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# Model-Based Systems Engineering Backbone of the Thales Engineering Manifesto

**MBSE Symposium, Canberra – Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

Olivier Flous, VP Engineering

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## Collective intelligence for a safer world

Whenever critical decisions need to be made, Thales has a role to play. In all its markets — aerospace, space, ground transportation, defence and security — **Thales solutions help customers to make the right decisions at the right time and act accordingly.**

World-class technology, the combined expertise of **65,000 employees** and operations in **56 countries** have made **Thales a key player in keeping the public safe and secure**, guarding vital infrastructure and protecting the national security interests of countries around the globe.

### Employees

 **65,000**

(workforce under management at 31 Dec. 2012)



### Global presence

 **56** countries

### Research and development

 **2.5** billion euros  
(approx. 20% of revenues)

### A balanced revenue structure

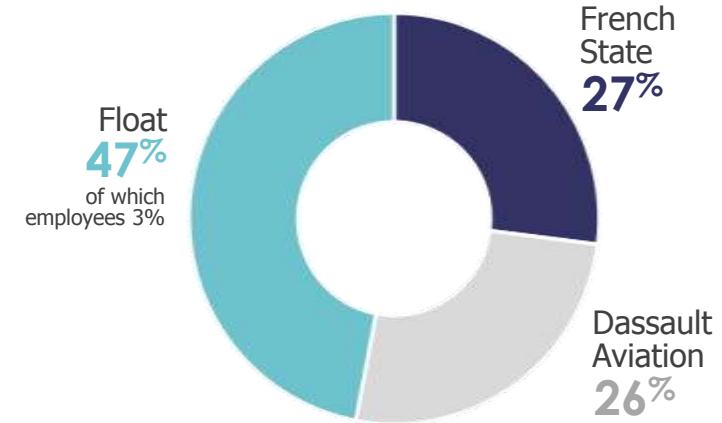


### Revenues in 2012

 **14.2** billion euros

### Shareholders

(at 31 May 2013)



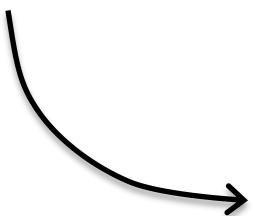
# Thales: A Wide Spectrum of Complex Systems

<b>N 1</b> worldwide	 Payloads for telecom satellites	 Air Traffic Management	 Sonars	 Security for interbank transactions
<b>N 2</b> worldwide	 Rail signalling systems	 In-flight entertainment and connectivity	 Military tactical radiocommunications	<b>€14 billion in revenues</b>
<b>N 3</b> worldwide	 Avionics	 Civil satellites	 Surface radars	

# MBSE in Thales: Arcadia & Capella

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## INCOSE System Engineering Vision 2025



**Current Systems Engineering Practices and Challenges**

Current systems engineering practice, based on well-defined processes and innovative analytic approaches, has demonstrated significant value to stakeholders, but in the future, the systems community must tackle many new fundamental interdisciplinary and integration-related challenges.

**FIVE SYSTEMS ENGINEERING CHALLENGES**  
*Adapted from Todd Bayer, Jet Propulsion Laboratory*

1	Mission complexity is growing faster than our ability to manage it . . . increasing mission risk from inadequate specifications and incomplete verification.	4	Knowledge and investment are lost between projects . . . increasing cost and risk: dampening the potential for true product lines.
2	System design emerges from pieces, rather than from architecture . . . resulting in systems that are brittle, difficult to test, and complex and expensive to operate.	5	Technical and programmatic sides of projects are poorly coupled . . . hampering effective project risk-based decision making.
3	Knowledge and investment are lost at project life cycle phase boundaries . . . increasing development cost and risk of late discovery of design problems	6	Most major disasters such as Challenger and Columbia have resulted from failure to recognize and deal with risks. The Columbia Accident Investigation Board determined that the preferred approach is an "independent technical authority".

20 • The Current State

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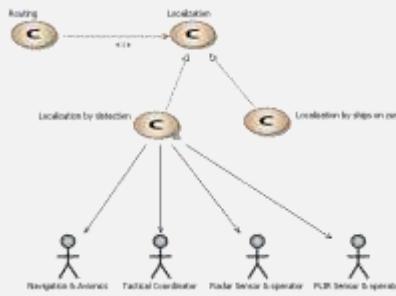
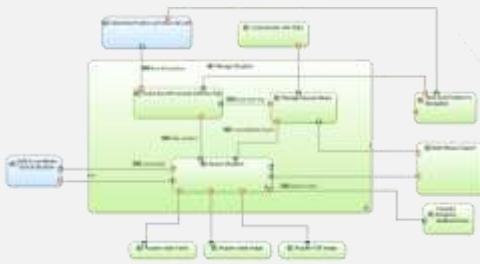
Market



Model-Based  
Systems  
Engineering

- Systems are more complex
- Do more... cheaper and faster, with more constraints

- Better quality of developed systems: Integration, seamlessness, consistency, traceability
- Early validation
- Better productivity of engineering activities
- Collaborative engineering
- Best practice & know-how capitalization



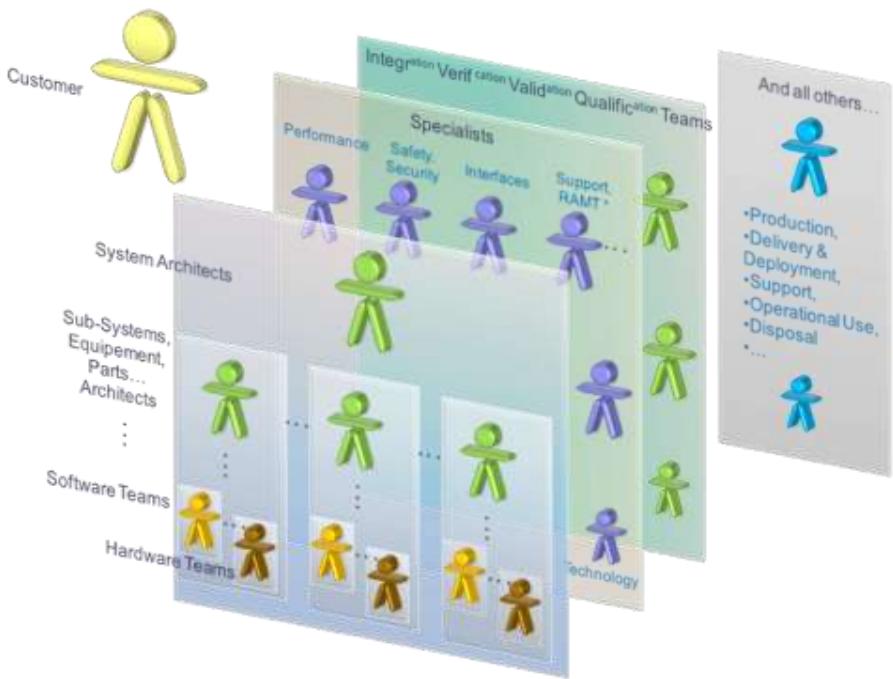
**How to improve quality, productivity, agility and flexibility of overall engineering?**



