

# AI-DRIVEN DESIGN AND VERIFICATION

## Scaling Complexity with (→) Intelligence

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///DVCON INDIA 2025 | BENGALURU



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VLSI DESIGN ENGINEERING

SANDISK™



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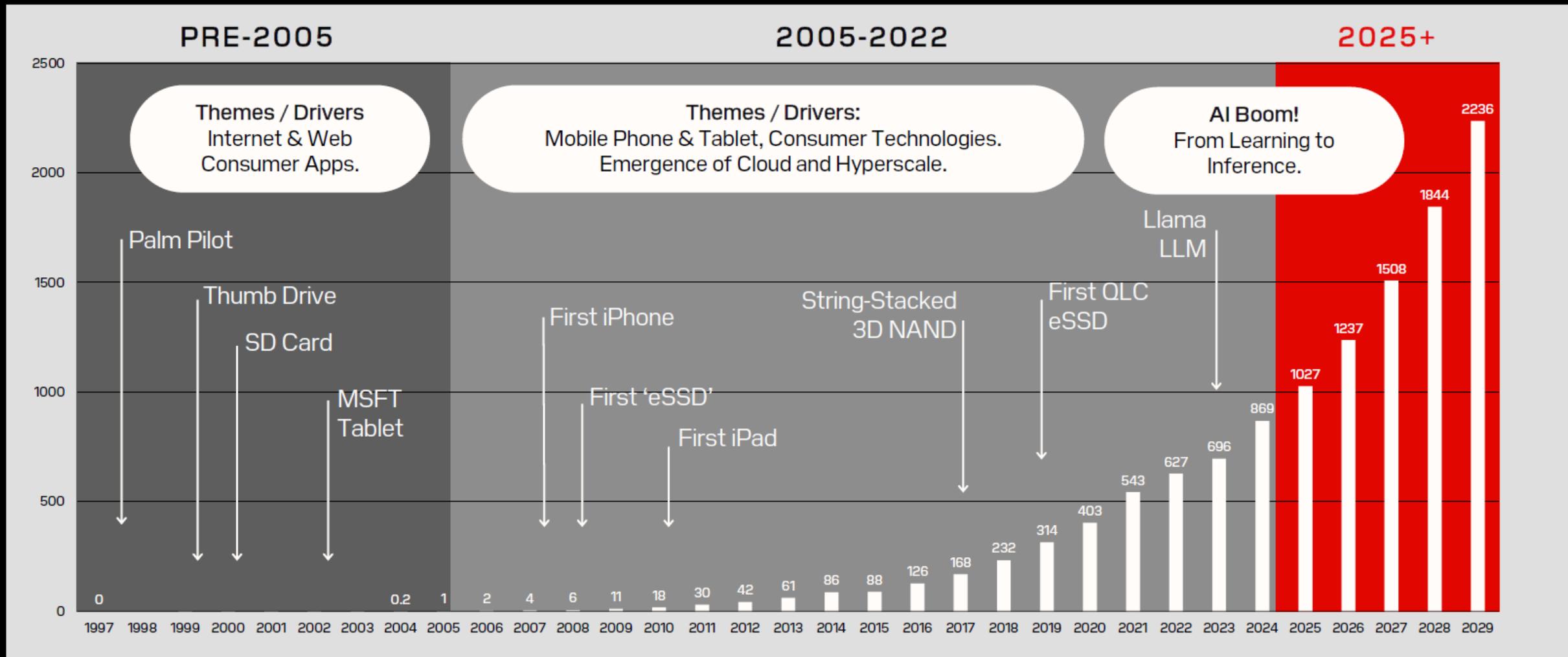
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# FLASH HAS TRANSFORMED THE WORLD



SOURCE: SANDISK ANALYSIS; TECH INSIGHTS DATA.



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# SANDISK (→)

Innovative Flash solutions and  
advanced memory  
technologies



DECADES OF FLASH  
INNOVATION



DEEP MEMORY & STORAGE  
SEMICONDUCTOR EXPERTISE

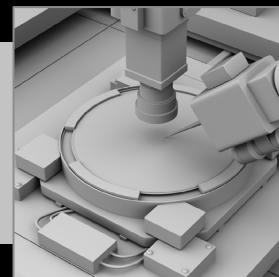


12,000+ EMPLOYEES  
WORLDWIDE



OVER 11,000 TOTAL  
PATENT ASSETS  
WORLDWIDE

OUR STRATEGIC  
FOUNDATION



INNOVATION



SCALE



AGILITY

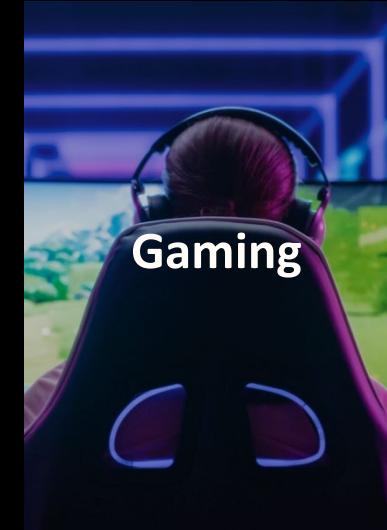
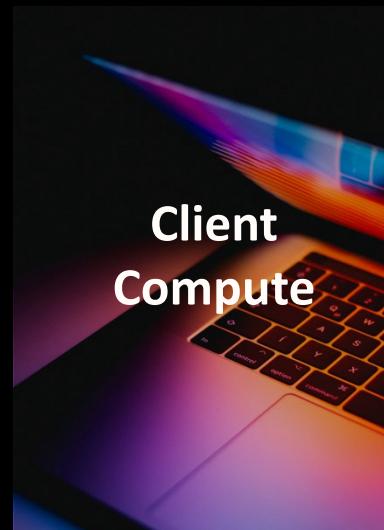


RESILIENCE



# ONE OF THE INDUSTRY'S BROADEST PORTFOLIOS

From Cloud Providers to Enterprises and Consumers



# MEMORY TECHNOLOGY

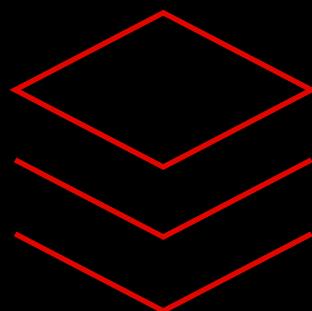
## What We Do

### OUR Mission

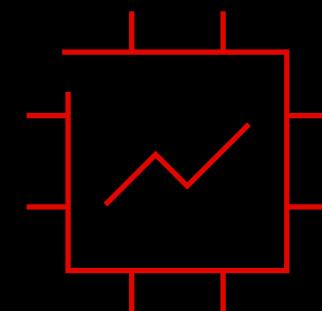
(→) We invent, develop, and deliver best in class Flash Memory to solve people's data storage challenges

