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# Digital innovation HUBs and Collaborative Platform for cyber-physical systems



## **Third Version of HUBCAP Contents**

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## Abstract

The **HUBCAP Collaborative Platform** will provide **catalogues of models and tools** for trial experiments with Model-Based Design (MBD) technology to design and develop innovative Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) solutions with the support of MBD.

The HUBCAP platform is already operational and contains tens of tools and more than a hundred models. The Task 6.4 of the project enhanced the platform with features focused on the validation of the underlying model-based tools or validation of its results: first, we demonstrate in the platform how it is possible to enrich the analysis results of some tools with proofs that can be checked by other tools; second, the tools catalogue of the collaboration platform has been improved with information and arguments in support of the definition of tools' Technology Readiness Level (TRL).

D6.4 is a document of **type "OTHER"**, given by the actual enhancement of the platform's contents. These can be browsed by accessing the platform. This document summarizes T6.4 contributions.

**List of Abbreviations**

<b>API</b>	Application Programming Interface
<b>CCA</b>	Common Cause Analysis
<b>CLI</b>	Command Line Interface
<b>CMS</b>	Catalogues Management System
<b>COE</b>	Co-simulation Orchestration Engine
<b>CPU</b>	Central Processing Unit
<b>DIH</b>	Digital Innovation Hub
<b>DMA</b>	Direct Memory Access
<b>DSE</b>	Design Space Exploration
<b>FMEA</b>	Failure Modes and Effects Analysis
<b>FMI</b>	Functional Mock-up Interface
<b>FMU</b>	Functional Mock-up Unit
<b>FTA</b>	Fault Tree Analysis
<b>GPU</b>	Graphics Processing Unit
<b>GUI</b>	Graphical User Interface
<b>HSM</b>	HUBCAP Sandboxing Middleware
<b>HTTP</b>	HyperText Transfer Protocol
<b>IDE</b>	Integrated Development Environment
<b>IdM</b>	Identity Management
<b>JSON</b>	JavaScript Object Notation
<b>KMS</b>	Knowledge Management System
<b>MBD</b>	Model-Based Design
<b>MBT</b>	Model Based Testing
<b>MCS</b>	Minimal Cut Sets
<b>OSLC</b>	Open Services for Lifecycle Collaboration
<b>RBAC</b>	Role-Based Access Protocol
<b>RCP</b>	Rich Client Platform
<b>REST</b>	Representational State Transfer
<b>SAT</b>	Boolean Satisfiability Problem
<b>SMT</b>	SAT Modulo Theories
<b>SME</b>	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
<b>SSO</b>	Single Sign On
<b>SSP</b>	System Structure and Parametrization
<b>SysML</b>	Systems Modeling Language
<b>TFPG</b>	Timed Failure Propagation Graphs
<b>TRL</b>	Technology Readiness Level
<b>UML</b>	Unified Modeling Language
<b>UAV</b>	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
<b>VDM</b>	Vienna Development Method
<b>VM</b>	Virtual Machine
<b>VNC</b>	Virtual Network Computing

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## 1. Introduction

**Model-Based Design (MBD)** is a method to address the design of complex systems with models. It prescribes the use of models throughout the development process in order to represent system structure and behaviours, providing a basis for machine-assisted analysis of system properties, and supporting design decisions through processes of refinement into implementation. The purpose is 1) to **reduce the complexity** of design **by abstraction**; 2) to **ensure the quality** of the system **by rigorous analysis** of its properties; 3) to **reduce the cost** of the development **by detecting issues** in the **early** phases of the development. MBD is quite standard in software engineering and is becoming more and more relevant in systems engineering, where it must integrate methods for control engineering and safety engineering.

MBD appears largely to be applied in domains such as aerospace where the return on investment can take decades. By contrast, SMEs require considerable flexibility to change processes to adopt MBD and may lack in-house expertise. In addition, the selection, procurement, training and deployment costs for some methods and tools can be discouragingly high. In general, it is difficult for SMEs to invest in acquiring the necessary background for example because of the high license fees from commercial vendors of MBD assets.

The **HUBCAP Collaborative Platform** will lower such barriers by providing **catalogues of models** and Model-Based Design (MBD) tools for trial experiments to design and develop innovative CPS solutions with the support of MBD technology. D6.4 consists of a third version of the platform's contents and, in particular, the enhancement for the validation of the tools' results. This document summarizes the contents of the catalogue for the reviewer's convenience.

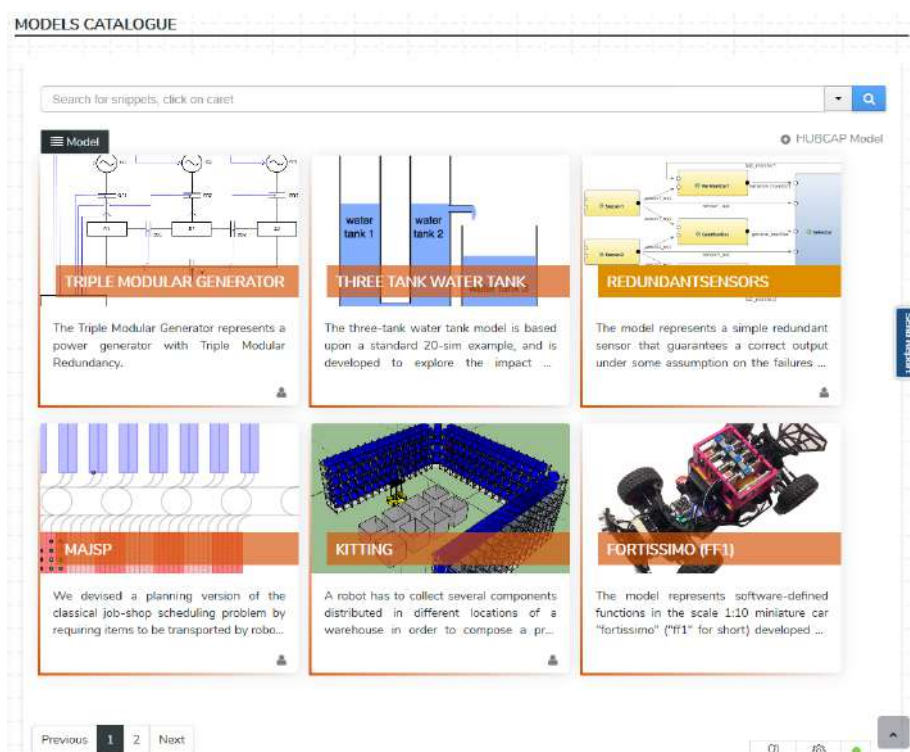


Figure 1: Screenshot of the models catalogue.

## 2. Summary of current HUBCAP contents

In the previous deliverables, we described the models and tools that were initially uploaded. These contents have been continuously updated, also contributed by the SMEs winners of the open call. The number of models in the platform is indeed contributing to the KPIs of the HUBCAP project.

We summarize here the current status of models and tools. The tool catalogue and the model catalogue are now also connected to the sandbox environment. It is able to launch the sandbox directly from the model catalogue with the "Try It" features.

The models cover various application domains including control engineering, electrical engineering, automotive, and avionics. The model catalogue currently has 76 models, almost all of which have been connected to the sandbox environment (Figure 2).



Test before invest / Models Catalogue /

## MODELS CATALOGUE


Search for snippets, click on caret

Models List + Add New Model Send Report




### AD/ADAS ON MPSOC PLATFORM

The model represents a set of software-defined AD/ADAS functions that are deployed to MPSoC architecture...




### ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL

The model represents a set of software-defined functions that implement an Adaptive Cruise Control. It manages t...




### ADDER

Simple examples of an adder that computes the sum of two random input bits. The adder model has been written ...




### AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL

The main objective of an air traffic control system is to avoid aircraft collisions. In air traffic management, a Loss of Separati...



### AUTOMATIC TRAIN CONTROL


This example was developed by Natsuki Terada from the Japanese Railways Research Institute (RTRI) on a two ye...




### AUTOMOTIVE TURN INDICATOR

This model captures the simplified

DRAFT



### AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE - BICYCLE MODEL



### AUTOPILOT



### BATTERYSENSOR

The model represents a simple system that is dependent on the reading of a sensor. If the reading is incorrect, t...

Previous 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Next

76 Models

Figure 2: The Models catalogue.


At present, the tool catalogue has 39 tools and most of them have been connected to the sandbox environment (Figure 3). The sandbox can be launched directly from the tools catalogue with the "Try It Now" feature. These tools are provided by the HUBCAP partners, SMEs partners, and they are uploaded, installed, and tested inside the HUBCAP Collaborative Platform sandbox to constitute the contents of the catalogue of tools.