## How to improve quality, productivity, agility and flexibility of overall engineering?



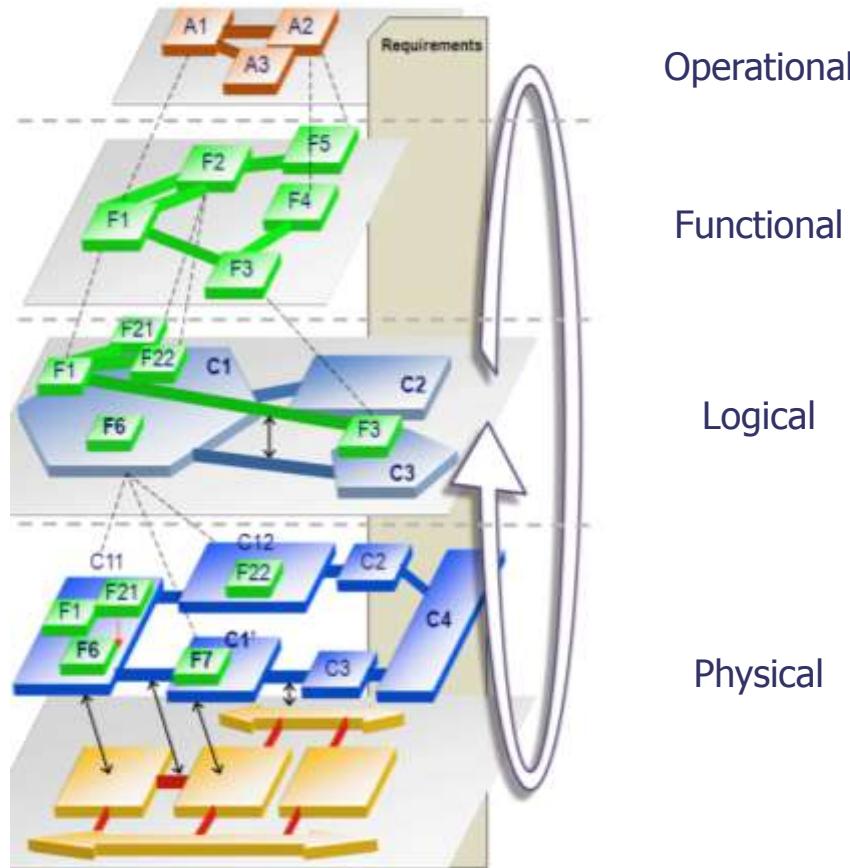
- Eco-system wide collaboration
  - A single architecture reference



## How to improve quality, productivity, agility and flexibility of overall engineering?



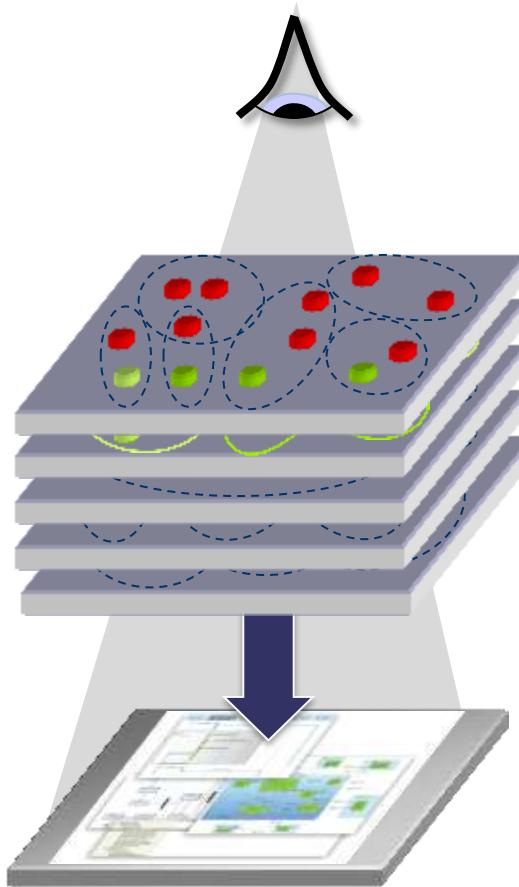
- Eco-system wide collaboration
  - A single architecture reference
- Complexity mastering
  - Multi-level engineering
  - Separation of concerns



## How to improve quality, productivity, agility and flexibility of overall engineering?



- Eco-system wide collaboration
  - A single architecture reference
- Complexity mastering
  - Multi-level engineering
  - Separation of concerns
- Concurrent engineering
  - Integrated specialty engineering
  - Early validation
  - Trade-off analysis