### OUR VISION

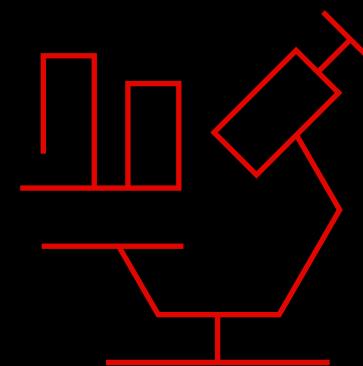
(→) We lead the digital world transformation through continuous innovation in flash memory solutions



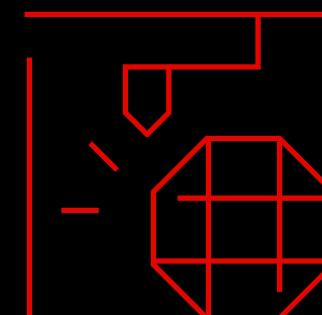
MEMORY DESIGN



TECHNOLOGY  
DEVELOPMENT

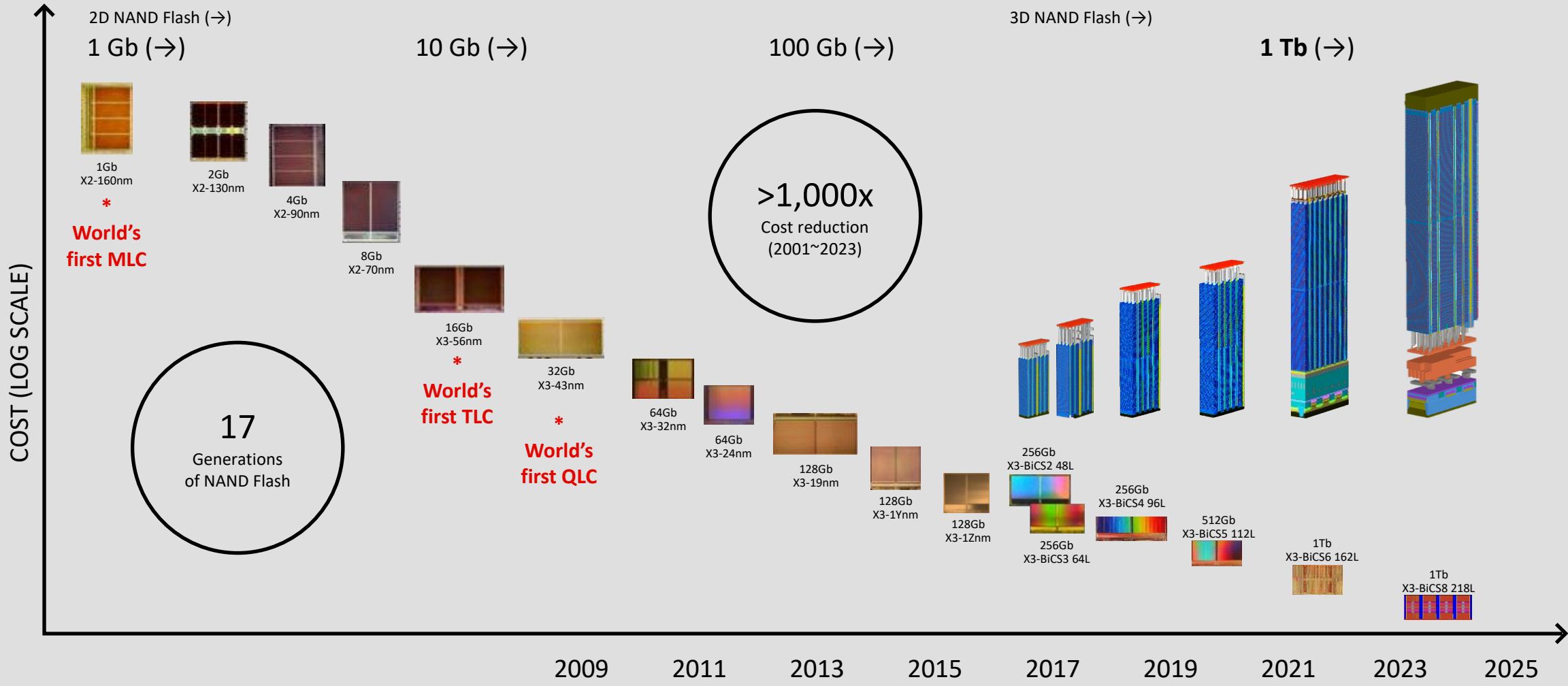


QUALIFICATION &  
FAILURE ANALYSIS



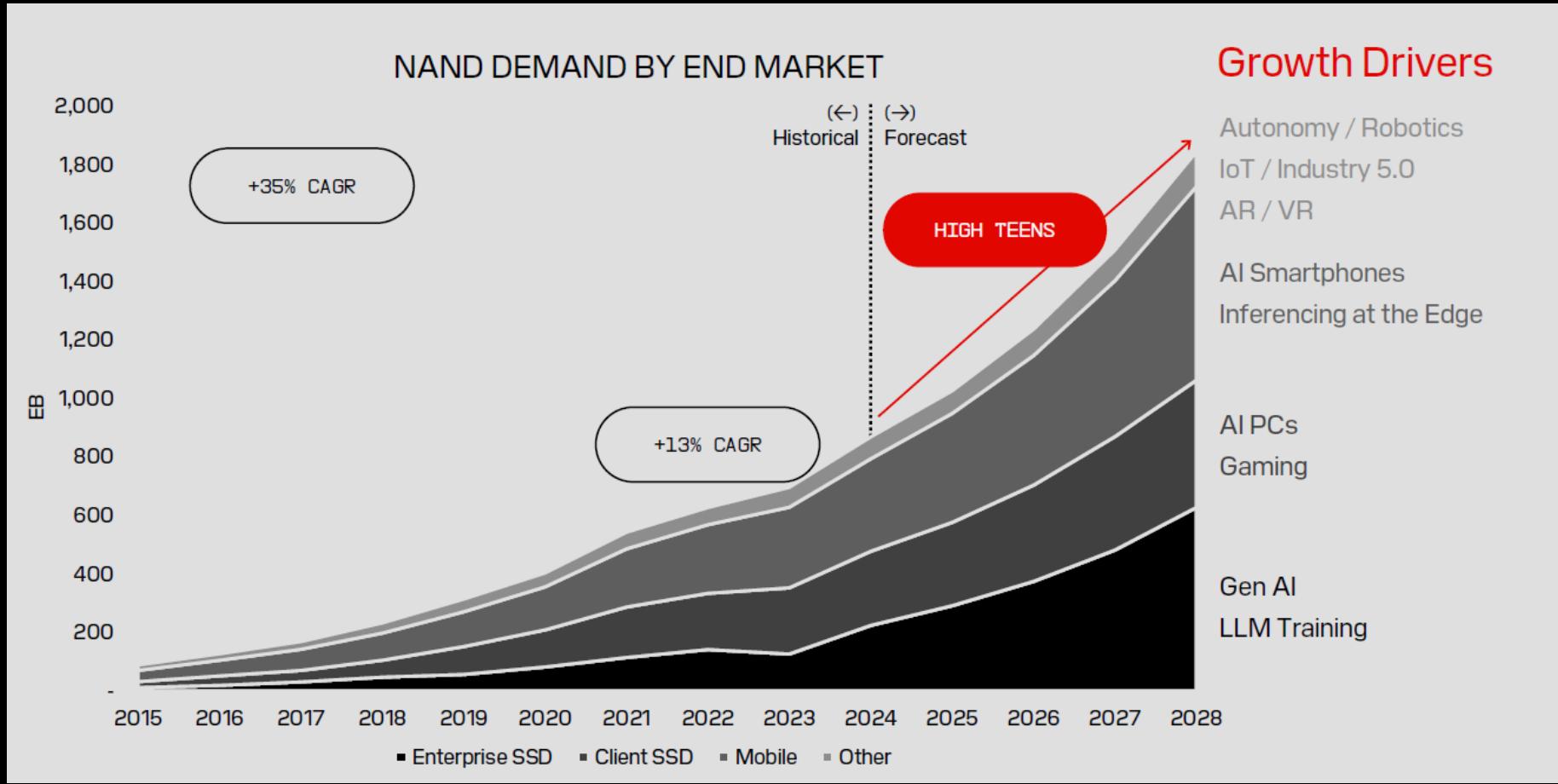
PRODUCTIZATION & TEST

# OUR LEGACY OF INNOVATION



NOTE: IMAGES ARE NOT TO SCALE.

# AI Driven Demand for Storage is Accelerating



SOURCE: TECH INSIGHTS NAND MARKET REPORT Q4 2024.

How do we keep up with this?

NAND Technology & Products Designed to Support Various Features Across Different Market Applications

- Capacity
- Performance
- Power

The world is getting closer to PB SSDs  
..and we need to scale Development → Test at the same rate

