined ability to qualify products under similar independent quality plans (NQA-1-2008 vs NQA-1-2019, or BEA vs GEH, etc.)
- Clear identification of decision impacts
  - When decisions are changed
  - When requirement drivers are updated
- Leverage existing expertise and established tools
- Reduced development effort vs non-integrated approaches



# NetZero at INL

**Kaleb Houck**

*Digital Twin Research Scientist*

**Paul Plachinda, Ph.D.**

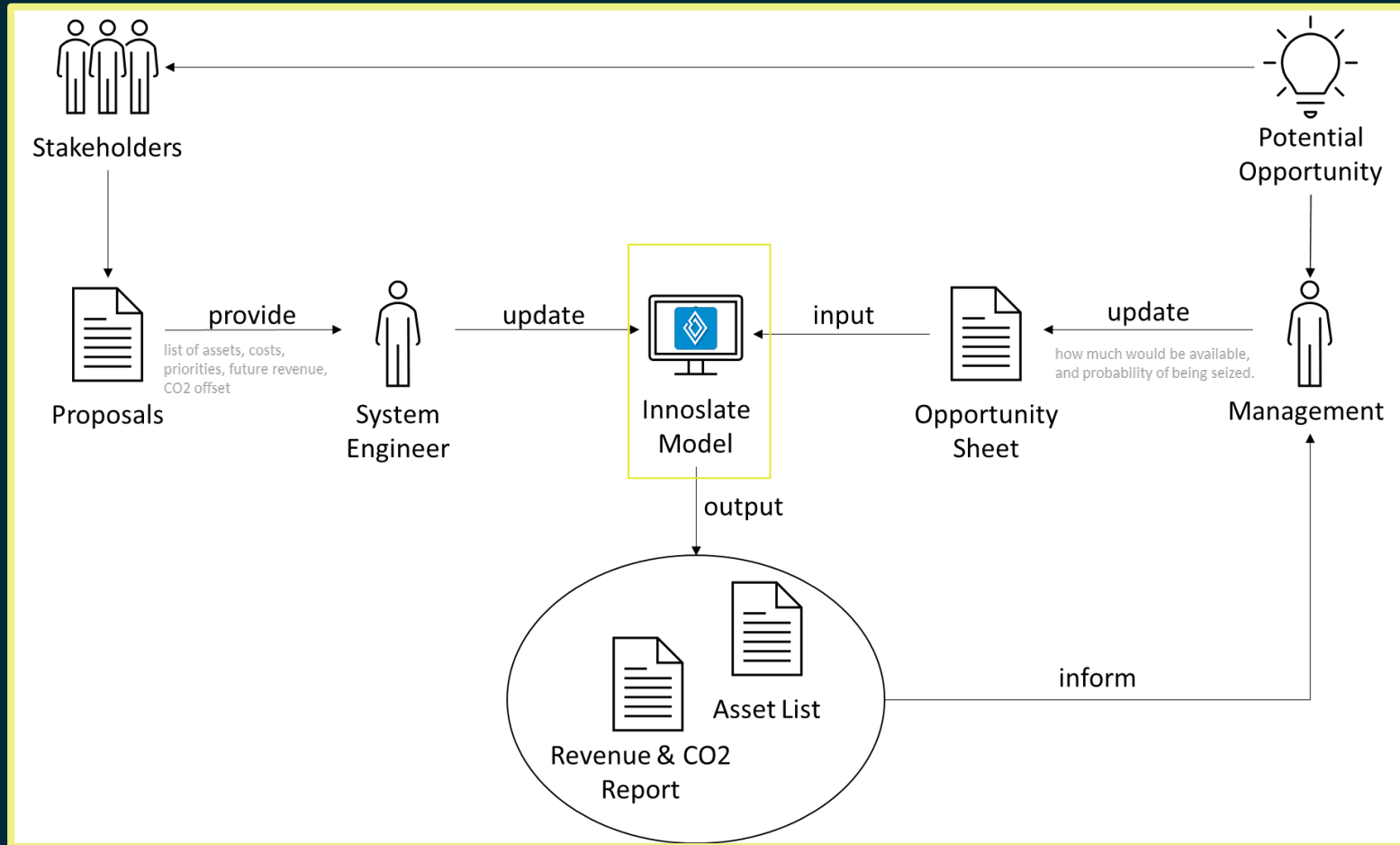
*Digital Design Scientist*

# What is the Net Zero Campus?

The ESL-II Complex at INL will provide a one-of-a-kind pioneering-scale complex housing an evolving microgrid supporting various net-negative technologies including an on-campus microreactor. ESL-II will be the advanced energy demonstration epicenter that supports R&D of integrated energy systems including: nuclear, hydrogen/ammonia, electrochemical, solar, wind, batteries, thermal generation and storage, microgrids, and carbon-neutral mass transportation.

