

# Modeling, Simulation, and Analysis Support for Mission Engineering at SAIC

16 November 2021  
Jay Farrell, Ph.D.

Approved for public release

**SAIC**<sup>®</sup>



# Purpose

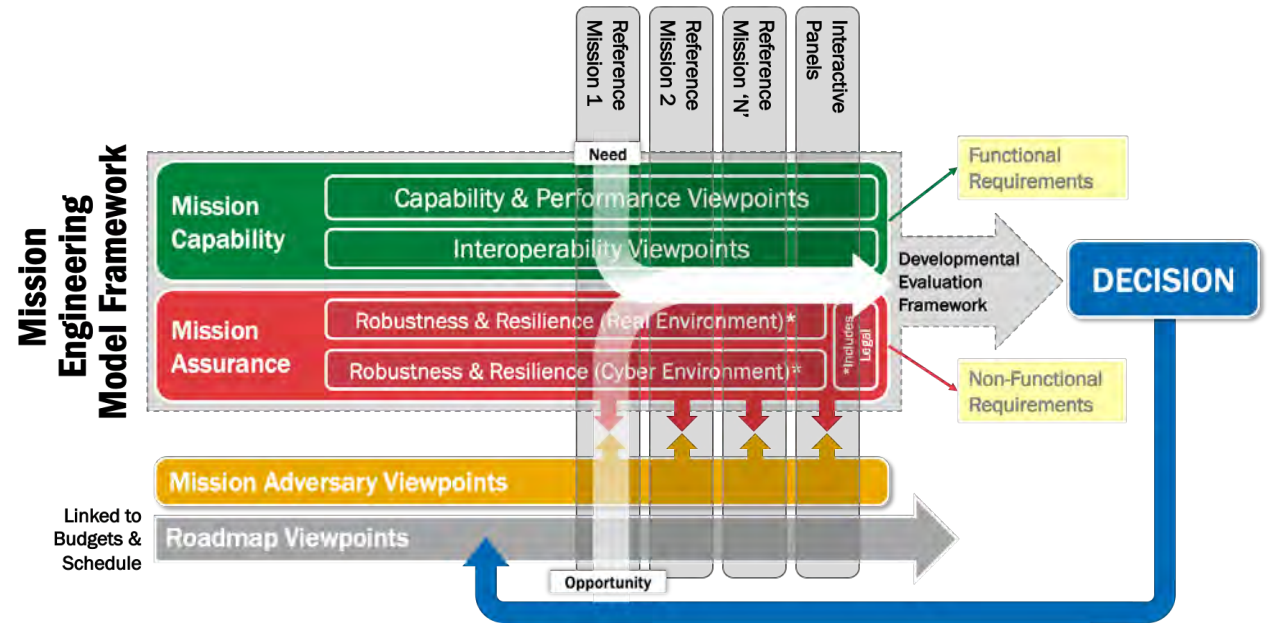
- Outline how SAIC uses Modeling, Simulation, and Analysis (MS&A) as part of its Mission Engineering (ME) efforts
- List and illustrate some considerations in implementing MS&A for ME

## Also...

- Describe some lessons learned and tips in applying Phoenix Integration's ModelCenter software for such efforts

# Topics

- Brief SAIC overview
  - Who we are
  - MS&A and ME offerings
  - Example using our methods
- Some Considerations for using MS&A within Mission Engineering
  - Accessibility
  - Compatibility
  - Applicability
  - Innovation



For each Consideration:  
Factors and challenges  
One or more examples

# Disclaimers

- *Discussion of specific vendor products does not imply endorsement, by SAIC, as the sole approach for all customer use cases*
- *No classified material in this presentation*

# SAIC at a Glance

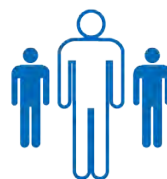


## DOMINANT

POSITION IN FASTEST GROWING SEGMENTS:  
SPACE AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION



**\$7.1B**  
REVENUES



**26,000+**  
EMPLOYEES



**5,900**  
VETERANS



**54%**  
HOLD A SECURITY  
CLEARANCE



**60+**  
ALLIANCE  
PARTNERS



**Our Customer Mix**

# SAIC Digital Engineering Transforms Mission Success

## MBSE

- Developing and using *SysML models* that serve as the *authoritative source for system design* and the “hub” for the rest of the digital thread

## DE Ecosystems

- Deploying, configuring, and maintaining the *underlying infrastructure* with the required performance, scalability, security, and accessibility to *run the integrated toolchains* needed to implement our DE capabilities *in a collaborative integrated data environment*

## Digital Thread

- Integrating engineering solutions, composed as a set of models and data, where *information is digitally linked* across tools and domains to ensure traceability, completeness, and design consistency *across the entire solution*

## Digital Twin Frameworks

- Creating digitally linked *sets of physics-based simulations* that answer high consequence, high probability performance questions, *based on field data input*, over the life of its *corresponding physical twin*