Test before invest / Tools Catalogue /

## TOOLS


Search for snippets, click on caret

Tools List ➕ Add New Tool



### 20-SIM


20-sim is modeling and simulation software package for mechatronic systems. With 20-sim you can ent...



### AIRCHAIN


AirChain application follows a drag&drop

UNPUBLISHED




### AUTOFOCUS3

AutoFOCUS3 is a model-based tool and research platform for safety-critical embedded systems. It builds on a gener...




### BEIA SMART ENERGY TOOL

Analysis of smart meter data




### BEENO

The monitoring and analysis platform collects, classifies and represents the data offered by the hardware solution used ...




### CHESS

CHESS is a cross-domain model-based engineering environment, with support for various analysis support for dependab...




### CLEARSY SAFETY PLATFORM

The CLEARSY Safety Platform is aimed at easing the development and the deployment of safety critical application...



### COMPASS

The COMPASS toolset provides an integrated model-based approach for SystemSoftware Co-Engineering in t...



### CONDUCTIV.AI PROCESS CONTROL

The Conductiv.ai Process Control makes it incredibly easy to model complex processes and create Self-Perfecti...

Previous 1 2 3 4 5 Next

39 Tools

Send Report

Figure 3: The Tools catalogue.

## 3. Servitization of certifying model checking

### 3.1. Context and motivations

The application of formal methods in the certification of high-assurance systems demands the qualification of the verification tools to ensure a sufficient level of confidence in their results (see for example the DO-333 standard in the avionic domain). Verification tools such as model checkers are, however, typically quite complex pieces of software, implementing sophisticated algorithms and heuristics in order to ensure maximum efficiency and scalability, which makes their qualification extremely challenging. An alternative, potentially simpler approach is that of certifying the *results produced by the model checker*, rather than certifying the model-checking tool itself [1, 2]. In particular, an appealing idea is that of certifying model-checking results by means of the *generation of proof certificates* as a byproduct of the verification process. Such certificates can then be verified by independent checkers, which are usually simpler to certify than the proof-generating tools.

### 3.2. Overview of the approach

We focus on the problem of certifying the results of model checking *invariant properties*, that is, properties that must hold in all the reachable states of the input system. We represent transition systems in a *symbolic* way, as a pair of quantifier-free first-order formulas with background theories (such as those used in Satisfiability Modulo Theories – SMT [3]): a formula  $I(X)$  representing the initial states of the system (where  $X$  is the set of state variables), and a formula  $T(X, X')$  representing the transition relation of the system (where the variables  $X'$  denote the state variables after performing one transition). Given a system  $M = \langle I(X), T(X, X') \rangle$  and an invariant property  $P(X)$  - which is simply a formula over the state variables  $X$ , the invariant model checking problem (denoted with -

$M \models P$ ) can be reduced to finding an *inductive invariant* [4], that is a formula  $Inv(X)$  satisfying the following conditions: (1) it is implied by the initial-states formula  $I(X)$ :  $\models I(X) \rightarrow Inv(X)$ ; (2) it is preserved by the transition relation:  $\models (Inv(X) \& T(X, X')) \rightarrow Inv(X')$ ; and (3) it implies the property:  $\models Inv(X) \rightarrow P(X)$ . Inductive invariants can be generated automatically by state-of-the-art SAT- and SMT-based model checking algorithms, without any additional overhead. We can use an inductive invariant to define a *proof certificate* for  $M \models P$  as the SMT formula consisting of the conjunction of the three conditions above:  $(I(X) \rightarrow Inv(X)) \& (Inv(X) \& T(X, X') \rightarrow Inv(X')) \& (Inv(X) \rightarrow P(X))$ . Checking the proof certificate amounts to proving the validity of the formula, a task which can be performed with any off-the-shelf SMT solver.

### 3.3. SMT and VMT formats

In order to maximize interoperability, our implementation relies on standard formats for the representation of both model checking problems and proof certificates. In particular, we leverage the SMT-LIB format (<http://smt-lib.org>) [5], the standard input language of SMT solvers, for the representation of the formulas encoding the input symbolic transition system and the validity check for the proof certificate. For the representation of the transition system, we rely on the VMT format (<http://vmt-lib.org>), an extension of the SMT-LIB format specifically designed to represent symbolic transition systems and their properties. VMT exploits the capability offered by the SMT-LIB language of attaching *annotations* to terms and formulas in order to specify the components of the transition system and the properties to verify. As such, a VMT file is a valid SMT-LIB file, with no special syntax

needed. Compared to other SMT-LIB extensions with similar goals, VMT has therefore the benefit that it can be handled by the many available tools for manipulating SMT-LIB files that are already available for several programming languages.

### 3.4. OSLC-based interaction

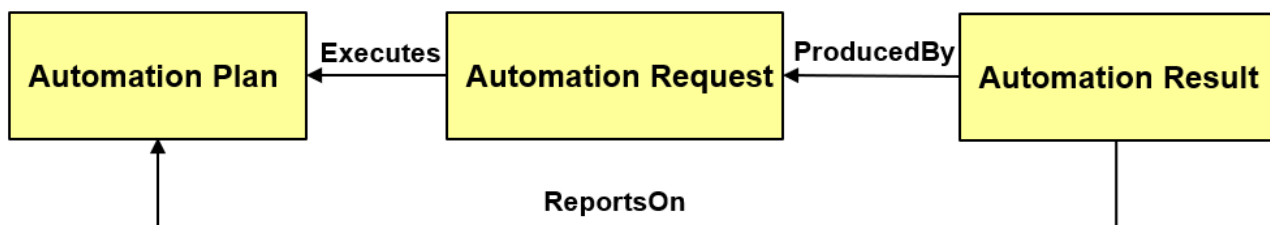
The FBK Tools (namely OCRA, nuXmv, xSAP, ic3ia and mathsat5) expose an API that allows the integration with any kind of OSLC client. Such API extends the OSLC Automation specification that is defined by the Open Services for Lifecycle Collaboration (OSLC) Core Specification. The full specification is available at:

<http://open-services.net/wiki/automation/OSLC-Automation-Specification-Version-2.1/>

OSLC is a set of specifications that simplify the tool integration; it is based on Web standards (W3C Linked Data and RESTful Web Services). The OSLC specifications are organized in OSLC Domains, that are specifications leveraging the OASIS OSLC lifecycle integration Core Specification and enabling interoperation through the specification of standard domain vocabularies, constraints, and services.

The FBK Tools OSLC API is based on the Automation domain that defines the resources and operations supported by an Open Services for Lifecycle Collaboration (OSLC) **Automation Service Provider**. Automation resources define automation plans, automation requests and automation results of the software development, test, and deployment lifecycle.

The relationships between Automation Resources is depicted in Figure 4:



*Figure 4: Relationships between Automation Resources.*

For the FBK tools, a specific OSLC Service Provider based on the OSLC Automation domain has been realized. Figure 5 shows the interactions between the OSLC Client (CHESS in this example) and the Service Provider:

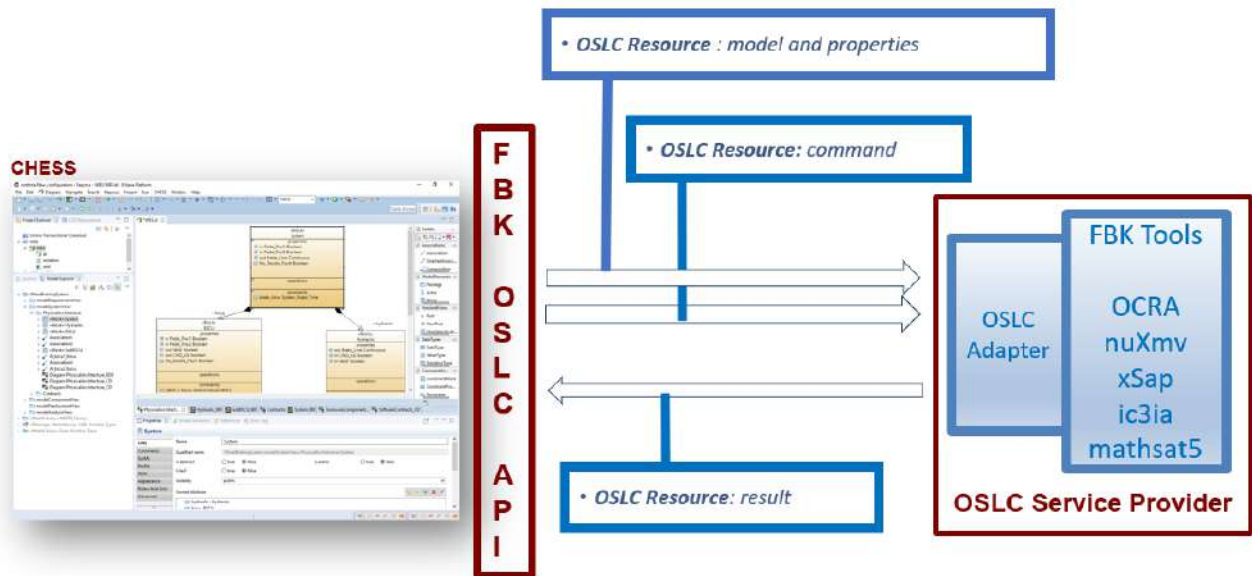


Figure 5: Interactions between the OSLC Client.