### ViewPoints

- etc.
- Product Line
- Human Factors
- Performance
- Security
- Safety



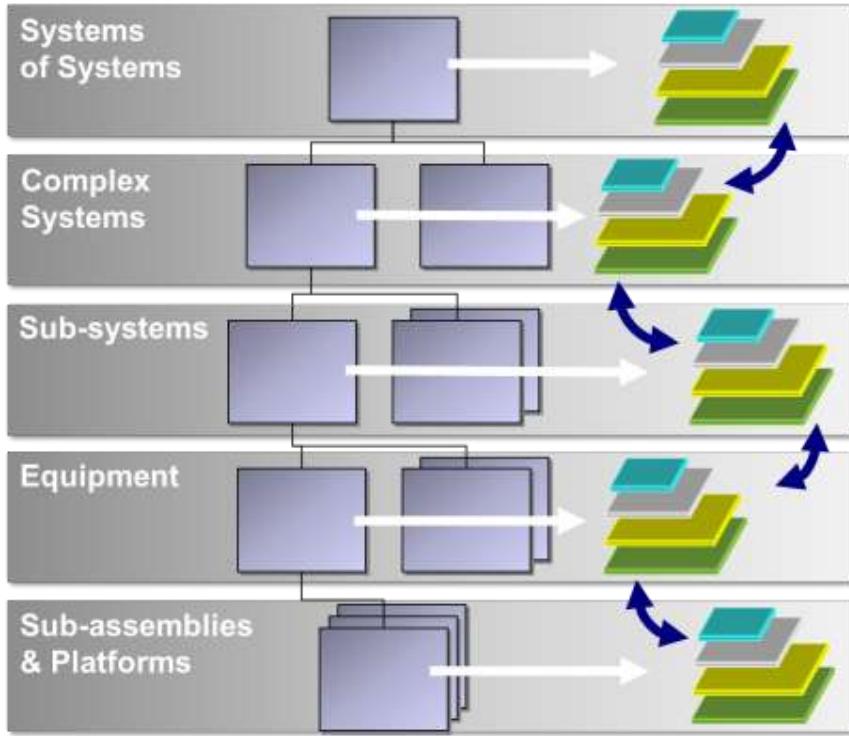
### Evaluation Rules

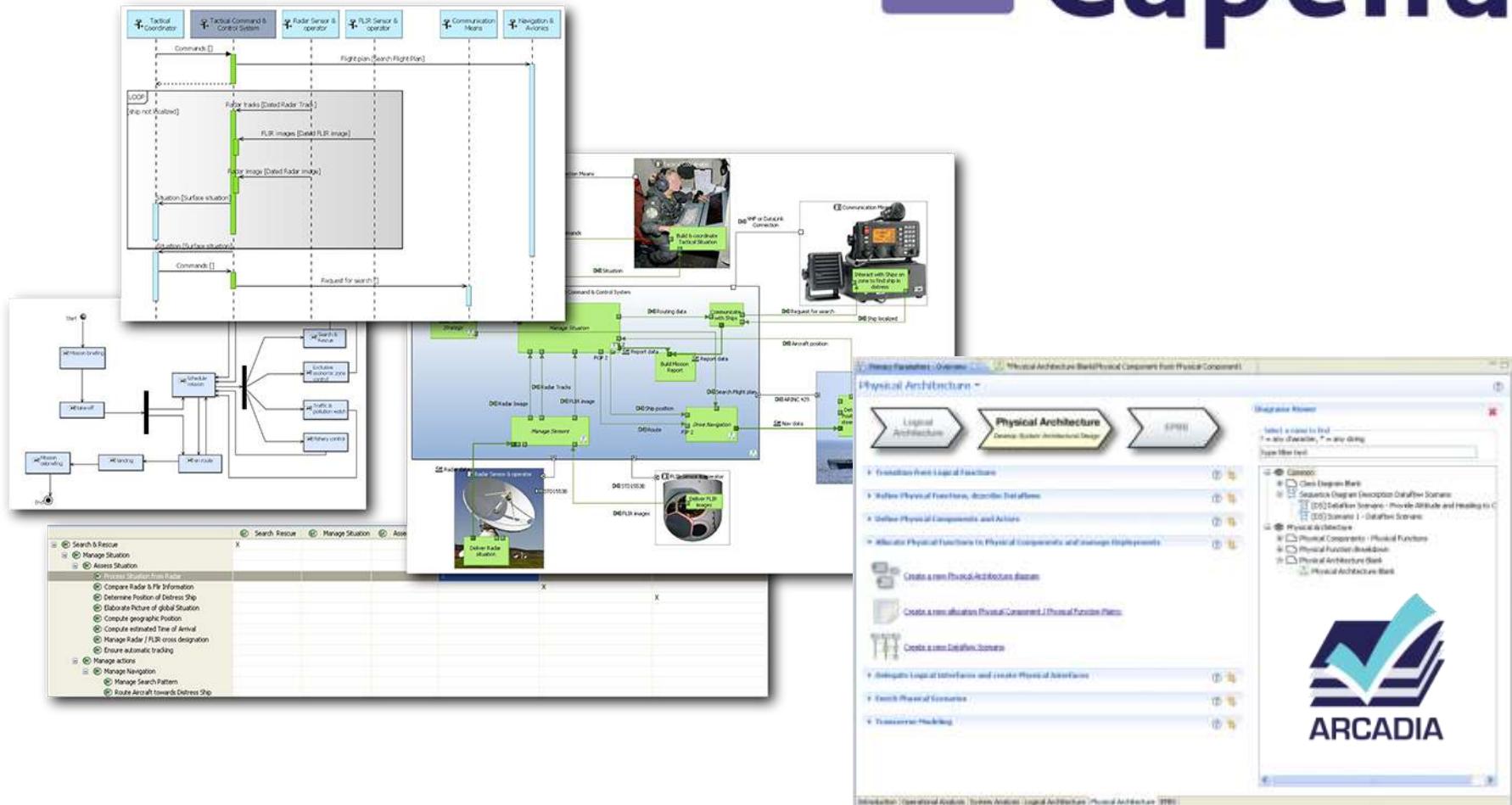
### Solution Architecture

## How to improve quality, productivity, agility and flexibility of overall engineering?



- Eco-system wide collaboration
  - A single architecture reference
- Complexity mastering
  - Multi-level engineering
  - Separation of concerns
- Concurrent engineering
  - Integrated specialty engineering
  - Early validation
  - Trade-off analysis
- Mastering transitions
  - Information refinement
  - Consistency maintenance
  - Multi-level impact analysis





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- **Guidance**  
[Embedded methodological browser]
- **Complexity management**  
[Abstraction via computed information]
- **Productivity tools**  
[Automated transitions and diagram creation accelerators]
- **Model Analysis & Navigation**  
[Model validation, semantic browser]
- **Multi-criteria analysis**  
[Viewpoints and management framework]



**First operational deployments in 2009**

**Now used on all major engineering projects**



**Currently being Open Sourced**

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# MBSE Roll-out: A Major Engineering Transformation

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**Initial Costs**

**Method & Tool  
Governance**

**Training &  
Coaching**

**MBSE  
in Thales**

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## Initial Costs

- **Arcadia method and Capella core model**

2 years of intense workshops to get engineers from different domains with different backgrounds **speak the same language.**

- **Capella development**

Joint effort between method experts, tool/modeling experts and operational practitioners.