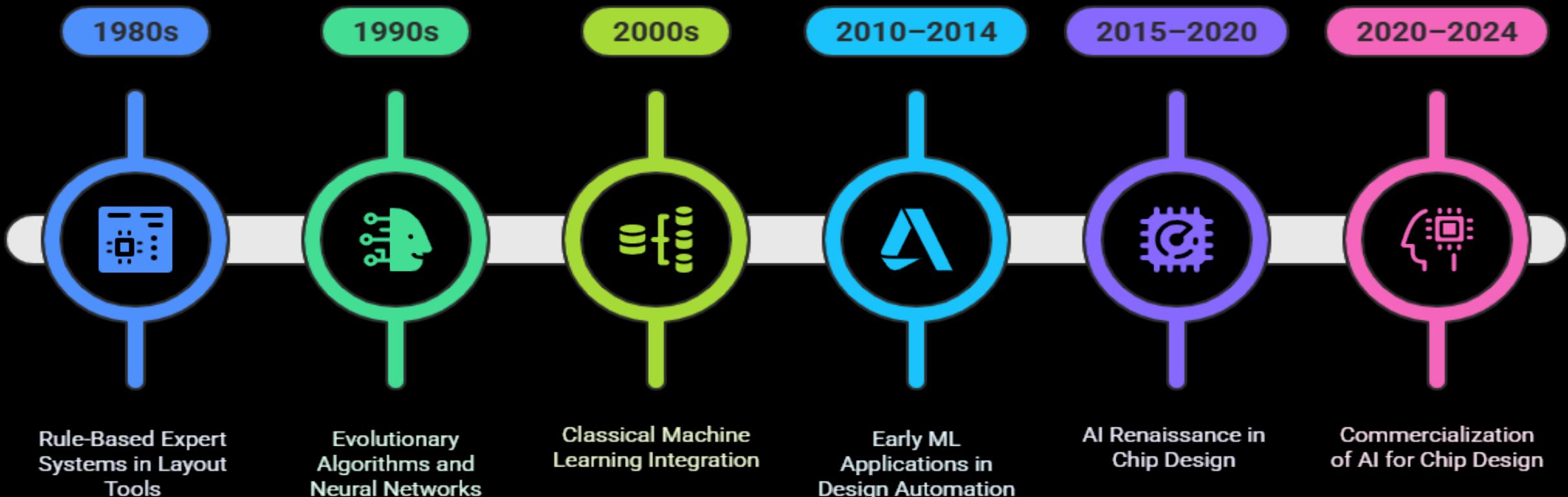




# So, CAN AI HELP??

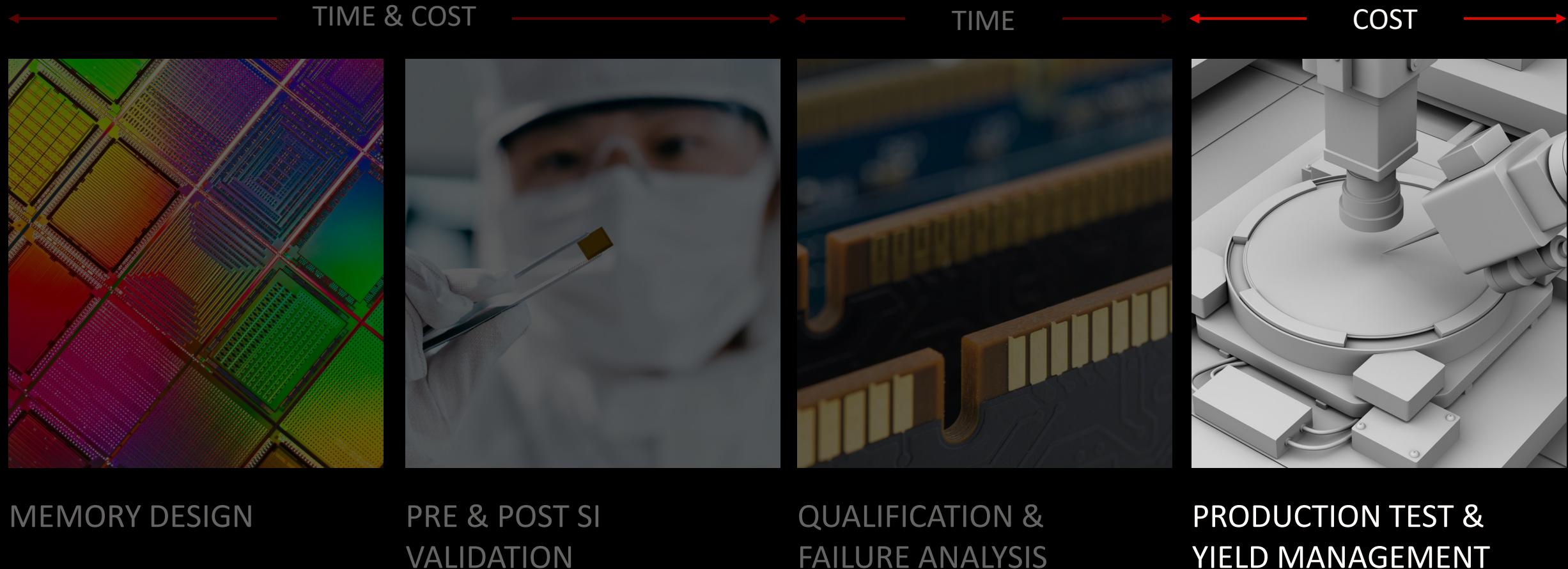


# Evolution of AI/ML in