## Tool Federation (Semantic Broker)

- Using *domain ontologies* to *integrate data across disparate tool chains* that otherwise would not integrate to ensure critical Mission Engineering *data can persist* when applications are no longer available

Core DE Capabilities

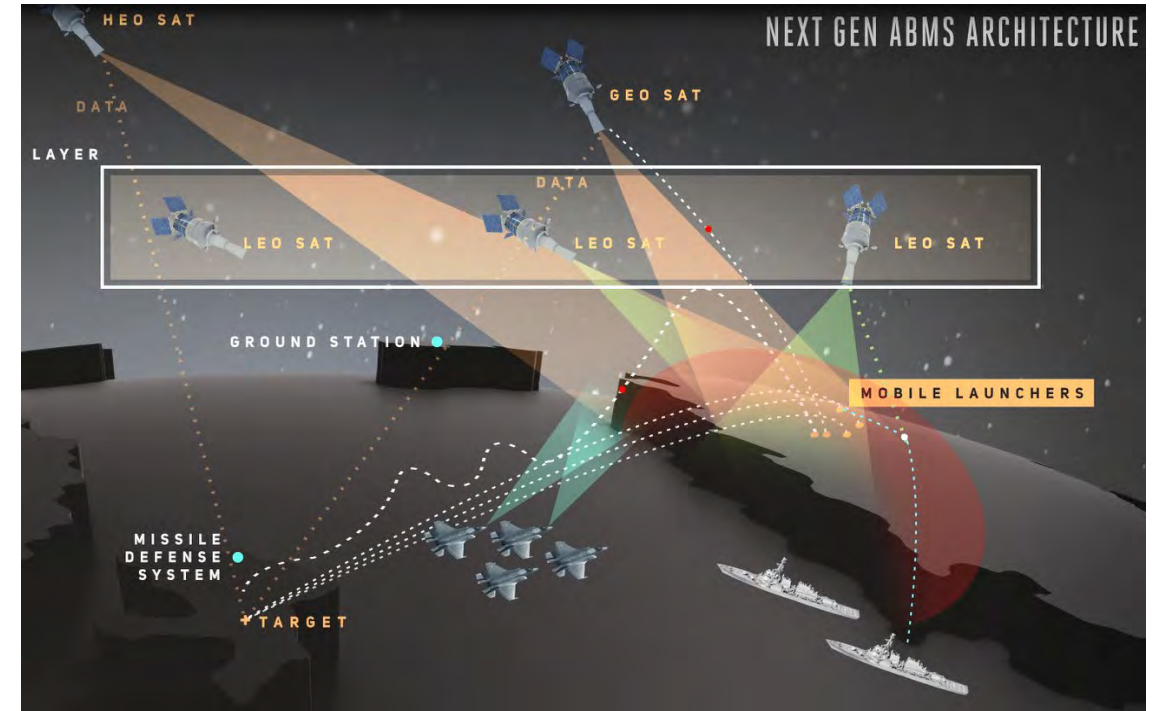


Leveraging \$15M+ SAIC investments in Digital Engineering



# Threat-Based Analysis and Mission Engineering

- ▶ **SAIC uses proven (>35 years) quick response M&S**
  - Examine existing and future force design performance against present and potential threat system capabilities
  - Customers → MDA, JIAMDO, DARPA, SSC, USAFE, COCOMs, DTRA, OSD, JCS, Services, DHS, etc.
  - Mission Engineering: Complete End-to-End Kill Chain
  - Hypersonics, Space, C4ISR, IAMD, CUAS, Multi-Domain Ops
- ▶ **Analysis determines performance gaps and drivers**
  - Mission dictates future force design
- ▶ **Rapid turnaround allows us to analyze many threat parameters and force designs**
  - Compare, identify and optimize force designs using appropriate metrics
  - Agility to adapt tools to customer questions and needs
- ▶ **SAIC delivers force design analysis and solutions**
  - World-class quick response modeling, simulation and analysis capability
  - Proven experience, knowledge and capabilities



## Advanced Concept Experience

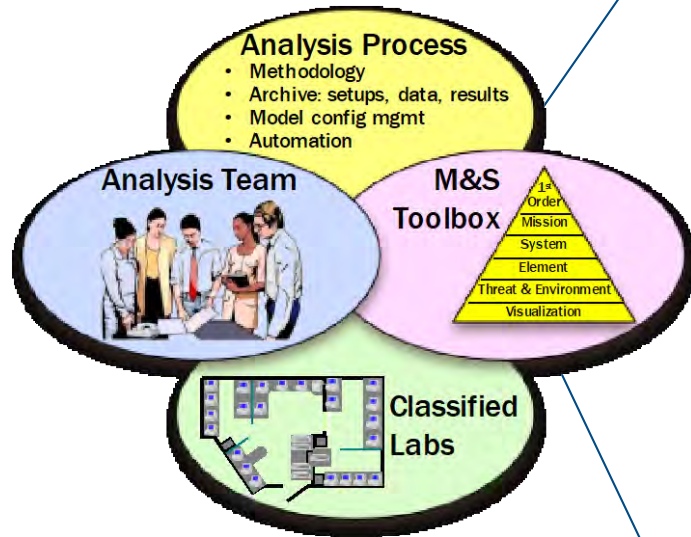
- Airborne Comm Node
- Global Hawk & Dark Star
- JSTARS, Predator
- Counter sUAV
- Hyper/Supersonic CMs