**Focus on what was missing in COTS.**

100 my investment, 3-4 years of maturing  
Separation of business (Capella) and foundations (Sirius and Kitalpha)



## Method and Tool Governance

- **End-users as major actors of orientations**

Clear need capture and collaborative priority definition processes

- **Low-to-high TRL transition process**

**Business-driven incubation** of low-TRL solutions  
Gate-based industrialization process

- **Strong and active community of experts / users**

**Network of experts** in business units & at Group-level  
Sharing of return on experience, tool add-ons, etc.



## Training and Coaching

- **Rich training offer**

Group-funded training plan  
1000+ engineers trained in the past 5 years

- **Coaching**

Training not sufficient: **Operational coaching is a key**  
Special focus on flagship projects  
Definition of modelling strategy, stopping criteria, guidelines

# Return on Experience Return on Investment

## High momentum of adoption worldwide in Thales: MBSE meets expectations and fills gaps

First time a brand new engineering approach is adopted so quickly in all Thales Units.

Indicates a real need.

## Enhanced collaboration and understanding between engineers from different domains

Goes beyond architecture design: Favours technology incubation and helps define Group-wide solutions for Product Line management, IIV management, etc.

## MBSE allows to tackle engineering weaknesses

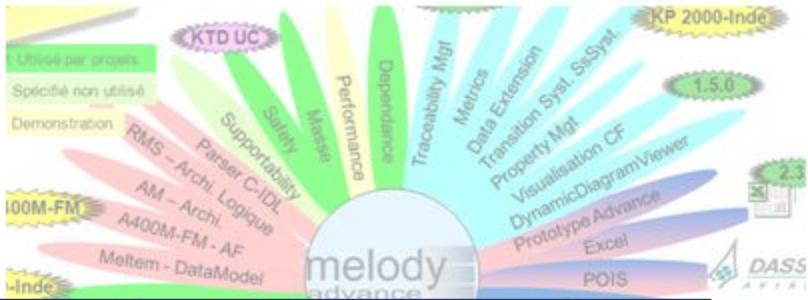
Justification of interfaces (acknowledged by certification authorities on some projects)

Mastering the ups and downs of IVV

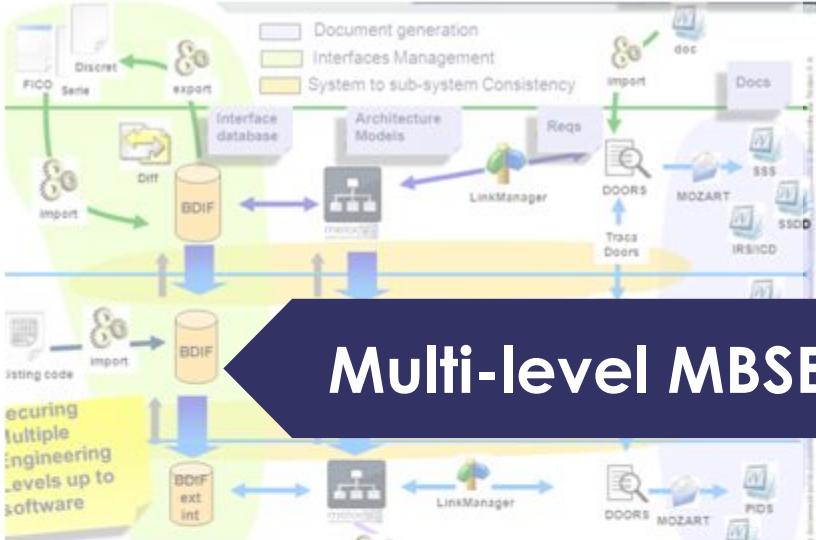
## Document generation, Code generation in many cases

Improved productivity and quality

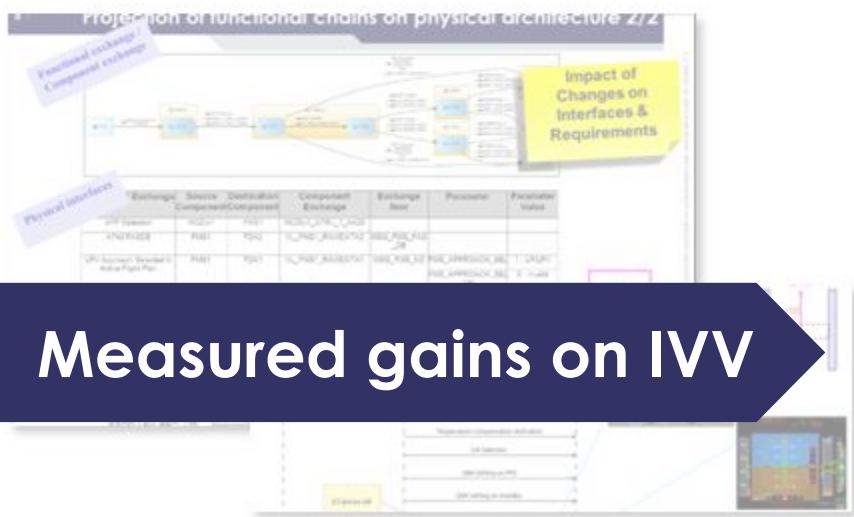
**Certification authorities start to require MBSE**