VLSI Chip Design



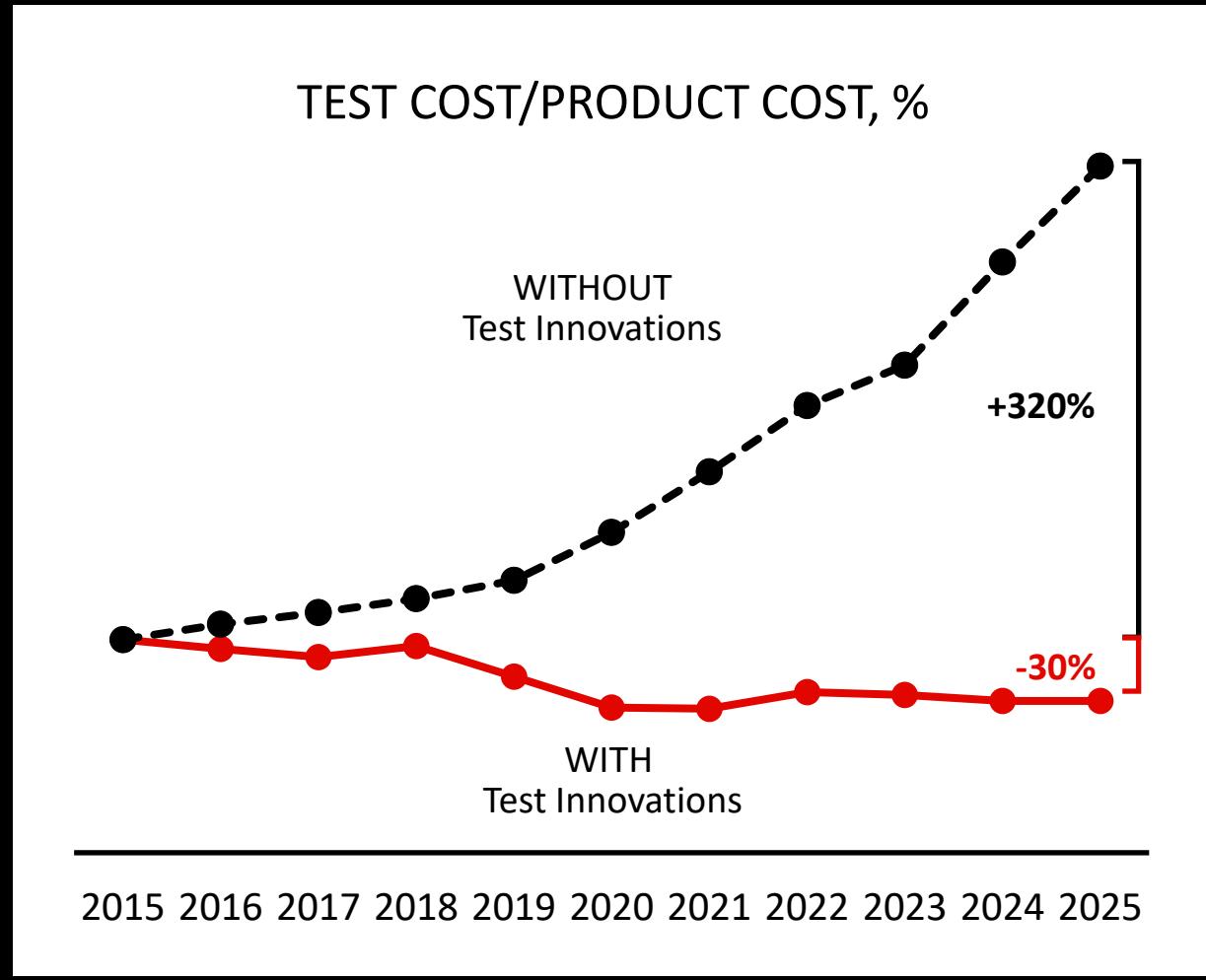
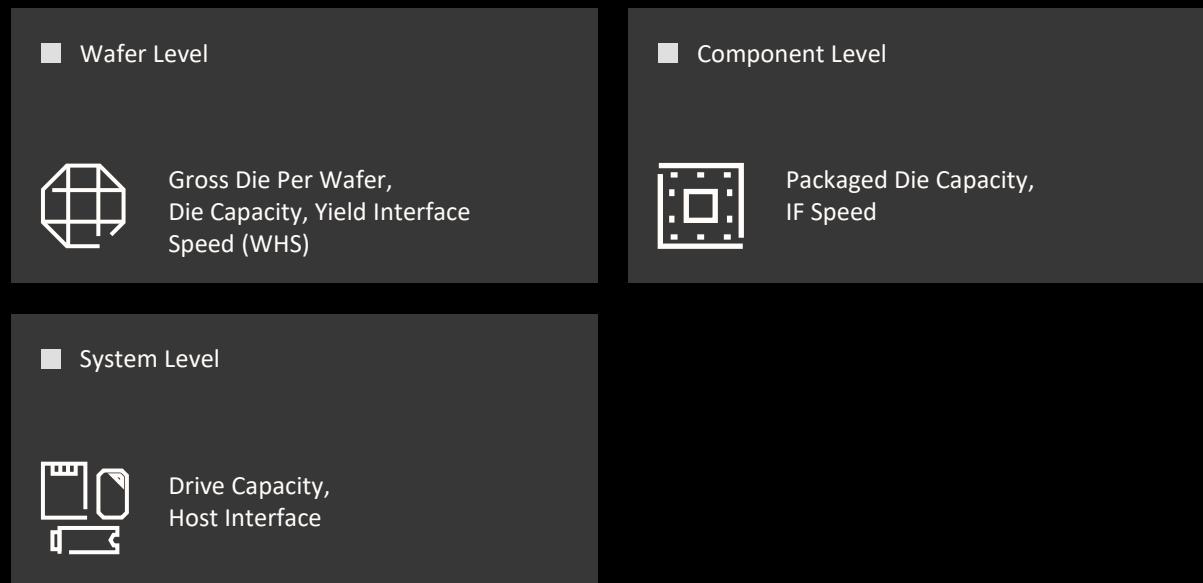
# The Design & Development Cycle