The functionality for the certification of Model Checking, that is proposed in this document, is composed of three steps that are performed in sequence:

1. Generation of VMT model from the SMV Model
2. Generation of SMT Proof Obligations from the VMT Model and Property
3. Checking of SMT Proof Obligations

Each step involves a different FBK Tool as shown in Figure 6:

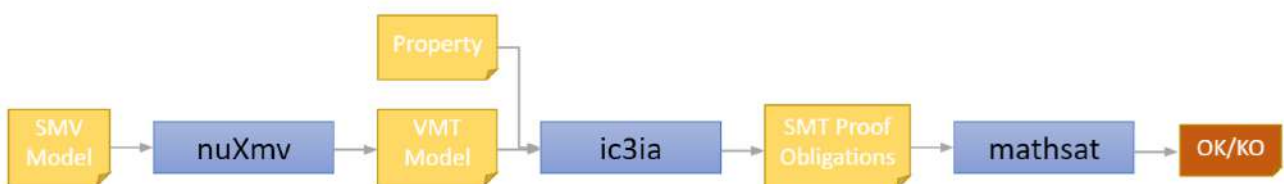
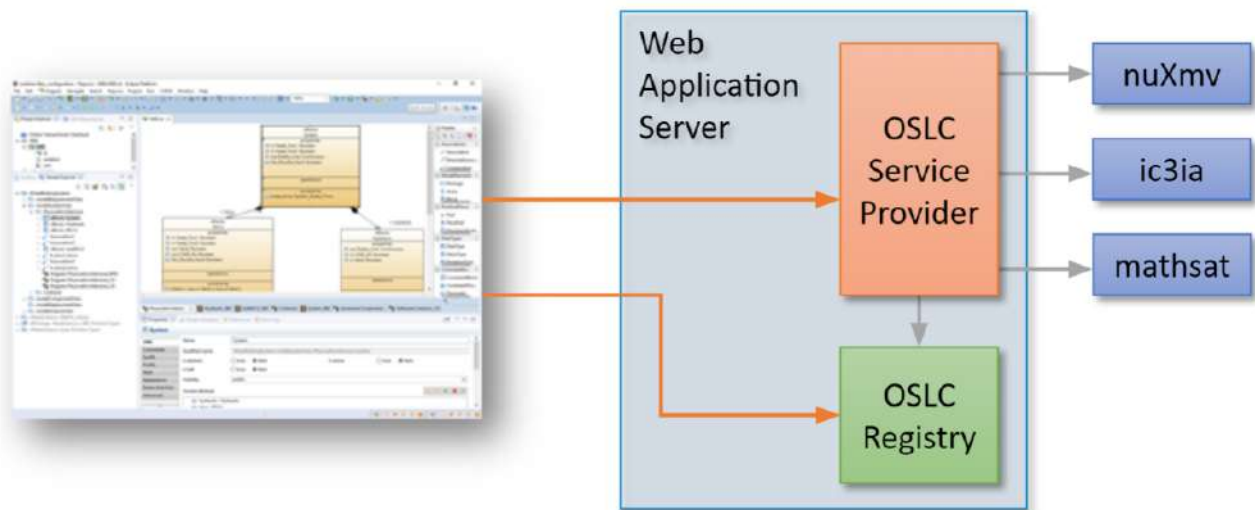


Figure 6: Steps involve in different FBK Tool.

The simplest integration and implementation of the tool chain through OSLC is realized by a web application server that runs the OSLC Registry (that lists the available services) and the OSLC Service Provider that interacts with the analysis tools.



## The Plans

The FBK tool functionalities are made available by means of Automation Plans; the title attribute of the Automation Plan selects the tool functionality. For the certification of Model Checking, the available plans are the following:

FBK Tool Functionality	Automation Plan Title
Generation of VMT Model	<code>nuxmv_vmt_model_generator</code>
Generation of SMT Proof Obligations	<code>ic3ia_proof_generation</code>
Check of SMT Proof Obligations	<code>check_satisfiability</code>

Each tool function admits some input parameters to be executed; they are listed following:





## OSLC Automation Plan

### nuxmv\_vmt\_model\_generator: nuxmv\_vmt\_model\_generator

<b>ID</b>	nuxmv_vmt_model_generator	
<b>Title</b>	nuxmv_vmt_model_generator	
<b>Description</b>	Generate the model with a single property in VMT format	
<b>Parameters:</b>		
	asynchronousExecution	[true, false]
	behaviourModel	
	checkType	[invar, ltlspec, ctlspec]
	properties	
	propertyIndex	
	timeout	



## OSLC Automation Plan

### ic3ia\_proof\_generation: ic3ia\_proof\_generation

<b>ID</b>	ic3ia_proof_generation	
<b>Title</b>	ic3ia_proof_generation	
<b>Description</b>	Generate the IC3IA proof	
<b>Parameters:</b>		
	asynchronousExecution	[true, false]
	checkWitness	[true, false]
	timeout	
	vmtModel	
	witness	[true, false]



## OSLC Automation Plan

### check\_satisfiability: check\_satisfiability

<b>ID</b>	check_satisfiability	
<b>Title</b>	check_satisfiability	
<b>Description</b>	Checks satisfiability of the ...	
<b>Parameters:</b>		
	asynchronousExecution	[true, false]
	smtQuery	
	timeout	

## Plan Execution Steps

The steps to follow for executing a remote function of the FBK tools via OSLC API are:

1. Find in the catalogue the URI of Service Provider
2. Ask to the Service Provider the Automation Plan that maps the desired tool function.
3. Create an Automation Request that links such Plan, set the input parameters (see the Plan for their definitions) and submit the Request to the service provider.
4. Once the request has been submitted, its status can be “in progress” or “completed” depending on if the request is synchronous or asynchronous.
5. If the request is synchronous, when the Request is completed, ask the Service Provider for the of the Automation Result that is linked to the Request. (See the Result property `<oslc_auto:producedByAutomationRequest>`)
6. If the request is asynchronous, poll the Service Provider by asking the status of the Request (see property `<oslc_auto:state>`) and, if completed, ask the Service Provider for the Automation Result that is linked to the Request.

## 3.5. Experiment within a sandbox

The following section evaluates the experiment of the OSLC based interaction within a sandbox, with snapshots of the sequence. We need two virtual machines (VM) to experiment with the OSLC base interaction in a sandbox.

As the first step, we select two tools named "FBK\_OSLC\_ServiceConsumer" for the SDE that consume the service and "FBK\_OSLC\_ServiceProvider" for the service provider from the Tools repositories from the left sidebar on the home page.



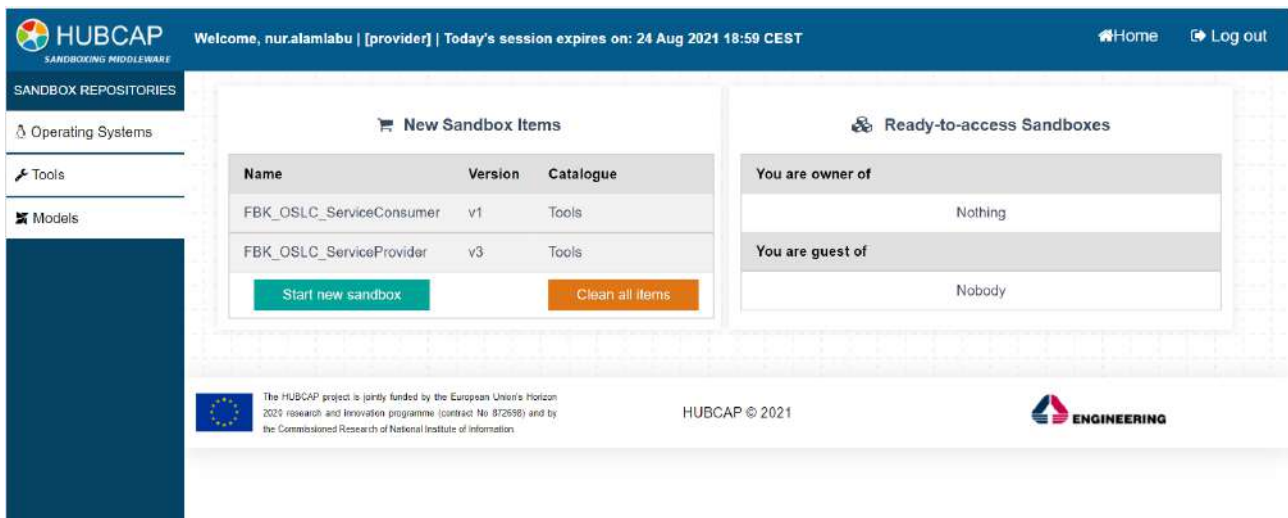


Figure 7: A cart (New Sandbox Items section) on the home page with two Tools.