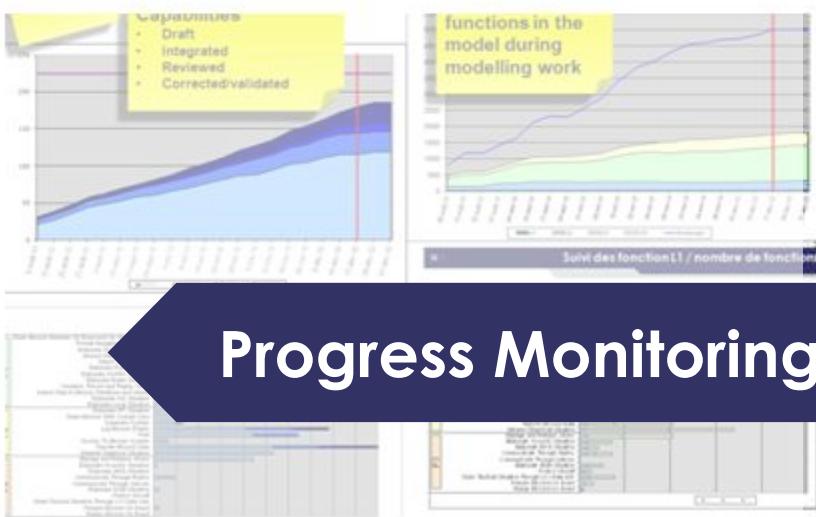
## Capella customisations



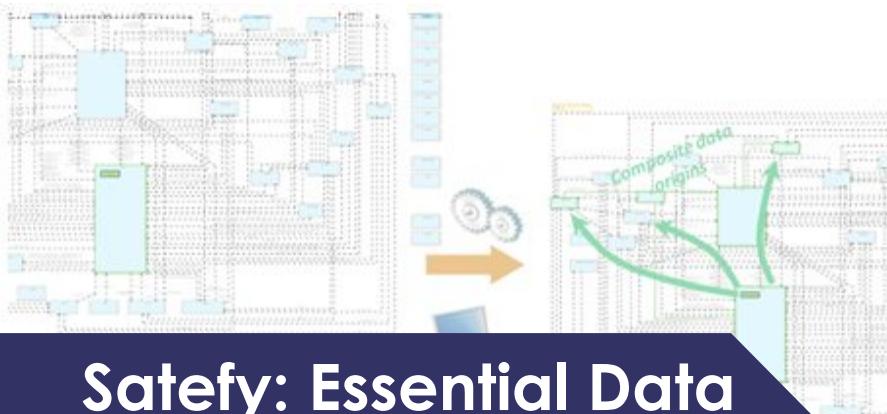
## Multi-level MBSE



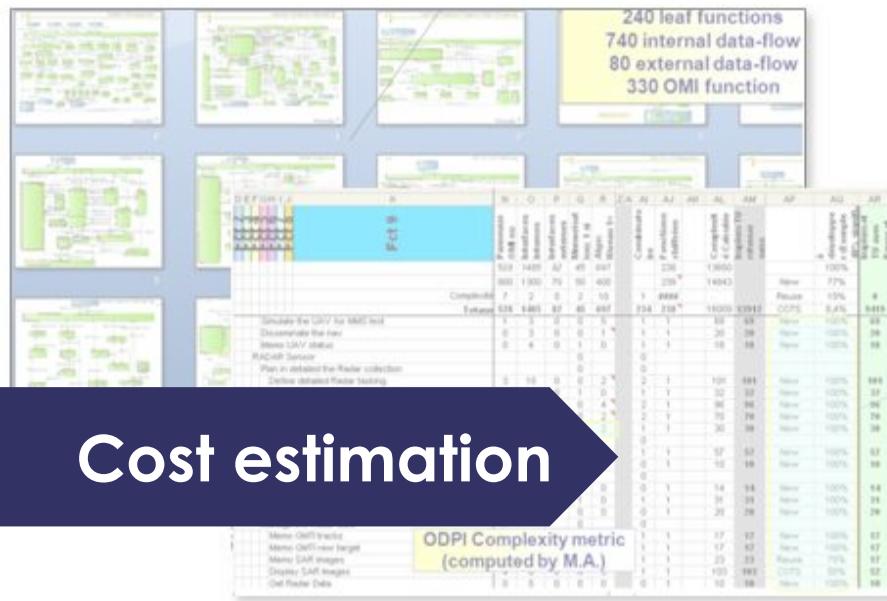
## Measured gains on IVV



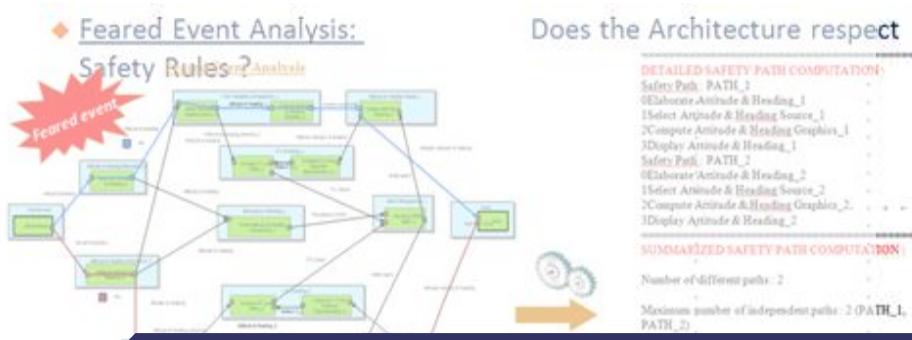
## Progress Monitoring



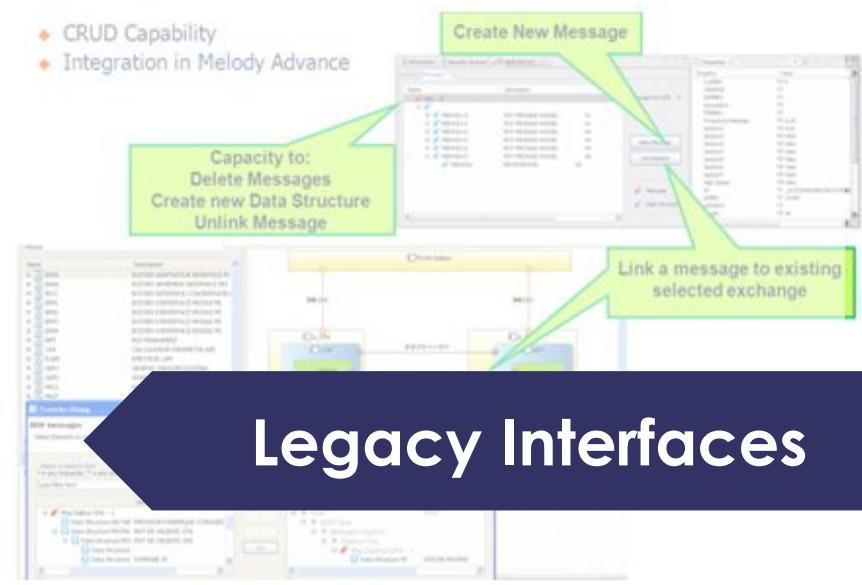