## Opportunities to Leverage AI

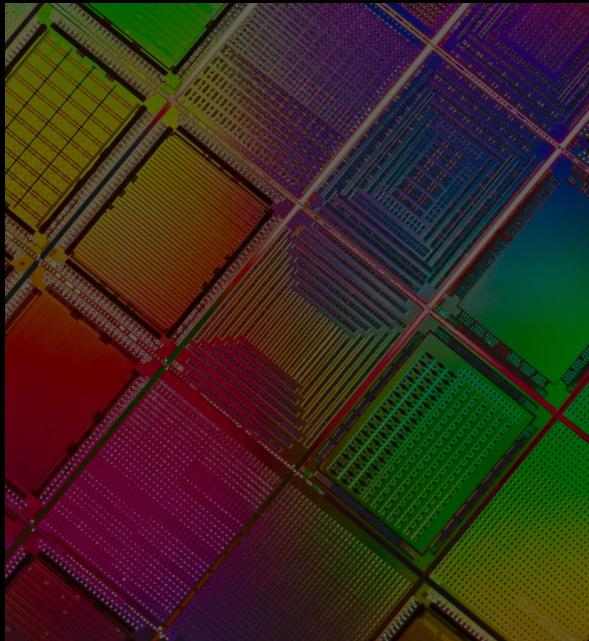


# Transforming Test Technology

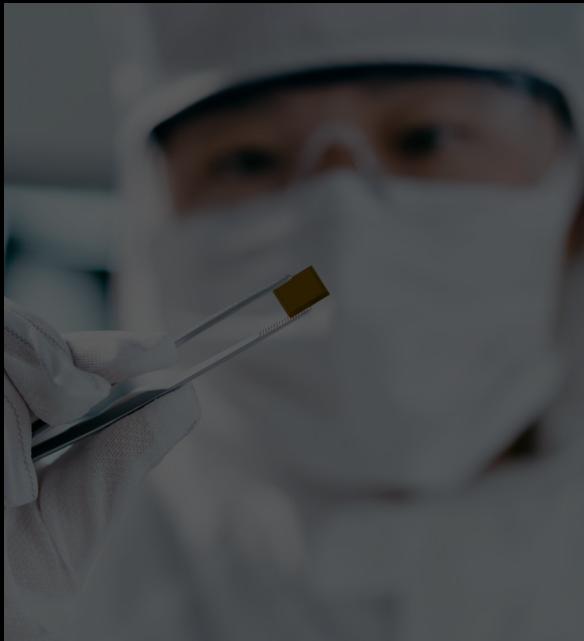
- (→) AI Assisted Manufacturing
- (→) Maximize Bit Consumption
- (→) Internal Test Platforms



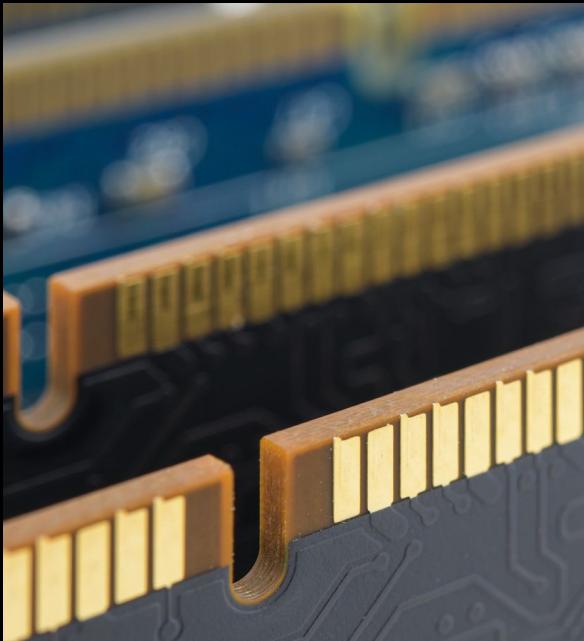
# The Design & Development Cycle Opportunities to Leverage AI



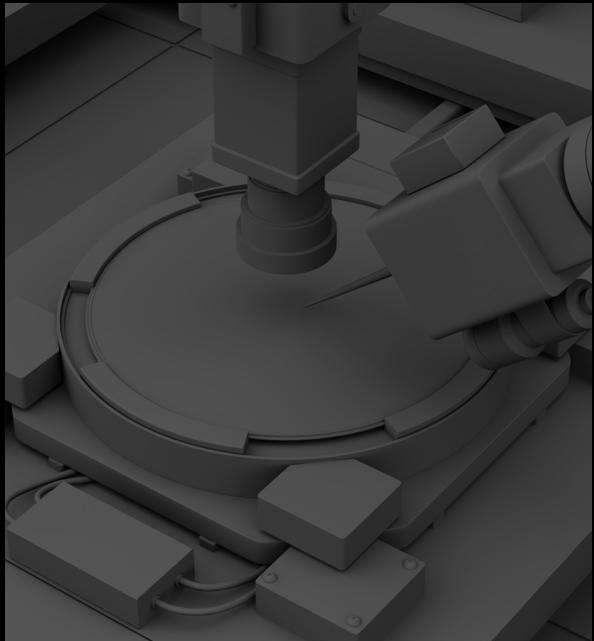
# MEMORY DESIGN



# PRE & POST SI VALIDATION

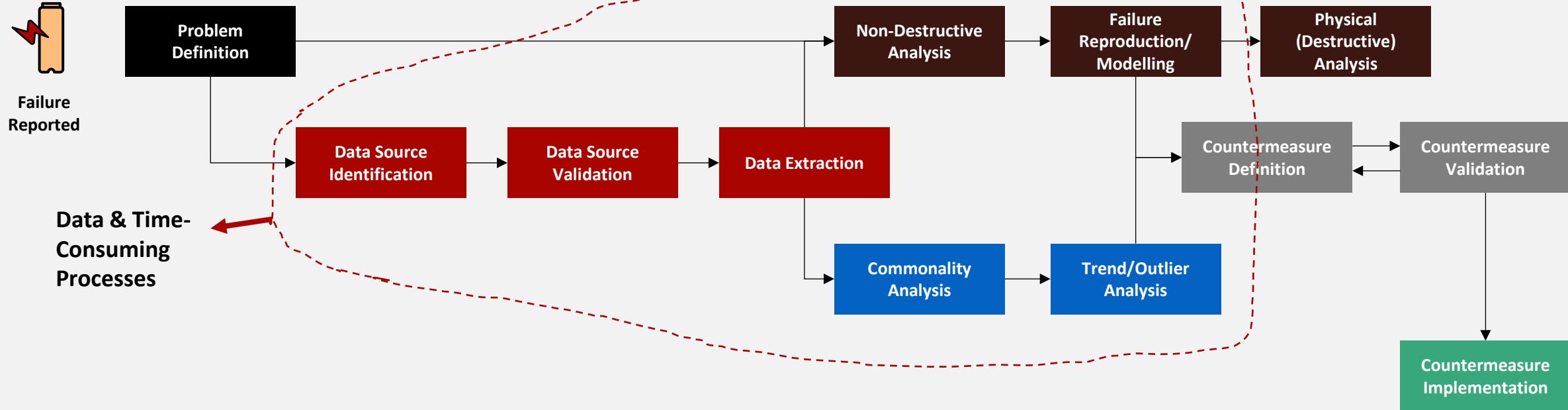


# QUALIFICATION & FAILURE ANALYSIS



# PRODUCTION TEST & YIELD MANAGEMENT

# Failure Analysis Process



## Challenges

- Highly complex process interactions & multiple data sources (text, logs, images, graphs etc.) in current systems
  - Specialized & Proprietary Knowledge Domains
  - Unstructured historical data sources → The farther you go, the more unstructured the data is