# Why is it built?

## (Requirements Management Flow)

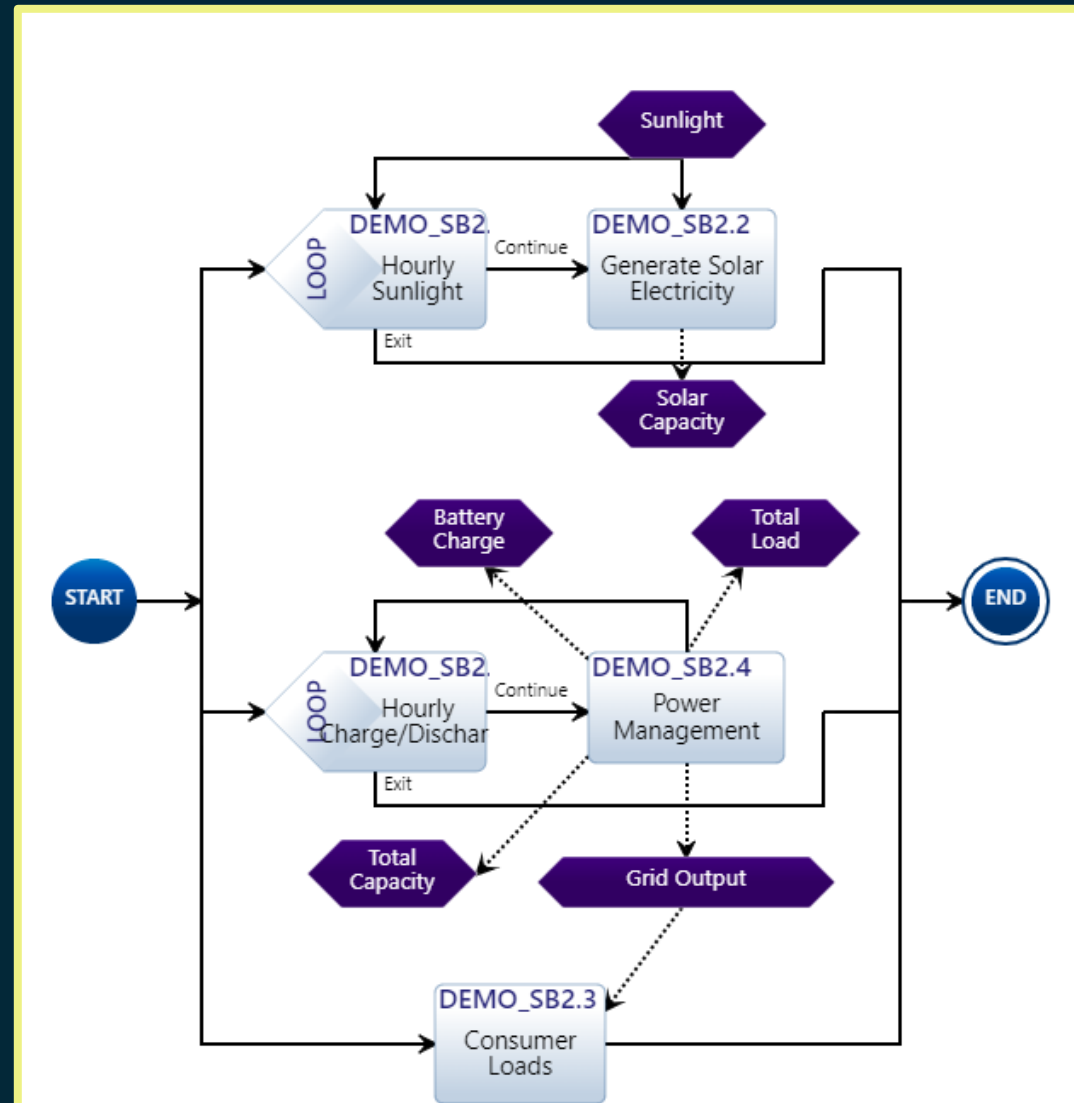




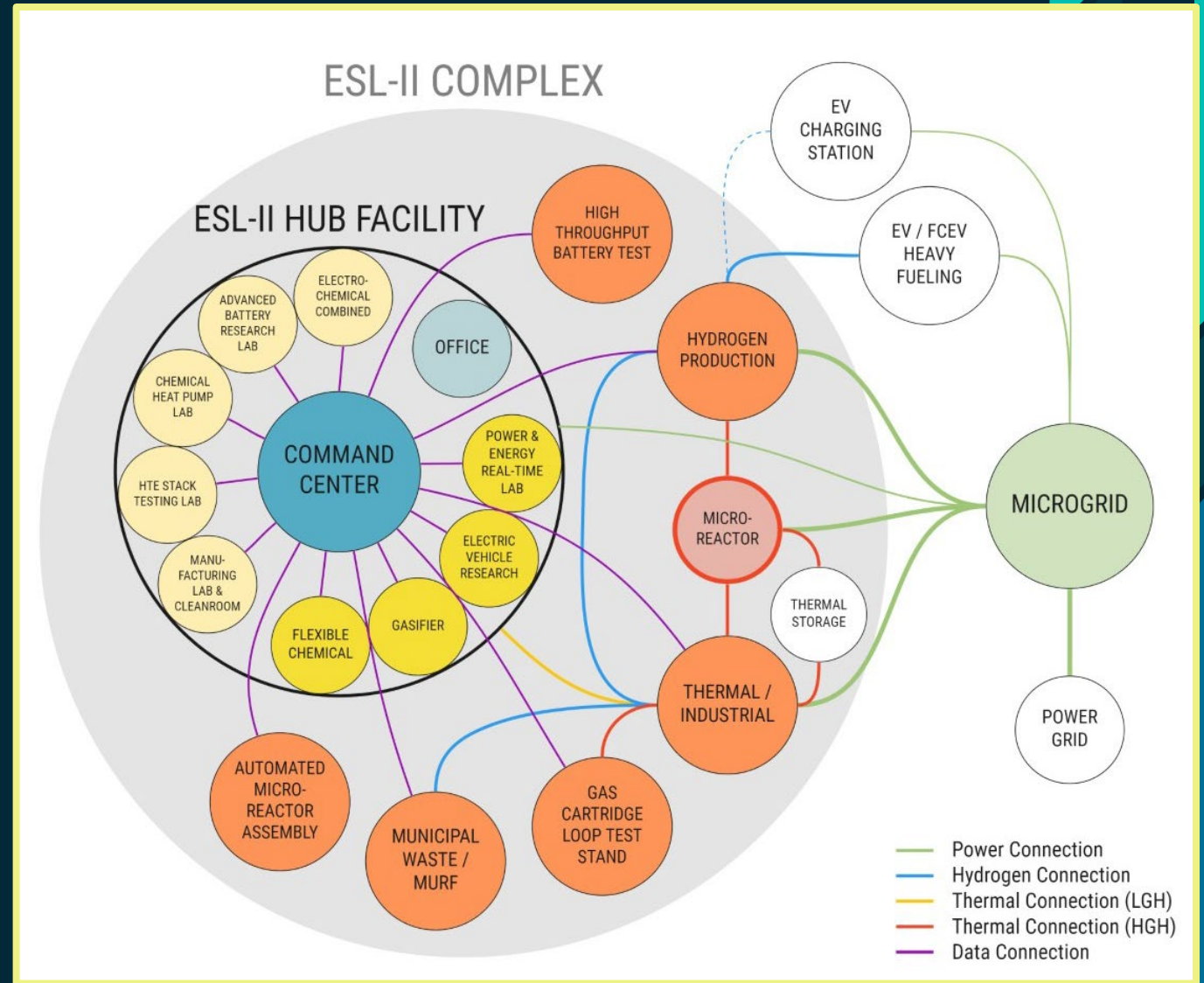