## Safety: Essential Data Prototype



## Cost estimation



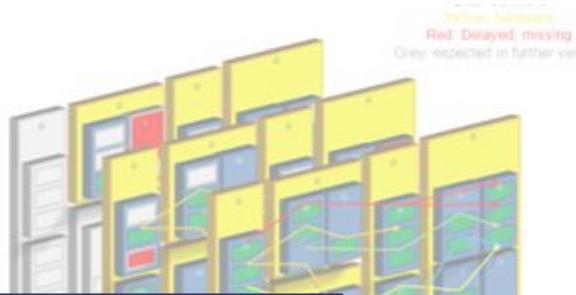
## Safety Rules verification Prototype



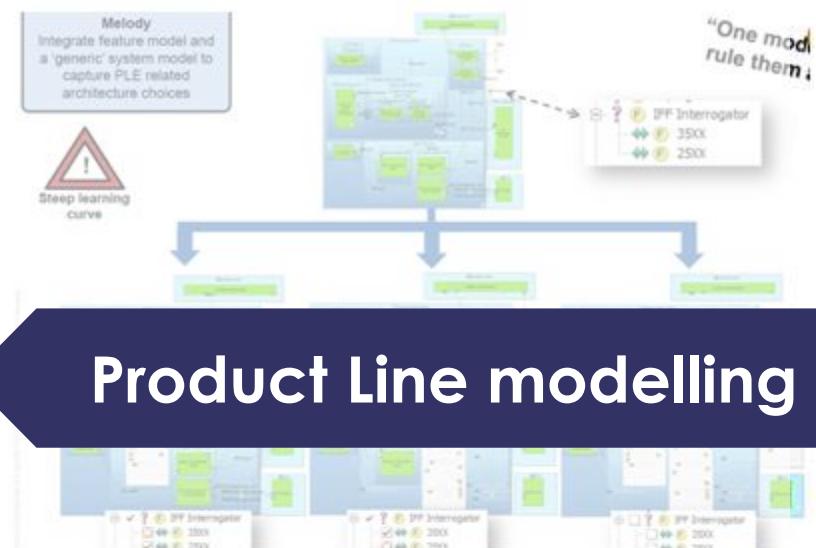
## Legacy Interfaces



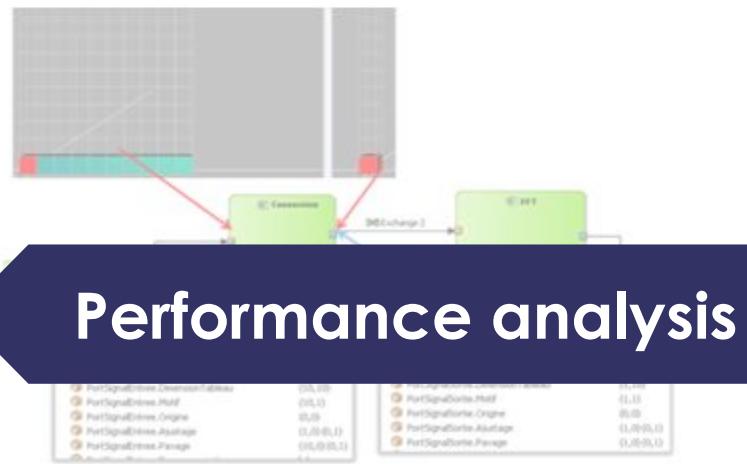
## Code generation



## Model-driven IVV

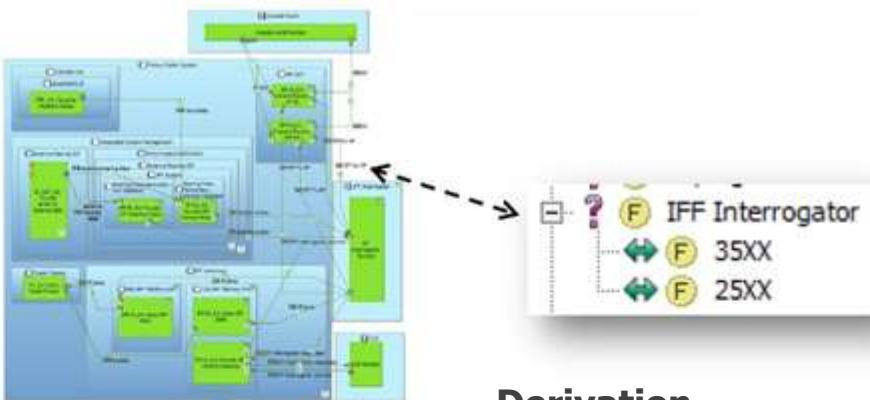
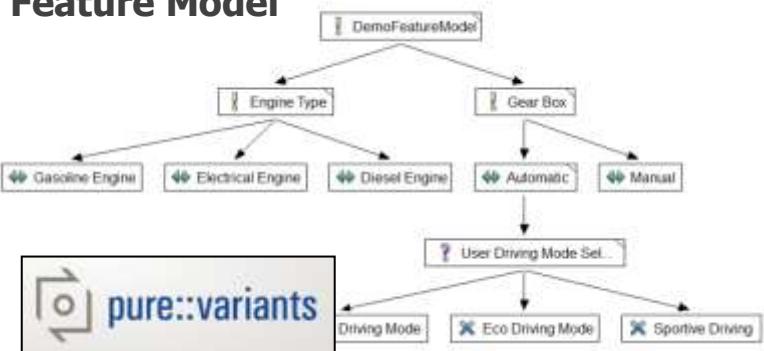