# Rapid Failure Analysis

GenAI powered Failure Analysis Acceleration

## Knowledge Base



Multimodal data sources

Text

Images

Logs

Flowcharts

Graphs

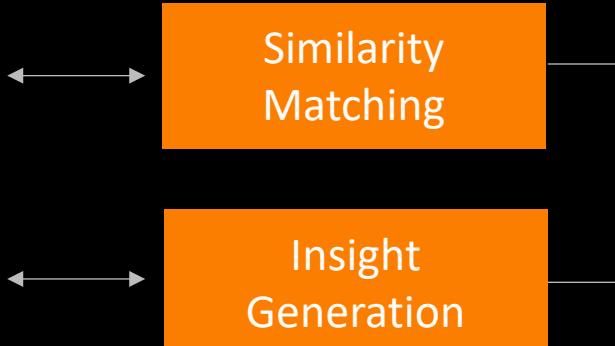
Waveforms

Diagrams

...



## Failure Signature



## Similarity Matching

## Insight Generation

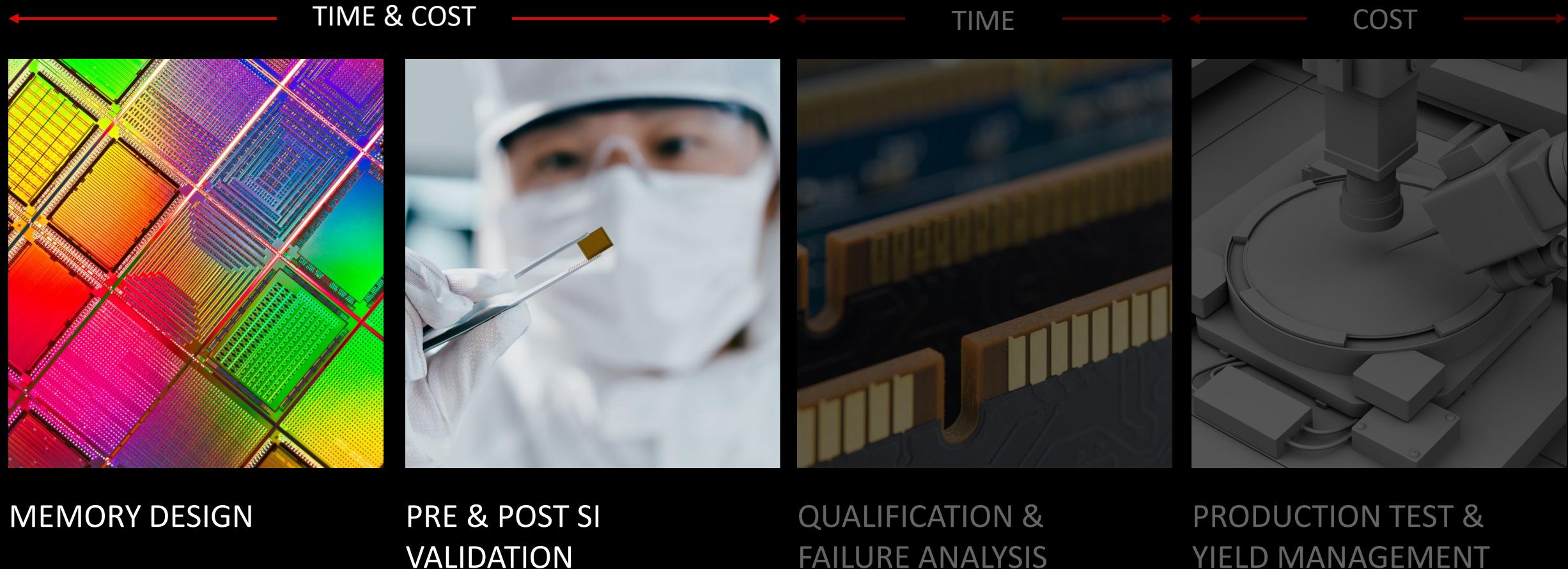
**30%+**

FA CYCLE TIME Improvement

SOURCE: SANDISK INTERNAL BENCHMARKING



# The Design & Development Cycle Opportunities to Leverage AI



MEMORY DESIGN

PRE & POST SI  
VALIDATION

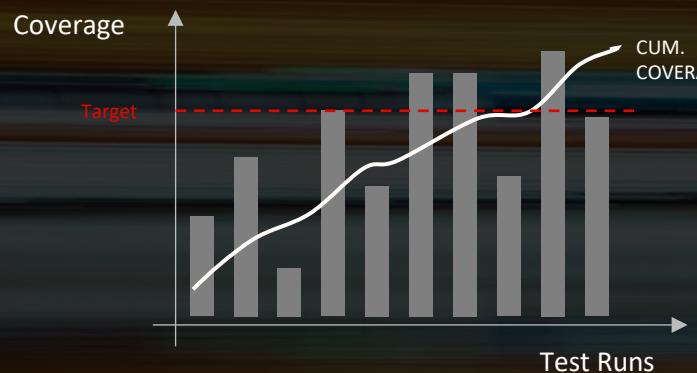
QUALIFICATION &  
FAILURE ANALYSIS

PRODUCTION TEST &  
YIELD MANAGEMENT

# AI Augmented Smart Verification

Enable Faster Coverage Detection & Intelligent FA

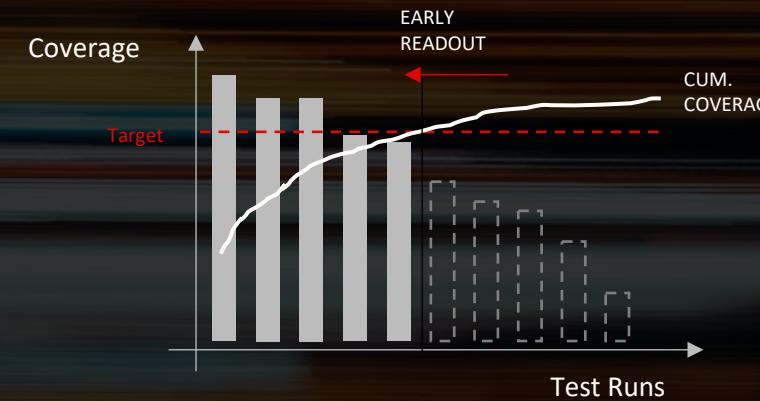
## Traditional Verification



(→) Randomized Regressions tend to eventually achieve target coverage → But take longer duration/higher computation

(→) Design issues found later in the verification cycle costs precious time

## Smart Verification



(→) Smart Verification utilizes AI based ranking algorithms mapped to affected changes and prioritize test cases for faster readout