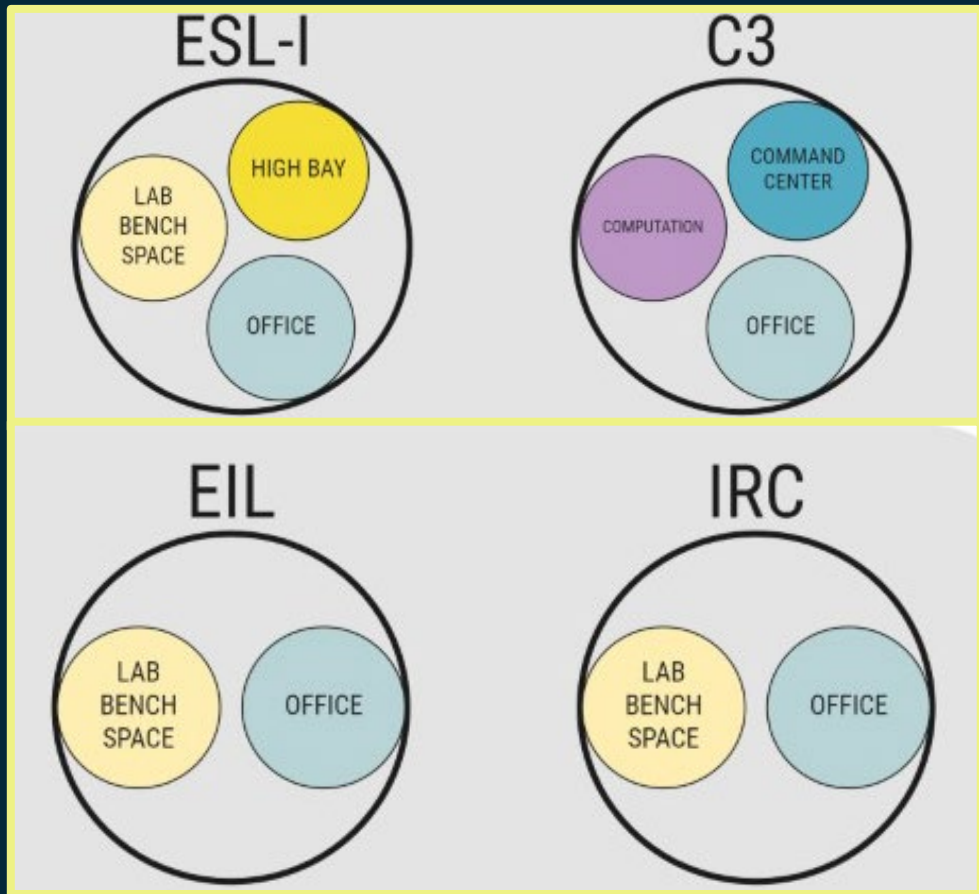
# How is it built?