## Product Line modelling

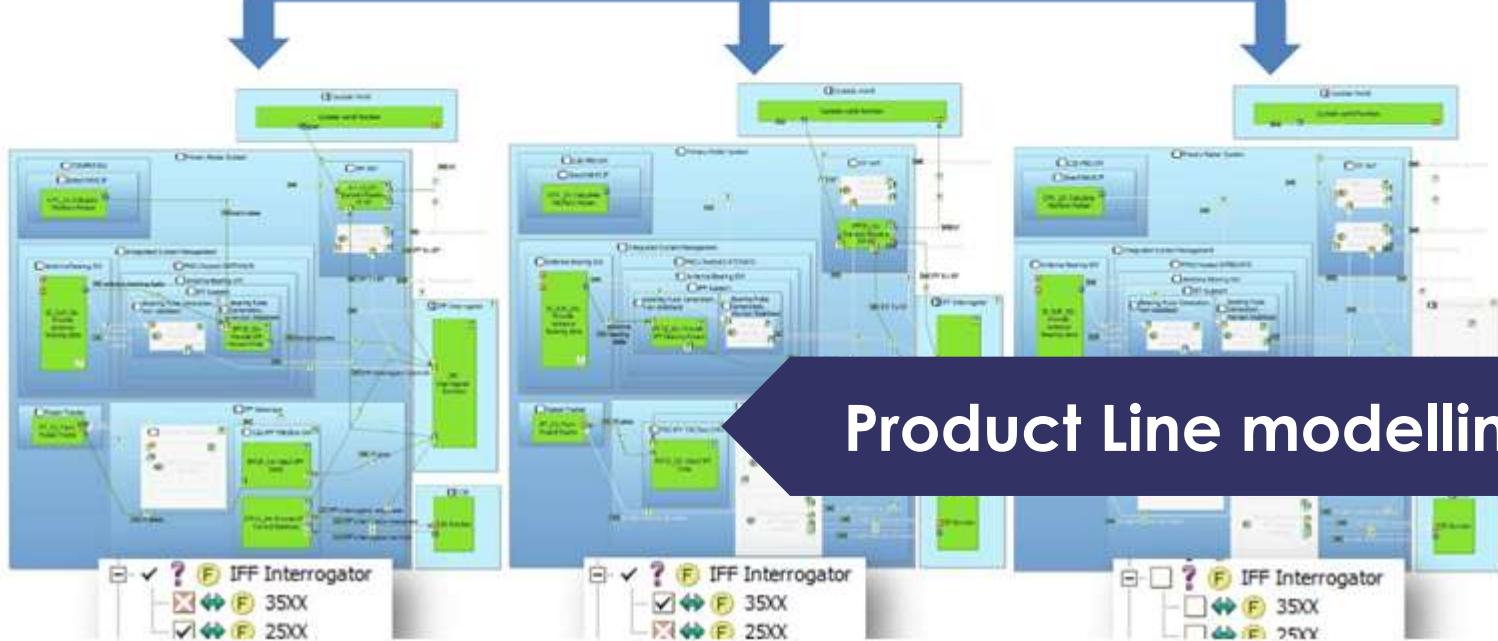


## Performance analysis

## Feature Model



## Derivation



## BEST PRACTICES

- **Have clear modelling objectives**
- **Share models with all stakeholders, make them THE reference**
- Define and share guidelines
- **Organize regular model reviews**
- Measure model progress
- Give different purposes to diagrams:  
Model building, communication,  
documentation, model analysis, etc.
- **Involve lower-level engineering teams in co-engineering**
- ...



## PITFALLS

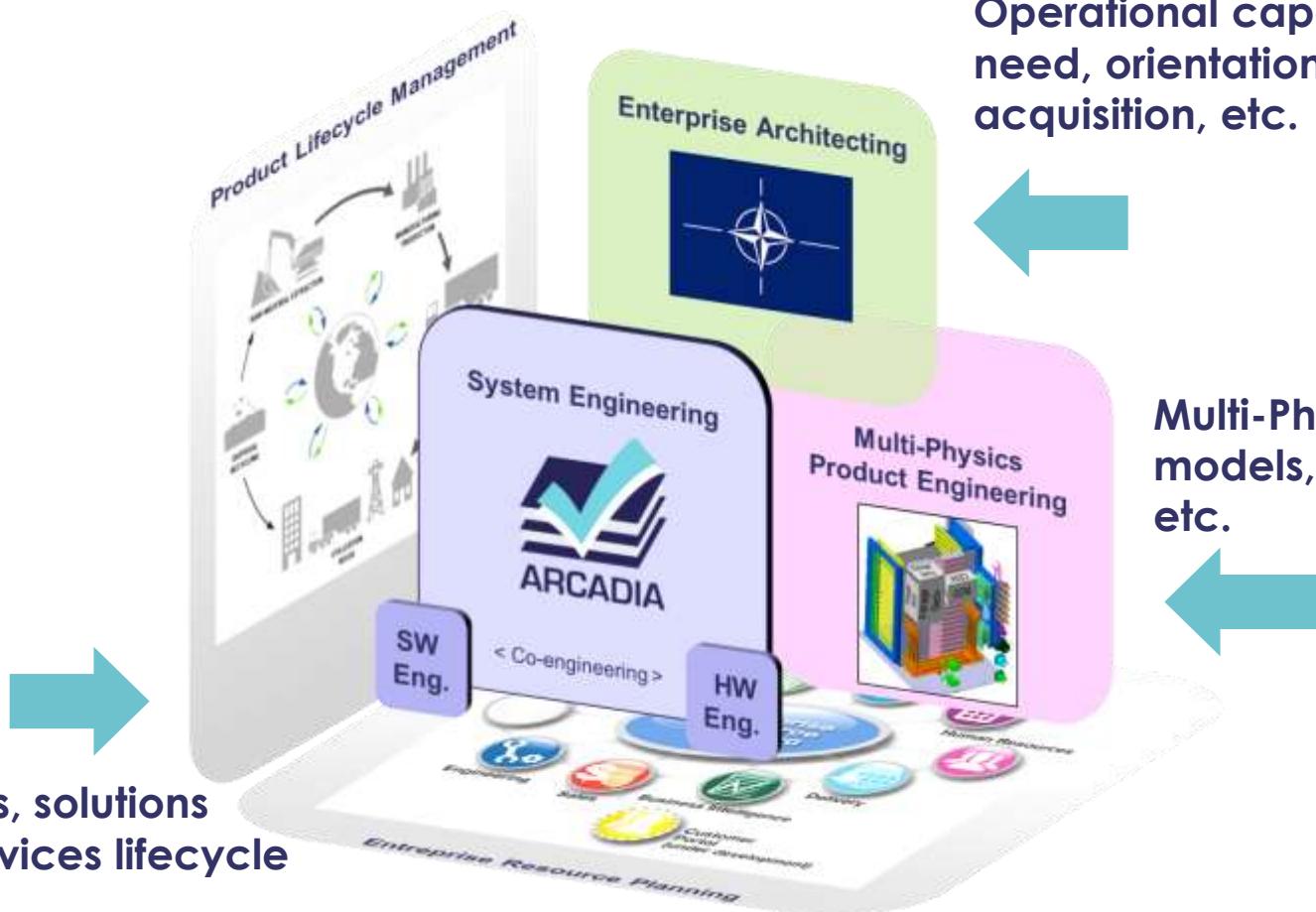
- **Have no efficient tool and methodological support**
- **Have no stopping criteria**
- No separation between need and solution modelling
- **Keep several engineering levels into one single model**  
**“for the sake of simplicity”**
- Use textual descriptions to describe complex behavior
- Structure architecture into components based on functional tree only (and vice-versa)
- ...