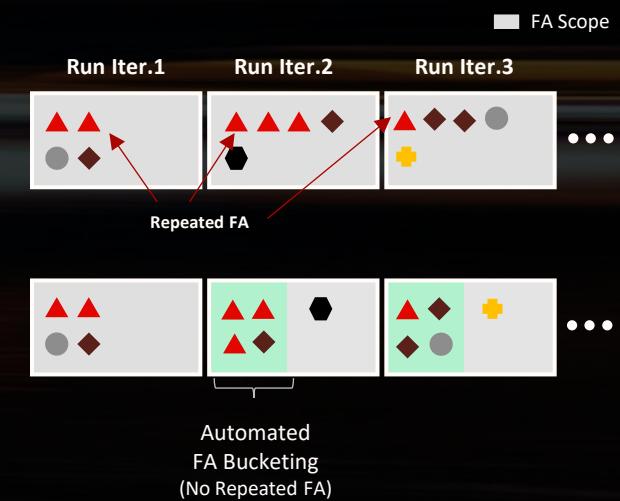
(→) Early readout enables faster design changes & time saving on verification

**80%+**

CODE COVERAGE with <20% TEST CASES

SOURCE: SANDISK INTERNAL BENCHMARKING

## Intelligent FA



(→) AI driven classification of failures and automated closure

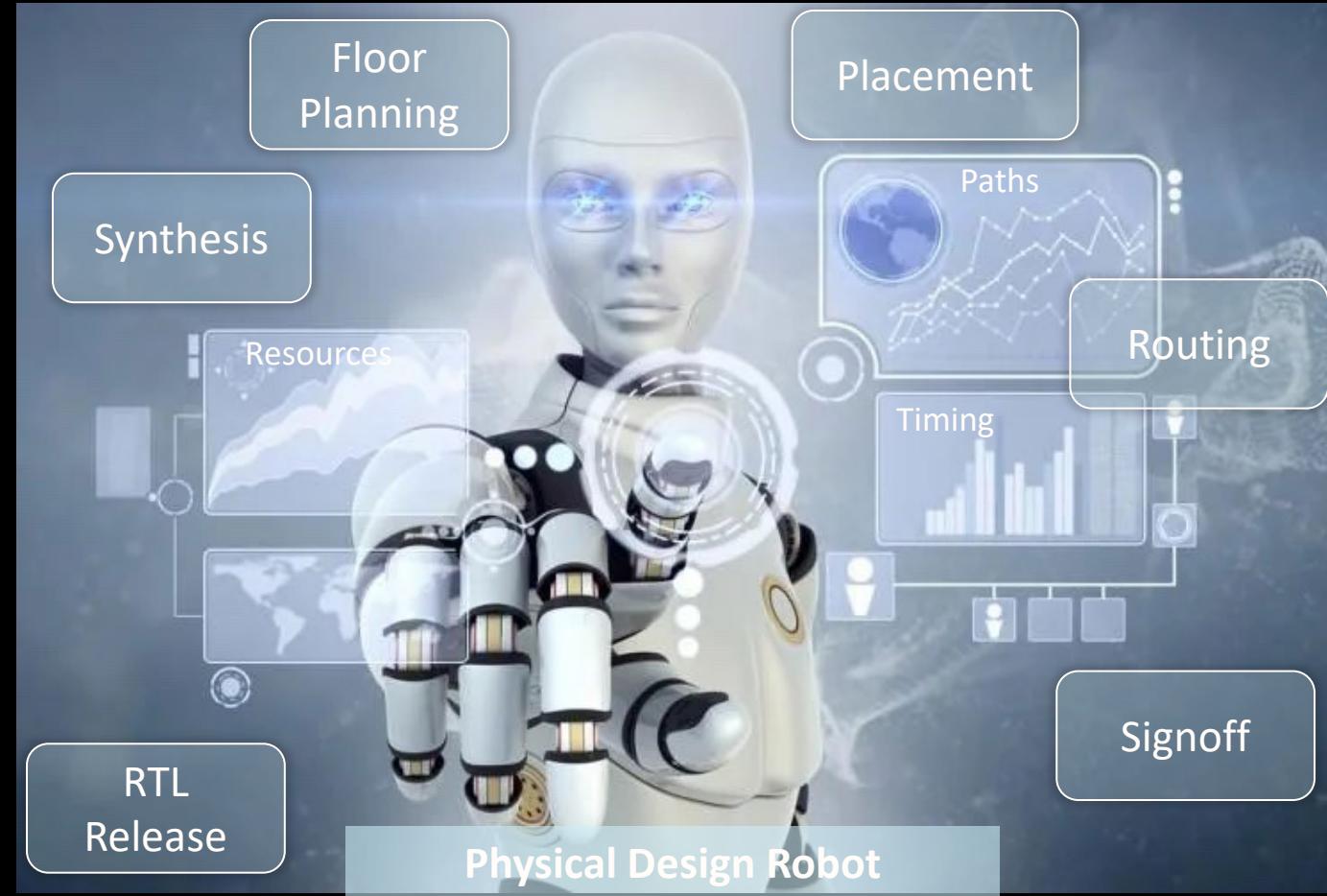
# Autonomous Physical Design

Enable Automated & Efficient Layout

**Goal** Significantly Reduce Typical Physical Design Time & Cost

Learns from years of past PD data across multiple projects and process nodes

+ Continuous Learning from its own autonomous PD execution (RL)

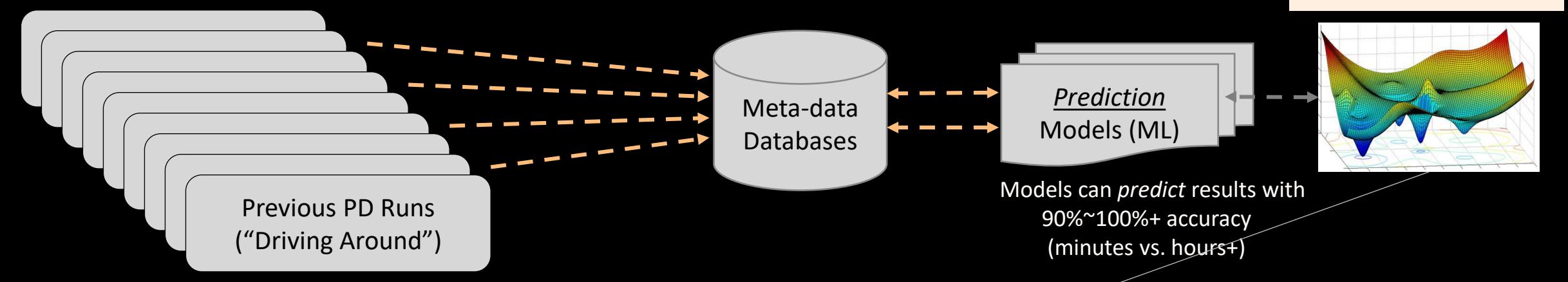


Searches through 1000s of setup variables per tool for optimized setting to achieve QoR target