Once both tools are selected, we can launch the new sandbox by clicking on the "Start new sandbox" button, available in the "New Sandbox Items" section of the home page (Figure 7). The Sandboxing Middleware will start to instantiate the desired Tools within a new Sandbox.

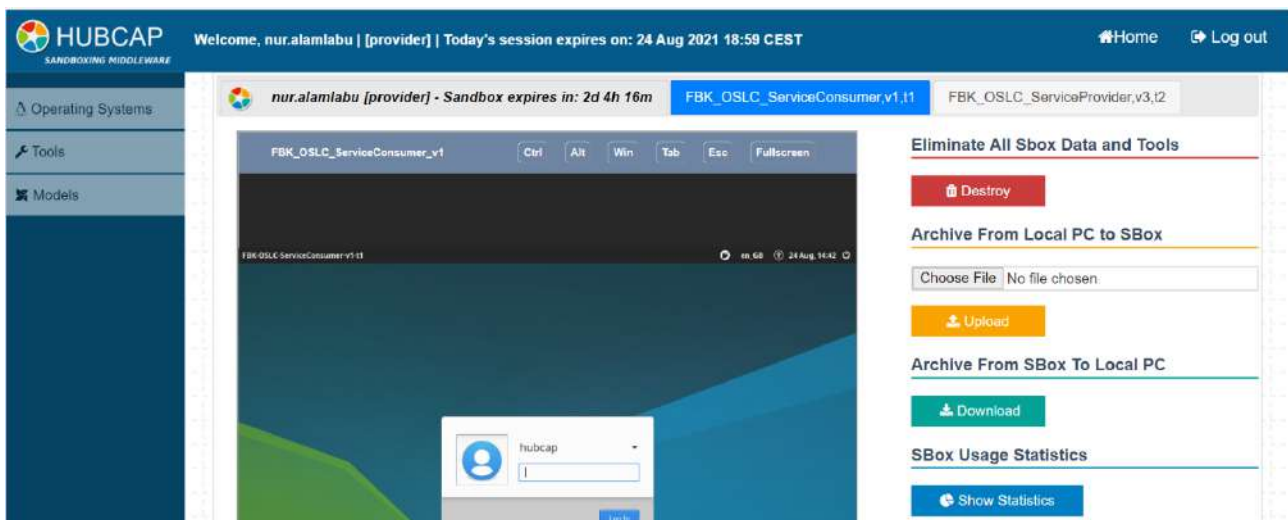
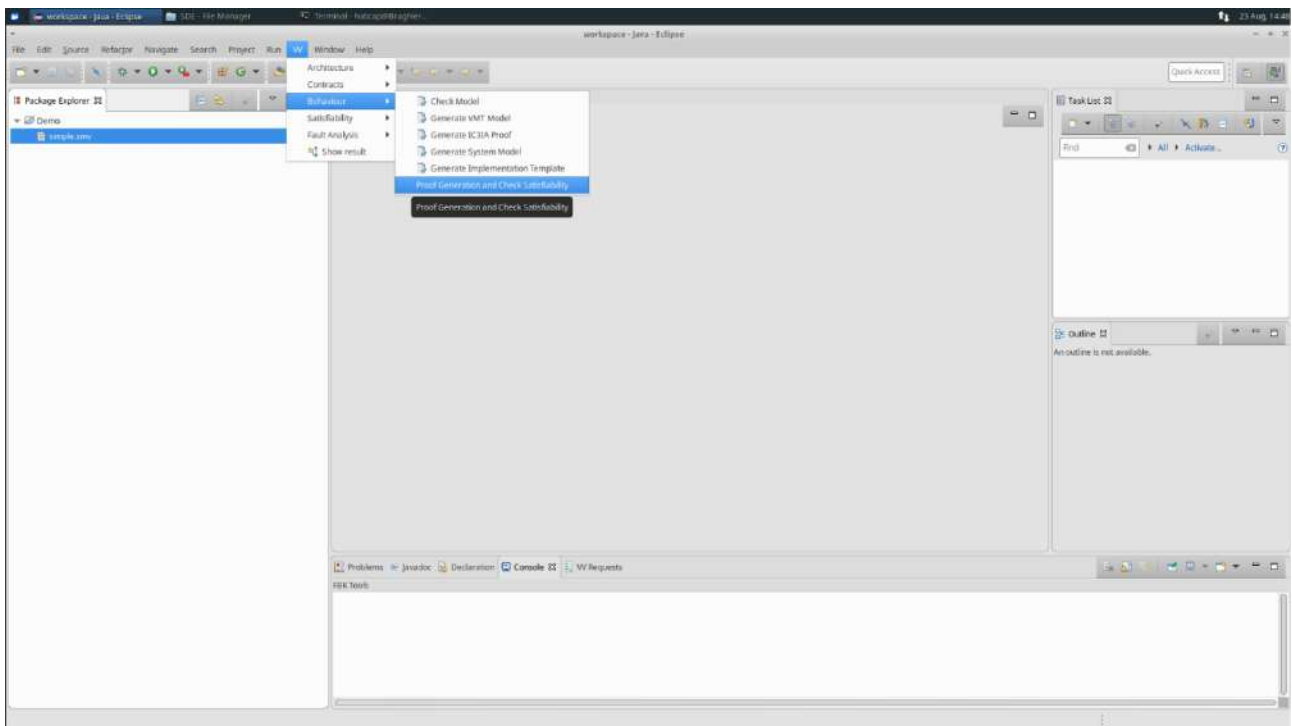


Figure 8: Two instances of two tools running in the Sandbox.

Once the instantiation process is complete, the Sandbox Viewer will be prompted (Figure 8). The Tool selector in the top area of Sandbox Viewer shows two separate Tools (Two different VMs called "FBK\_OSLC\_ServiceConsumer" and "FBK\_OSLC\_ServiceProvider").



*Figure 9: Eclipse SDE run in the “FBK\_OSLC\_ServiceConsumer” tool.*

Once the sandbox is ready, we run eclipse in the “FBK\_OSLC\_ServiceConsumer” VM then select the “simple.smv” file in the Demo project and after that select the menu VV->Behaviour->Proof Generation and Check Satisfiability (Figure 9).

One message will arrive in a dialog box when the proof generation and check satisfiability run successfully (Figure 10).