## (Energy and Monetary Flow Modelling)

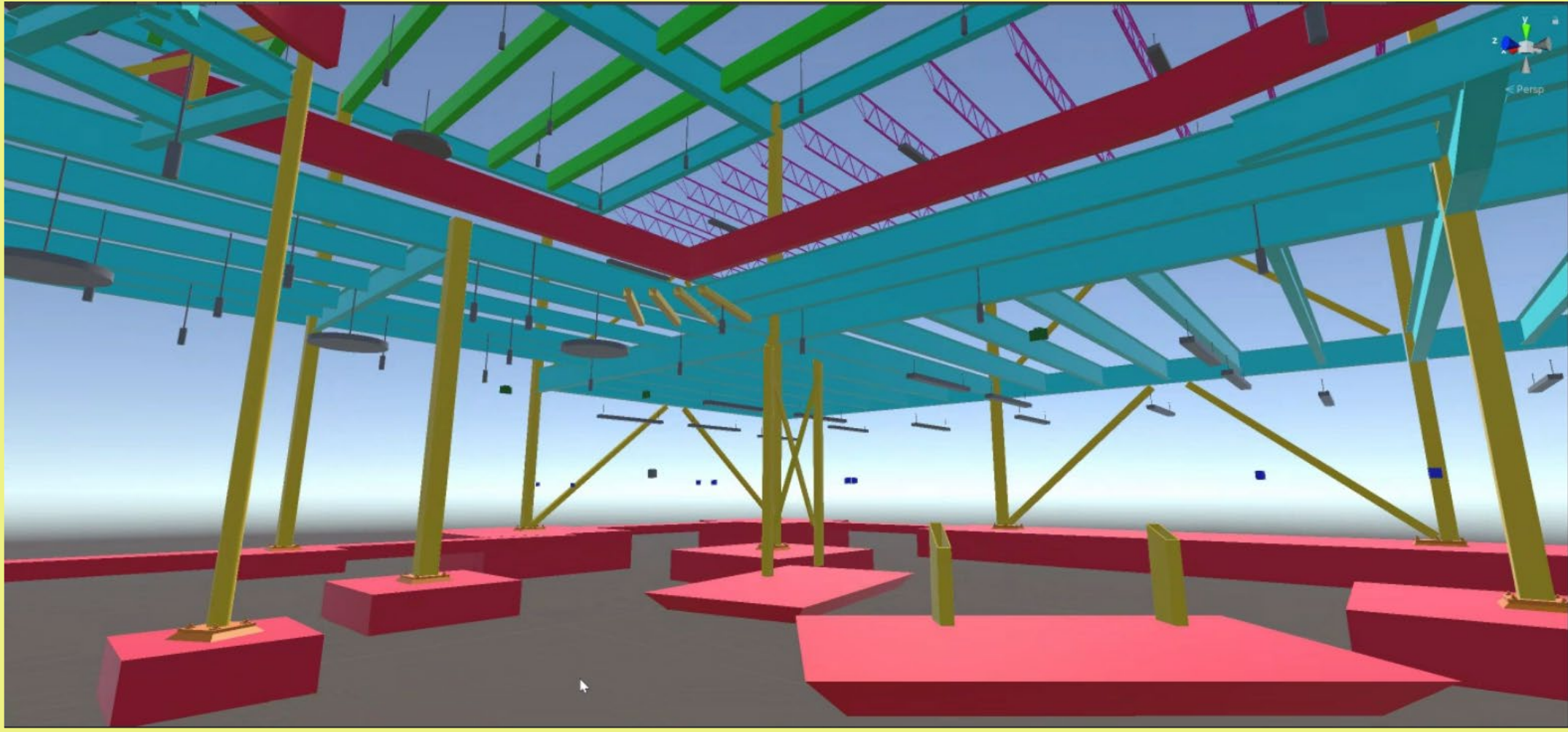
- Model Based Systems Engineering enables creation of a functional model to simulate interactions and verify assumptions. It can be directly translated to an asset model assuring that all necessary assets are present to fulfil the functional need.
- Simulation can predict energy sources and sinks and their mutual capacity.
- MBSE can also predict the economics of the system.



# What is it comprised of? (Asset Modelling)



# Digital Twin of a “Hangar”



NRIC