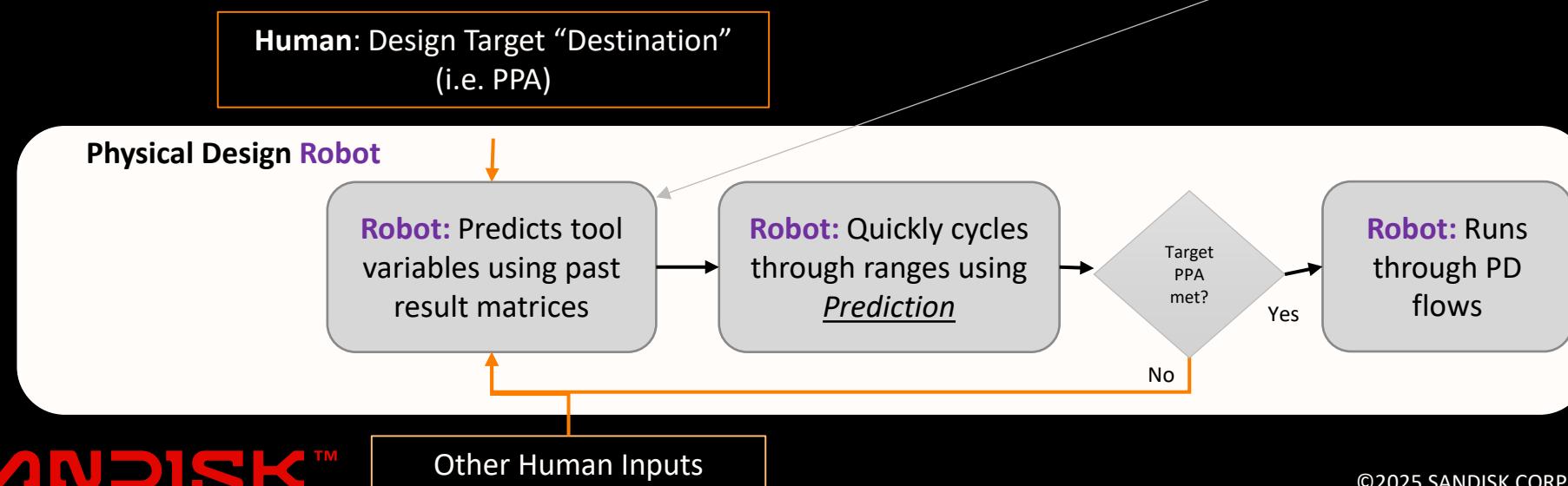
Predicts results for thousands of designs, narrowing down setup for high probability targets

# Autonomous Physical Design

## Architecture



## New PD Runs: Executing ("Inference" based)



### Benefits:

- High accuracy *Predicted* results save a lot of \$ & time
- Robotic operator minimizes human intervention
- Faster convergence to target QoR\* ('shift left')

\*QoR = Quality of Results

# Autonomous Physical Design

## Results

Design Name /Project	Design A/Project X	Design B/Project Y	Design C /Project Y
Release Version	V1	V2	V3 (tapeout version)
Instance Count	Small	Medium	Large
Area	Medium	Medium	Large
Metric	Improvement	Improvement	Improvement
Total Execution Time improvement for design	<b>29X</b>	<b>21X</b>	<b>12X</b>
Total License Usage for design (less runs to get same/better QoR)	<b>30X</b>	<b>20X</b>	<b>15X</b>
Disk Footprint for design (less runs to get same/better QoR)	<b>30X</b>	<b>20X</b>	<b>15X</b>
Timing QoR improvements for design	<b>Up to 97% better</b>	<b>Up to 18% better</b>	<b>Up to 24% better</b>

SOURCE: SANDISK INTERNAL BENCHMARKING – PRESENTED IN ISCAS 2025

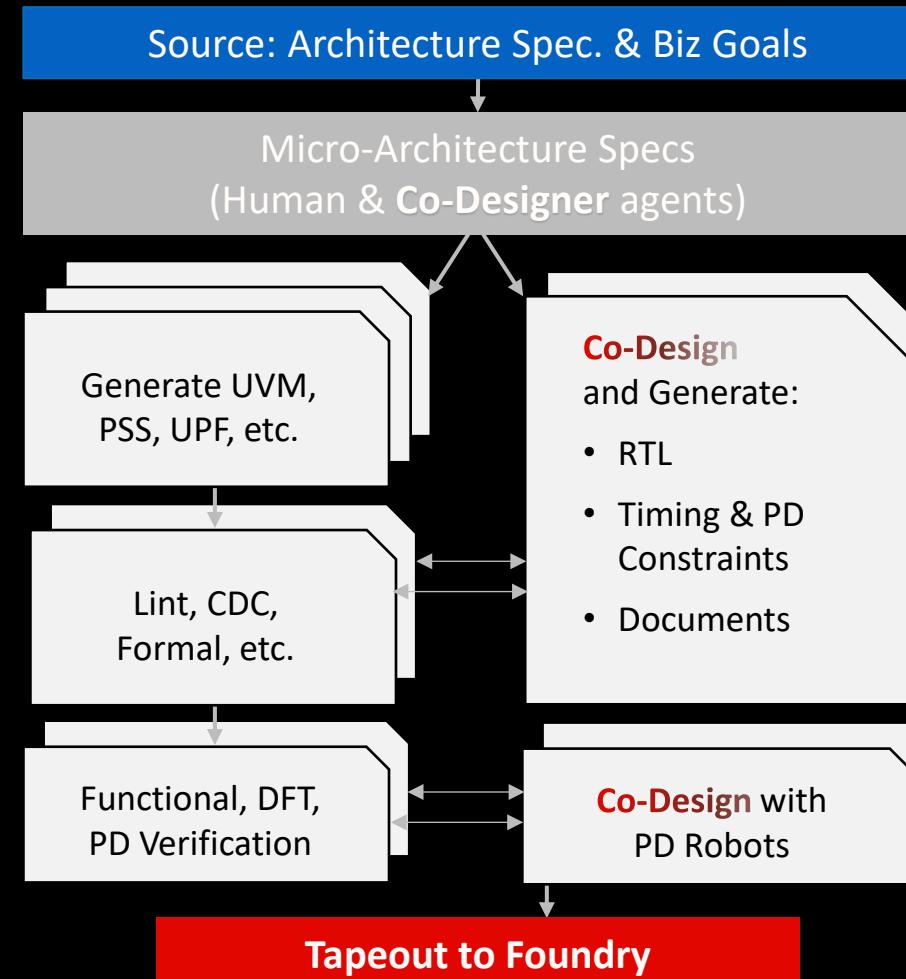
# (→) THE FUTURE IS FOR AI, BY AI

**Co-Designer** GenAI agents to support various design steps with Human designers

Train a New VLSI Language (e.g. UVM, PSS, UPF) using Prompt Engineering

Reconfirms accuracy through standard tool flows

Autonomous Cross Verification



“Translates” spec to RTL with hyper-trained LLM inference model

Uses co-pilots/co-designers for remaining steps

Autonomous PD Robots

Human Verification, Inspections and Design Reviews using analytics