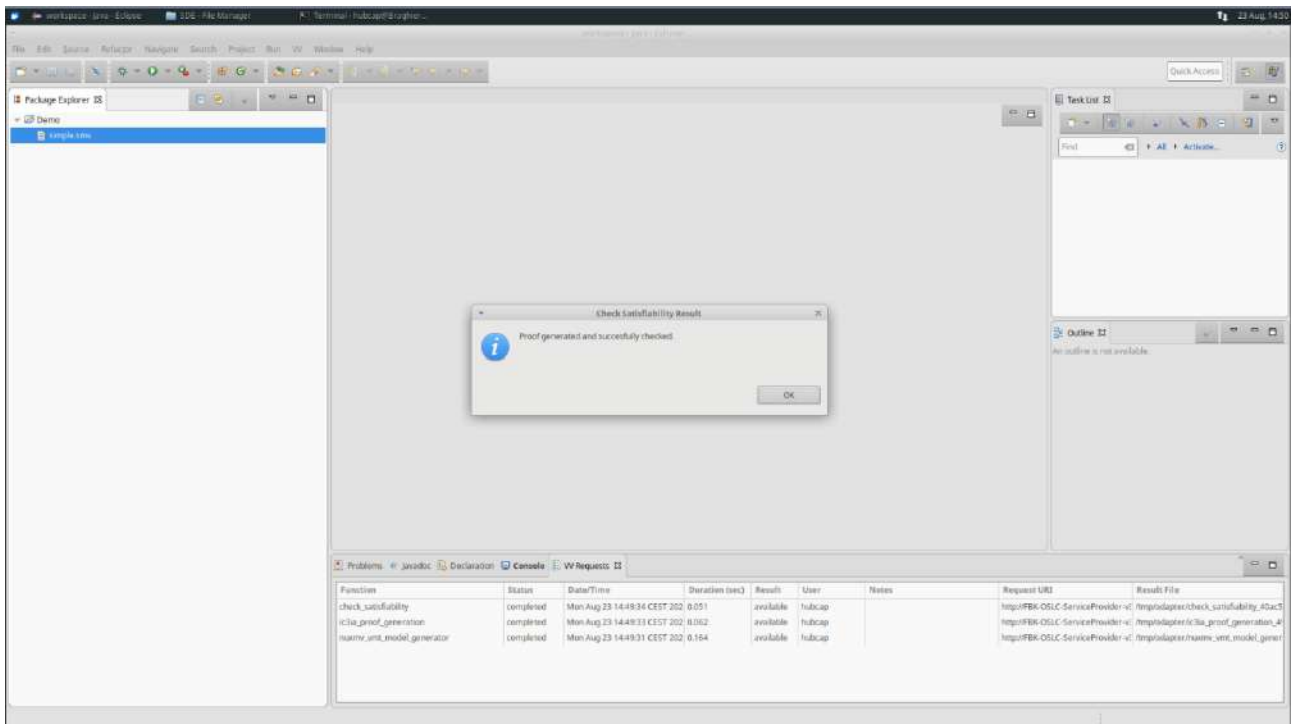


Figure 10: Message for the successful run.

The VV Request view will appear with three OSLC invocations to FBK tools (namely OCRA, nuXmv, xSAP, ic3ia and mathsat5) that are running in the second VM called "FBK\_OSLC\_ServiceProvider" (Figure 11).

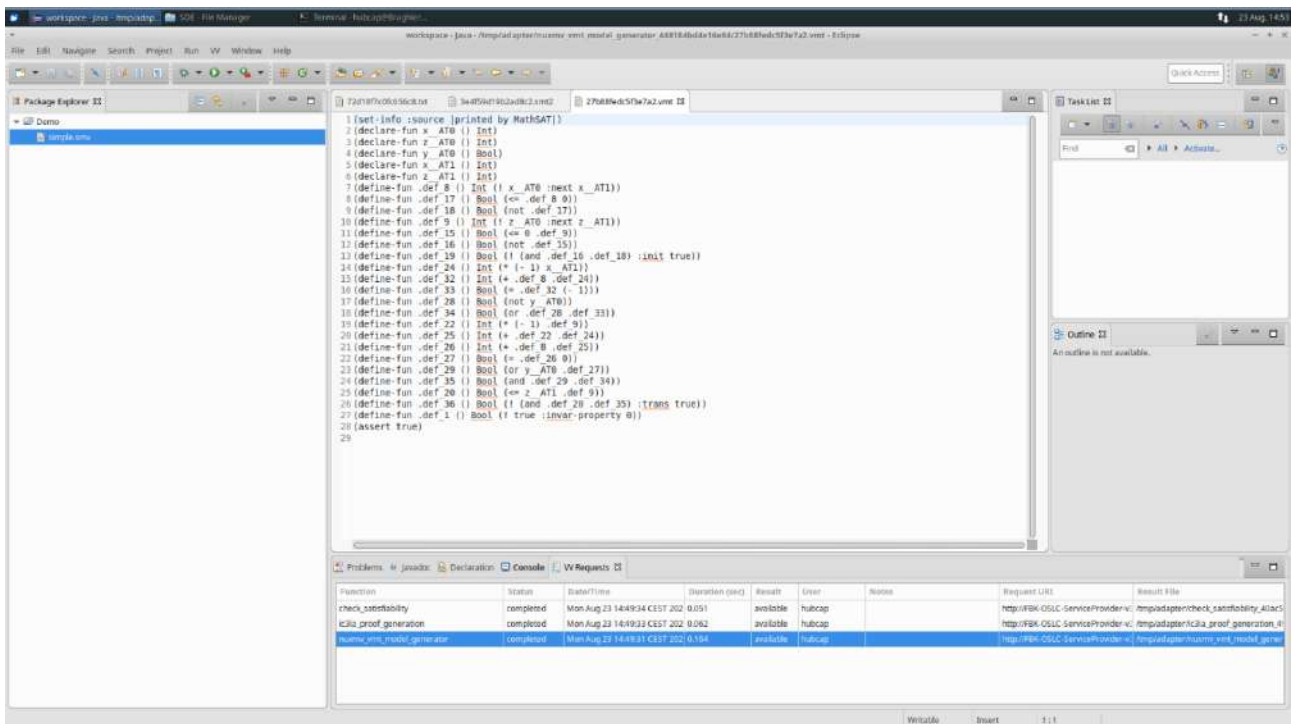


Figure 11: The result from VV Requests.

## 4. Diversification of analysis

A way to ensure that your system is modeled properly is to implement it in two different variants (diversification) either using the same or different paradigms. When using the same paradigm, using the same formalism and tool, it is often the case that two independently working teams are tasked with the same analysis goals. A redundant team is also used, but not necessarily when different paradigms are used to perform modeling and analysis using different methods or tools, thus leading to alternative variants of the same result. By analyzing the results obtained via running the variants one can reason about the correctness of the implemented solution. If the different variants lead to different analysis results, one of the following situations has arisen:

- the requirements were interpreted differently for the two systems (thus they might be ambiguous)
- one of the implementations is wrong and one is correct
- both implementations are wrong

If the results are equal or sufficiently similar, then one can say that:

- the various implementations of the system are most likely correct
- the various implementations of the system are all wrong and both are making the same mistake (which might come from an ambiguity in the requirements)

To illustrate a diversification of analysis exercise using different teams and paradigms we have implemented the same system, a water tank controller using:

- Modelica in OpenModelica
- The Vienna Development Method using the Overture tool
- SIDOPS+ in 20sim

### 4.1. Example - Single Water Tank

The single-tank water is a simple example that comprises a single water tank which is controlled by a cyber controller. When the water level of the tank reaches a particular level (defined in the controller) the controller sends a command to the system to open an exit valve, thus lowering the water level in the tank. A diagram of the example is shown in [Figure 12](#).

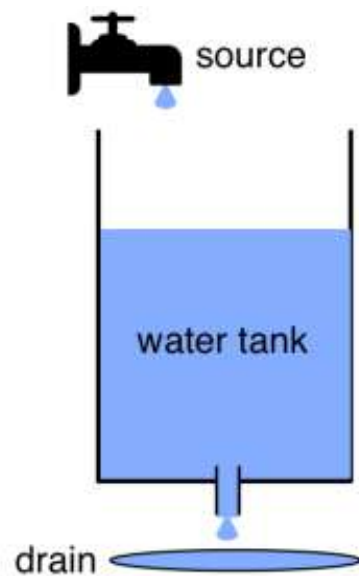


Figure 12. Single Water Tank example

We have implemented this system using several languages and modeling paradigms and compared the simulation results.