# MBSE & Acquisition Agencies

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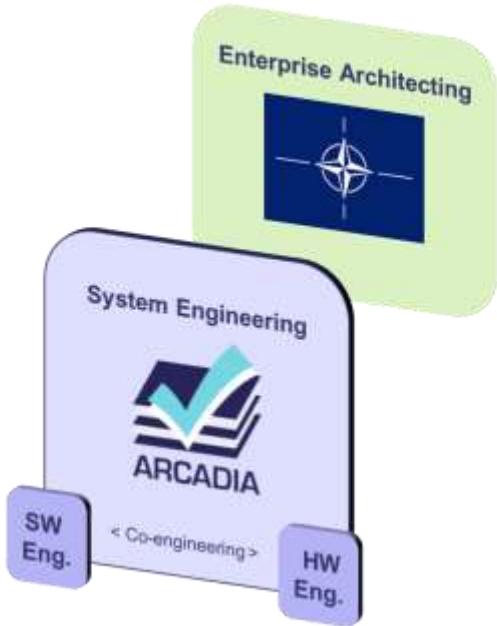
# Situation of Arcadia in a wider Ecosystem



**Solution Architecture fits in a wider ecosystem and must contribute to it**

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### Illustration of Arcadia 2



Models can play a key role as a support for discussions between Customer and Supplier

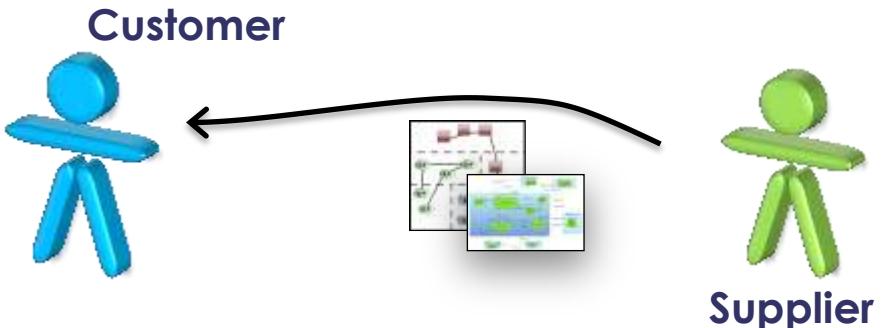
Models illustrate the definition of the need / clarify the requirements

Models and requirements are both necessary

3 different schemes experimented in Thales

## Using Models to support discussions Customer / Supplier

- System design models showed by Supplier to Customer to explicit the vision / understanding of the need



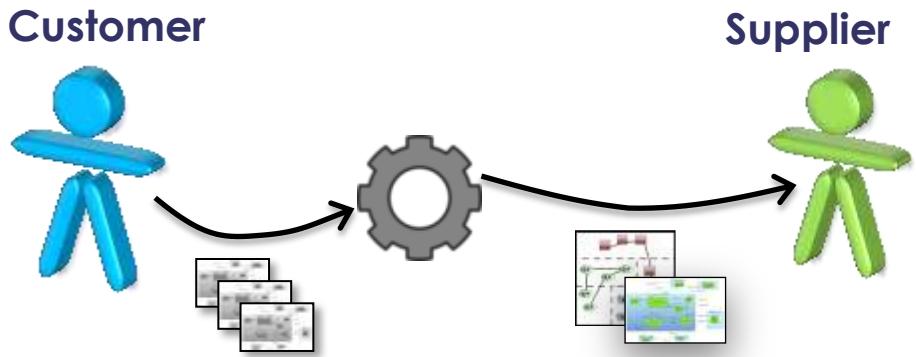
**Share actual models AND tools?  
Filtering necessary.**

**Share model HTML-like outputs?  
(Thales with ESA)**

**Model shown as a support for  
operational scenarios  
discussions (Thales with ATR)**

## Using Models to support discussions Customer / Supplier

- System design models showed by Supplier to Customer to explicit the vision / understanding of the need
- Customer models used as inputs to initialize the System design models and ensure traceability



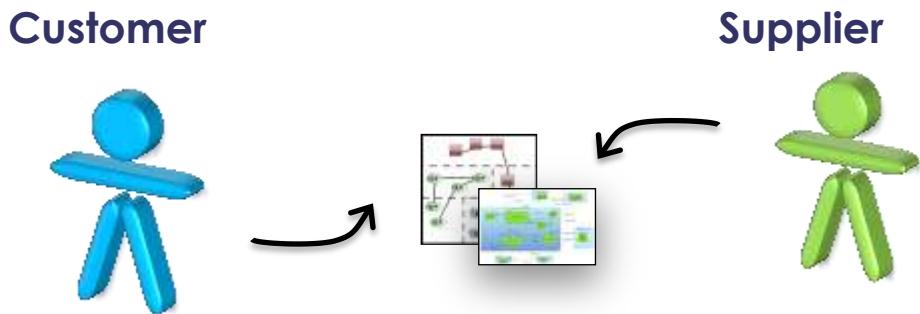
**Adaptation of modelling habits necessary on both sides (Thales with Dassault)**

**Diff-based workflow possible**

**Configuration management!**

## Using Models to support discussions Customer / Supplier

- System design models showed by Supplier to Customer to explicit the vision / understanding of the need
- Customer models used as inputs to initialize the System design models and ensure traceability
- Co-engineering: Joint elaboration of the solution



**Responsibility in case of problems?**

**Configuration management!**

# Next Steps

## Integration of variability with Modelling

First solution available in Thales with a coupling Pure::Variant / Capella. The seamless integration of Product Line aspects in the global Systems Engineering landscape

## Continuum Enterprise Architecting – Solution Architecture

Optimization of the transition Architecture Framework – Arcadia (method & tool perspectives)

## Other ongoing investigations & incubation

Better formalisation of design alternatives evaluation

Integration simulation / system-level models (consistency checking, sizing, etc.)

Early safety analysis (feared event impact analysis, safety rules verification, essential data analysis, etc.)



**Thank you for  
your attention!**

**Any Questions?**

## Arcadia and Capella on the Field: Real-World MBSE Use Cases

[Stéphane Bonnet, Fabrice Lestideau]

Focus on 4 different examples of MBSE usage in Thales

## The challenges of deploying MBSE solutions

[Fabrice Lestideau, Stéphane Bonnet]

2 hours workshop dedicated to discussing the challenges of getting MBSE adopted in organisations

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