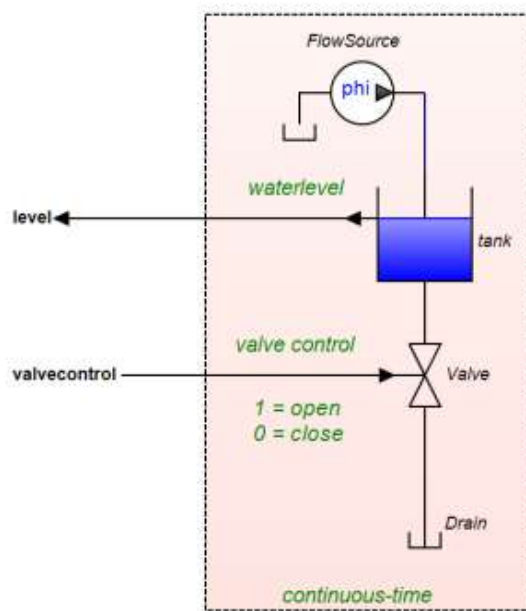


Figure 13. Single Water Tank example model in 20sim

The water tank model from Figure 13 was implemented in 20sim in a previous project and the source code can be found at: [https://gitlab.au.dk/into-cps/github-into-cps/case-study\\_single\\_watertank/-/blob/master/Models/Watertank.emx](https://gitlab.au.dk/into-cps/github-into-cps/case-study_single_watertank/-/blob/master/Models/Watertank.emx)

The controller used to control the tank was implemented using VDMRT in Overture and its specification is given below Figure 14:

```

class Controller
  instance variables
    levelSensor : LevelSensor;
    valveActuator : ValveActuator;

  values
    open : bool = true;
    close : bool = false;

  operations
    public Controller : LevelSensor * ValveActuator ==> Controller
    Controller(l,v)==
    (
      levelSensor := l;
      valveActuator := v;
    );

    private loop : () ==>()
    loop()==
      cycles(2)
      (-- retrieve the first value from Co-SIM
      let level : real = levelSensor.getLevel()
      in
      (
        if( level >= HardwareInterface`maxlevel.getValue())
        then valveActuator.setValve(open);

        if( level <= HardwareInterface`minlevel.getValue())
        then valveActuator.setValve(close);
      );
      );

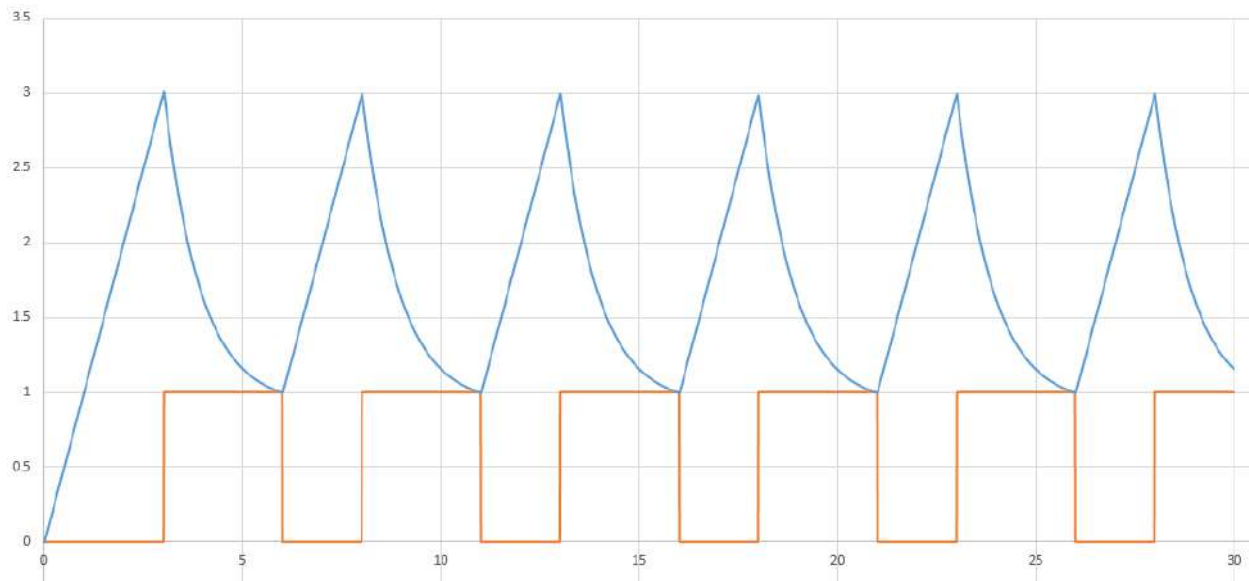
    thread
    periodic(10E6,0,0,0) (loop);

  end Controller

```

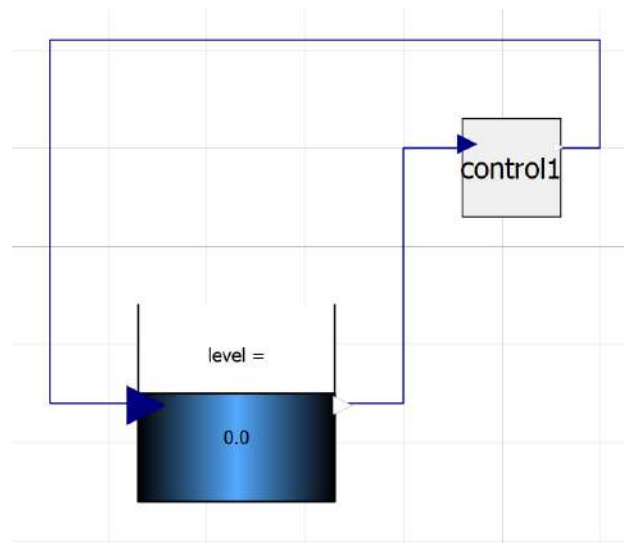
*Figure 14: Controller code for VDMRT in Overture.*

Both the Controller model and the WaterTank model were compiled into FMUs and co-simulated using the INTO-CPS COE. The results are presented in Figure 15.



*Figure 15. Co-simulation using FMUs from Overture for control and 20sim for the tank*

The same water tank system was modeled using Modelica for both the controller and the tank and then a test system was simulated using OpenModelica. The Modelica code is given further below. The visual representation of the system in Modelica is shown in Figure 16.



*Figure 16. Single Water Tank example model in Modelica*

The simulation of the system gave the results from Figure 17.

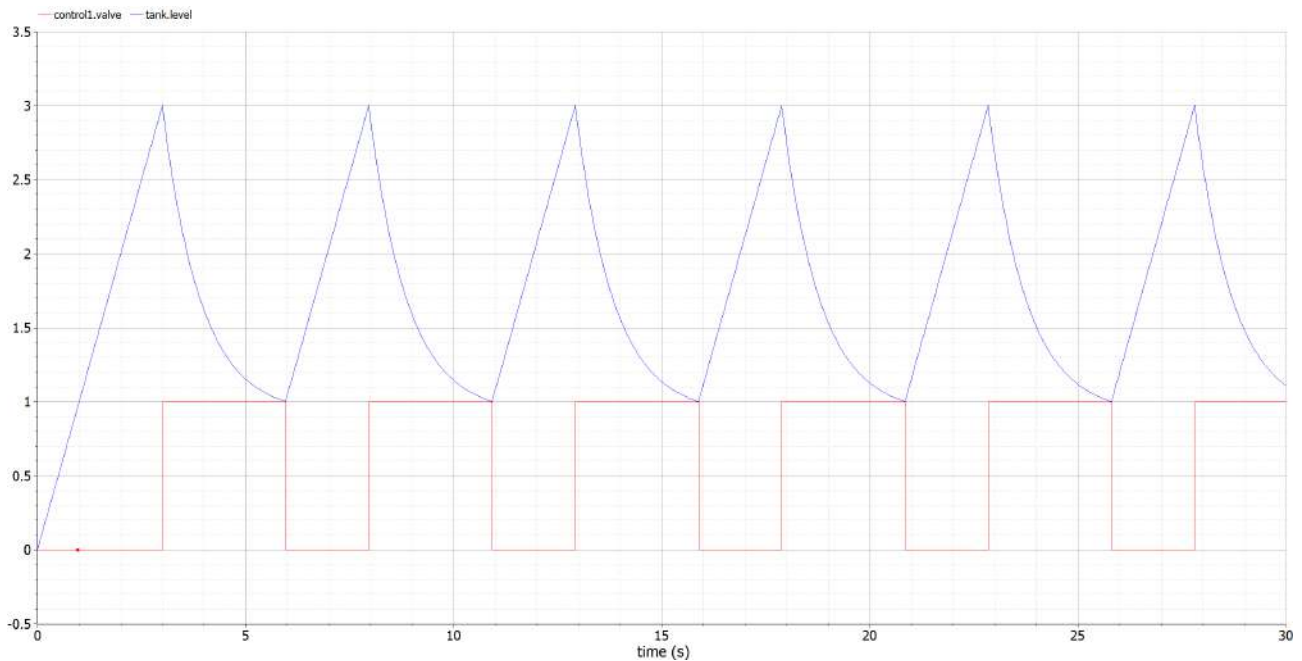


Figure 17. Simulation of the Single Water Tank example model in OpenModelica

The Modelica package containing the “SingleWaterTank” model, the “Control” model and the “TestSingleWaterTank” model is listed in the following:

```

package WaterTank
  model SingleWaterTank
    import Modelica.Constants.pi;
    import SI = Modelica.SIunits;
    // Tank
    parameter SI.Area area = 1.0 "Area of tank";
    parameter Real gravity = 9.81;
    parameter Real level_start = 0.0;
    parameter Real liquid_density = 1;
    parameter Real volume_initial = 0;
    Real volume(start = volume_initial);
    Real tank_p_f;
    Real tank_p_e;
    Real tank_p_phi;
    // Flow source
    parameter Real fs_phi = 1.0;
    Real fs_p_phi = fs_phi;
    Real fs_inflow;
    Real fs_p_p;
    // Valve
    parameter Real valve_outflow_int_initial = 0;
    Real valve_outflow_int(start = valve_outflow_int_initial);
    Real valve_puddle;
    Real valve_powerOut_e;
    Real valve_powerOut_f;
    Real valve_powerIn_phi;
    Real valve_powerIn_p;
  end model SingleWaterTank;

```



```

Real valve_outflow;
// Drain
Real drain_p_e;
Real drain_p_f;
parameter Real drain_r = 9;
Modelica.Blocks.Interfaces.RealInput valvecontrol;
Modelica.Blocks.Interfaces.RealOutput level;
equation
fs_inflow = if fs_p_phi < 0 then 0 else 0.1 * abs(fs_p_phi);
tank_p_e = gravity * volume * liquid_density;
level = volume / area;
valve_puddle = 8 * sqrt(valve_outflow_int);
valve_powerOut_e = if valvecontrol <> 0.0 then tank_p_e else 0.0;
drain_p_f = valve_powerOut_e / drain_r;
valve_powerIn_phi = if valvecontrol <> 0.0 then drain_p_f else 0.0;
valve_outflow = if drain_p_f < 0.0 then 0 else 0.1 * abs(drain_p_f);
tank_p_f = fs_p_phi - valve_powerIn_phi;
der(volume) = tank_p_f;
der(valve_outflow_int) = valve_outflow;
tank_p_phi = fs_p_phi;
fs_p_p = tank_p_e;
valve_powerIn_p = tank_p_e;
drain_p_e = valve_powerOut_e;
valve_powerOut_f = drain_p_f;
end SingleWaterTank;

model Control
parameter Real minlevel = 1;
parameter Real maxlevel = 3;

Modelica.Blocks.Interfaces.RealInput level;
Modelica.Blocks.Interfaces.RealOutput valve(start = 0);
equation
valve = if level >= maxlevel then 1.0
      elseif level < minlevel then 0.0
      else pre(valve);
end Control;

model TestSingleWaterTank
Control controll;
SingleWaterTank tank;
equation
connect(controll.valve, tank.valvecontrol);
connect(tank.level, controll.level);
annotation(
  uses(Modelica(version = "3.2.3")),
  experiment(StartTime = 0, StopTime = 30, Tolerance = 1e-06, Interval = 0.06));
end TestSingleWaterTank;
end WaterTank;

```

## Discussion

When comparing the system's response in Figure 15 and Figure 17, one observes the same results (apart from minor negligible differences due to arithmetic precision). When the tank reaches the maximum desired water level the controller opens the valve and when the water level reaches the minimum desired level the valve is closed. The two plots can be made to coincide with any precision,

but we have opted to work with the current approximation given that our goal is to exemplify how to increase confidence in models by analyzing different variants.

Having similar results for the same system using diversification via variant implementations in different languages and paradigms can give confidence in the system specification and its implementations. Yet, it would be difficult to do an exhaustive comparison with all the available tools in the HUBCAP platform. We expect this example provides an alternative for future research directions.

## 5. TRL arguments

The metric of Technology Readiness Level (TRL) was defined as a relevant parameter to be included in HUBCAP with the intention to give its users and stakeholders a better understanding on the level of development of the tools that form part of the platform. TRL was developed by NASA in 1995 to assess the level of maturity of technologies intended to be utilized in space missions. As this perspective was centred on the assessment of technologies developed in the aerospace field, this chapter will centre on the process of development of a TRL adapted for HUBCAP tools.

### 5.1. Context and motivations

As previously mentioned, TRL is a metric/measurement defined to support the assessment of maturity level of a particular technology [6]. Initially, this metric was developed with the intention to assess technologies for the aerospace industry.

Based on the first document created by NASA to define the TRL metric, the model can be adapted to different environments considering the next 5 important characteristics [6]:

- a. “Basic” Research in the technology or concept
- b. Focused technology development addressing specific technologies or concepts for an application
- c. Technological development of the application
- d. System development (fabrication phase)
- e. System “launch”

In the context of NASA, the model had initially 7 levels that some years later were extended to 9. The first level starts from a basic principle observed and reported and goes until the final level centred on the successful implementation of the system in operations. With time, TRL gained recognition in other fields of different industries. For this reason, it suffered different mutations to be adapted to the different areas. In the manufacturing industry, this metric gained high levels of attention, until being specifically addressed by the European Commission and was defined in the context of EU Horizon programs slightly different from the original definition of NASA as [7]:

TRL 1 – basic principles observed

TRL 2 – technology concept formulated

TRL 3 – experimental proof of concept

TRL 4 – technology validated in laboratory

TRL 5 – technology validated in relevant environment (industrially relevant environment in the case of key enabling technologies)

TRL 6 – technology demonstrated in relevant environment (industrially relevant environment in the case of key enabling technologies)

TRL 7 – system prototype demonstration in operational environment

TRL 8 – system complete and qualified

TRL 9 – actual system proven in operational environment (competitive manufacturing in the case of key enabling technologies or in space)

In the EU Horizon programs context, the TRLs were defined with the intention to narrow down the topics of the H2020. Additionally, the definition of this metric, gives an idea on the next steps that the project must follow and an initial iteration on the distance of the technology from the market.

In the context of HUBCAP, the definition of the TRLs became vital due to the fact that it can support stakeholders to define the current development step of the tool in discussion, identify its possible benefits and limitations and give a broad idea on the further steps that it will have.

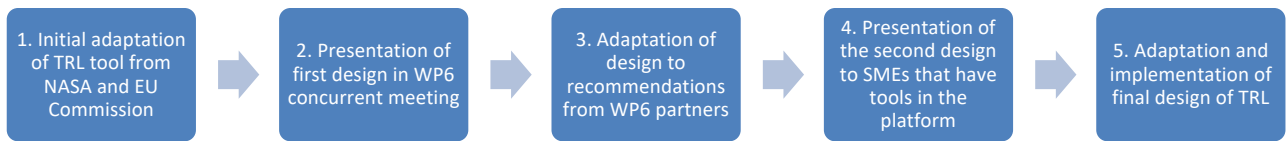
## 5.2. Guidelines for HUBCAP providers

Starting from the TRL definition made by the EU Commission and considering in addition the definition of each level made in the original white paper by NASA, each TRL was adapted to the tool context of HUBCAP. The main goal of the activity was not to modify in high level the definitions initially made by NASA. This with the intention to avoid loses in its concreteness and sophisticated perspective that it has from its initial application in aerospace. This due to the fact that the modification of the model can bring confusion if it is done to a high extent from its initial source [2].

Initially, the information regarding each one of the levels was first divided in columns to make it more readable and clearer to understand for the tool providers. To this end, 6 columns were created (later in the process expanded to 8):

- **Phase:** it defines a cluster where one or more levels are gathered and contain a common global objective
- **TRL:** number of the technology readiness level
- **Development stages:** name of the TRL
- **Development action taken:** it describes the action that should had been taken by the tool provider in order to ensure that they already reached each level
- **Cost of development:** an indicator of the usual costs that the level requires. This was taken specifically from the original white paper, but it can vary depending on the technology evaluated.
- **What to consider and examples:** this column describes facts to be considered while reflecting if the TRL analyzed is the correct one. Additionally, an example is given in each one of the levels
- **What question should the tool provider answer:** a question for the tool provider is defined to support their assessment on the definition of the correct TRL.
- **Output:** an output is defined for each one of the TRL. These outputs are recommendations as the type of reports and results can vary from provider to provider. For this reason, these recommendations can be presented in different formats or can be previous documents that maintain the same level of assurance of the TRL.

The process of design of the HUBCAP TRL is shown in the Figure 18:



*Figure 18: TRL adaptation process for HUBCAP context.*

1. The initial adaptation of TRL was done starting from the NASA and EU commission versions.
2. It was necessary to perform additional activities in order to verify the suitability of the TRL with the tools in HUBCAP. For this reason, some presentations of the tool were planned and executed. The first presentation was made in the usual status meetings of WP6.
3. The feedback gathered from the presentation in the WP6 meeting were:
  - a. Inclusion of output for each level of the TRL. The output was defined generally as it can have high variations from one to other company.
  - b. Corrections and clarifications of the definitions of each level. More specifically, the column “Development actions taken” were expanded to clarify them.
4. The second presentation was done as an additional activity where the tool was explained and commented with the SMEs that produce the tools. As these are the users of the tool, some additional corrections in terms of description and levels specifications were gathered.
5. The new feedback was implemented in the tool definition and then in the platform.

The resulting TRLs adapted to the HUBCAP context can be seen in the next tables.

Table 1. TRL definition in HUBCAP context - Part A

Phase	Phase 1		
TRL Number	1	2	3
Development stages	Basic principles observed and reported	Tool concept and/or tool formulation	Analytical and experimental critical function and/or characteristic proof of concept
Development action taken	Scientific research translated into applied research and development. Most relevant topics related with the tool end goal were investigated and applied to the tool methodology. This includes physical principles or basic topics over which the intended tool will be built on.	The tool is discussed and defined around the basic principles defined in the previous level. The previous topics converge in the definition of the tool objective, being merely speculative: without experimental proof or detailed analysis that supports the conjecture	Active R&D starts. Starting from the basic principles investigated and the definition of the tool, an appropriate context of the tools is defined, and studies are performed to validate that the analytical predictions are correct. This is translated into a "Proof of concept" of the tool concept.
Cost of development	Very low "unique" cost	Very low "unique" cost	Very low "unique" cost
What to consider in this stage and examples	The basic principles of the tool are researched. Ex: The analysis of the different types of the battery control methodologies	Practical applications of the basic principles are invented or identified. Ex: the potential application of a certain control methodology is explored, like its utilization for electric trucks	A proof of the concept over which the tool is build had been developed. Ex: If the tool is based on the implementation of a battery management system (BMS) for electric trucks, then this stage is achieved when it has been theoretically proven or modelled that the theoretical model behind the tool is feasible for the application. In the example: the theory behind the battery control has been proved.
What question should the tool provider answer?	[Is the tool basic principle already researched?]	[The applicability of the basic principles has been already explored?]	[Is the theory behind the tool and the application already theoretically proven for this type of applications?]

<b>Output</b>	<p>Documents about basic physical principles or basic topics over which the intended tool will be built on.</p> <p>Further information about how scientific research (with related references) has been translated into applied research and development.</p>	<p>Document reporting the tool objective connected with the physical principles and basic topics found in the previous stage.</p>	<p>Proof of concept of the tool.</p> <p>Document reporting the validation of the concept of the tool (feasibility analysis of tool/model)</p> <p>Document reporting requirements of potential real applications of the tool.</p>
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Table 2. TRL definition in HUBCAP context - Part B

Phase	Phase 1	Phase 2	
TRL Number	4	5	6
Development stages	Tool concept validation in laboratory digital environment	Tool concept validation in relevant environment	Tool prototype demonstration in a relevant environment
Development action taken	A validation in a digital environment must support the concept formulated in the previous step being consistent with the requirements of potential real applications	The basic tool elements must be integrated with reasonably realistic environments. The demonstration might represent an actual system application, or it might be like the planned application, but using the same technologies	A model or prototype system would be tested in a relevant environment. At this level, considering the NASA definition, if the only "relevant environment" is the space, then the model/prototype must be demonstrated in space. The demonstration might represent an actual system application, or it might only be like the planned application but using the same technologies. At this level, several-to-many new technologies might be integrated into the demonstration.
Cost of development	Low-to-moderate 'Unique' Cost	Moderate 'Unique' Cost	Technology and demonstration specific; a fraction
What to consider in this stage and examples	This validation can be done in a digital environment without considering all variables as in real application cases. Ex: Testing the tool with a virtual battery for a vehicle or truck	The validation in this stage must be done by implementing the tool in a similar environment than the application case. Ex: Testing the model for a truck battery control with a real truck or a similar vehicle	In this stage all the variables of the application are considered. Ex: In this stage, not only the model behind the tool must be tested, but also including additional variables such as movement, time, etc. which could affect the model of the tool.
What question should the tool provider answer?	[Is the Tool already tested in a digital environment proving that it is feasible to be applied?]	[Is the tool already tested and its results were taken to a similar environment to the real environment?]	[The previous test had been performed including external environment variables?]
Output	Report of the validation conducted in a digital environment	Tool prototype (Tool concept validated) Report of the validation of the tool concept in a relevant environment, showing conformity with the requirements previously defined.	Report of the demonstration of the tool prototype in a relevant environment considering additional variables of the application Validation of integrability with new technologies.

Table 3. TRL definition in HUBCAP context - Part C

Phase	Phase 2		Phase 3
TRL Number	7	8	9
<b>Development stages</b>	<b>Tool system prototype demonstration in an operation environment</b>	<b>Actual tool system completed with a test made in an environment similar to potential customer applications</b>	<b>Actual tool system proven to have successful application for customer needs</b>
<b>Development action taken</b>	<p>This TRL is not always implemented. In this case, the prototype should be near or at the scale of the planned operational system and the demonstration must take place in the specific conditions of the real operational environment of the tool. The driving purposes for achieving this level of maturity are to assure system engineering and development management confidence (more than for purposes of technology R&amp;D). Therefore, the demonstration must be of a prototype of that application. Not all technologies in all systems will go to this level. TRL 7 would normally only be performed in cases where the tool and/or subsystem application is mission critical and relatively high risk.</p>	<p>In this stage, the tool had been already tested in applications alike to the customer applications. In other words, the tool has been tested in a situation or application similar to the one that the potential customers would have.</p>	<p>All the tools that are being implemented by companies are in TRL 9. This stage is reached after <b>the end of the last "bug fixing" aspects of the tool development.</b></p>
<b>Cost of development</b>	Technology and demonstration specific, but a significant fraction of the cost of TRL 8	Typically, highest unique cost for a new technology	Mission Specific; less than cost of TRL 8



<b>What to consider in this stage and examples</b>	This stage is important in case that the tool is related with safety or critical risks for the customer company. Ex: If the battery control system includes the modelling of the support of security systems in the truck, the experiment must be performed including all the variables that can influence this.	The tool has to be tested in a real environment. Ex: Tested in a set of truck batteries.	The tool had been successfully implemented in real environments. Ex: The tool for battery control simulation had been tested in the application of an electric truck of a company with successful results in meeting customer needs.
<b>What question should the tool provider answer?</b>	[In case the tool has critical risk or security concerns, it has been tested in a real environment with the variables that affect these risks?]	[Is the tool already tested in a real environment as the ones that customers would use it on?]	[Is the tool already proven with customers and showed that it successfully meets their requirements?]
<b>Output</b>	Tool system prototype (Proven in risk environments) Document reporting the demonstration of the tool/system prototype in an operational environment granting that critical risks and security concerns had been considered.	Functional tool Document reporting the test made in a similar environment to the one that the potential customers would have.	Report of tool deployment in a customer application environment.

The tool provider must check each one of the levels to evaluate their current TRL. In addition, it is important to highlight that if the tool is already in the market, then it is in the last level of development, and from that point, TRL cannot be utilized to keep defining further development. If the tool evolves, then it may go back to a lower level of development due to new considerations in its design.

### **5.3. Tools catalogue enhanced with TRL arguments**

The results from the adoption of the TRL model defined for HUBCAP brought successful results as each provider was able to better define their current level of development, provide a short description of this state of development, and additionally, generate further documentation that can be accessed and exploited by the stakeholders. As the TRL model is a new feature, not all the tool providers have yet been able to offer a complete documentation of their current TRL. As a summary, from all the tools included in the platform:

- 27% have a complete description and documentation on their TRL
- 73% have an incomplete definition of TRL that misses the proof documentation which is currently being developed to be included

After the implementation of the tool, new feedbacks were gathered. Some items from this feedback are mentioned here:

- Inclusion of additional details for the documents being uploaded into the platform. At the moment, the format is not specified as it can highly vary from company to company. The next development of the tool will imply the definition of a list of types of verification documents that can be utilized in the various stages of the TRL.
- Inclusion of the verification of TRL definition in the Quality Assurance (QA) process that is currently being designed in the T6.5. This with the intention to verify that the TRL is correctly defined and that the documents uploaded are coherent with the level specified. This due to the fact that even when specifications regarding the documents had been given, some partners do not comply with them, making necessary the implementation of a verification process.

## **6. Summary**

This document reports on the deliverable D6.4, which consists of the version of contents that populate the models and tools catalogue on the HUBCAP platform. These contents count now more than one hundred assets among models and tools. In this document we focused on the enhancement of the MBD tools to validate their results and the new fields in the catalogues added to support TRL claims. In the next deliverables, the platform will be enriched further by guidelines and videos to help the user in using the tools and the platform itself.

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