- Airborne Weapons Layer (AWL)
- Air Defense Initiative
- Airborne EA AoA
- C-Hypersonics AoA
- Space SA, SC

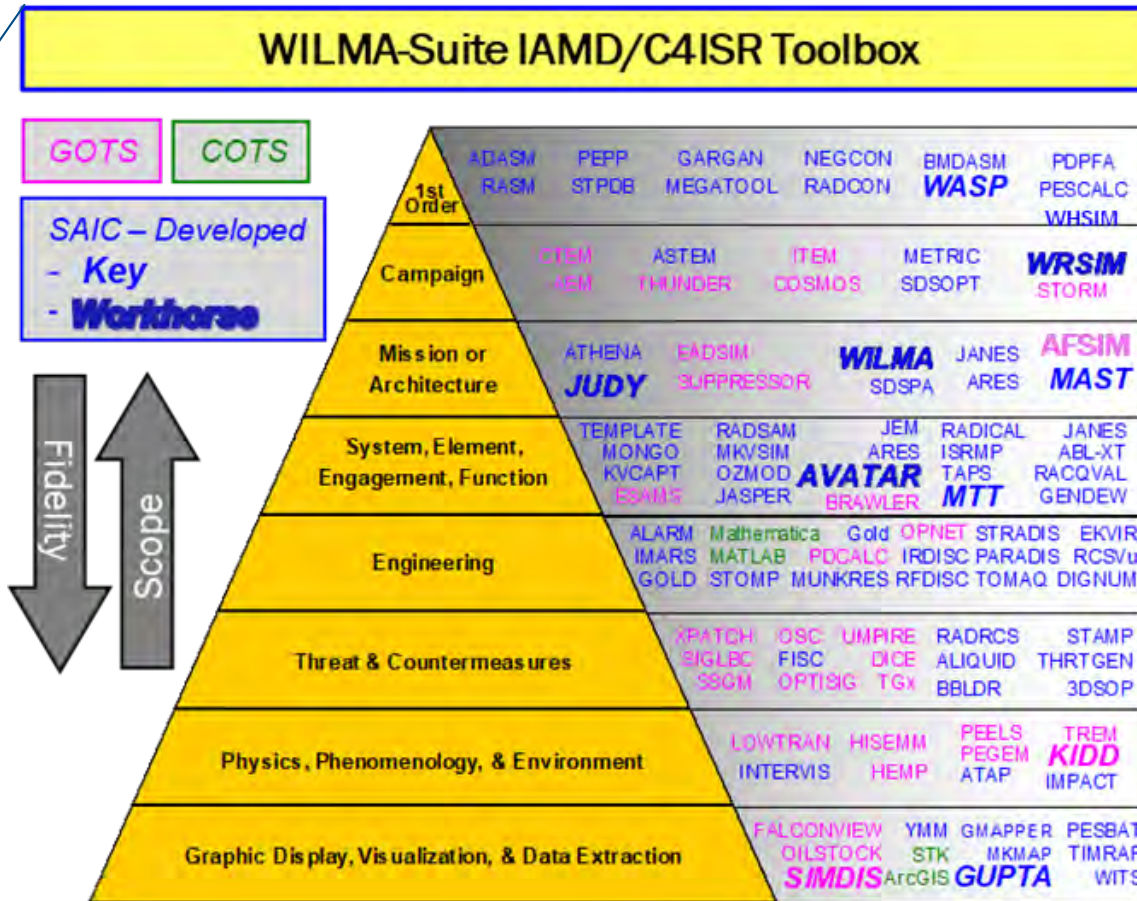
**Threat-Based Digital Force Design Enables Speed to Mission**

# Example: M&S Suite Development and Analysis Support

*People, Processes, M&S  
Toolbox, & Computer Labs*



*End-to-end simulation  
covers difficult- or  
impossible-to-test scenarios*



**Maintain Large Suite Of M&S Tools Support Customer, With These Key Models:**

- **WILMA** → Cornerstone For Med-Fi, Quick-Turn BMDS Effectiveness
- **JUDY** → Evaluation Of Air Defense/Cruise Missile Defense Advanced Concepts
- **AVATAR** → Hi-Fi Simulation For 1-on-1 Interceptor Engagement Analysis
- **WRSIM** → Examine BMDS performance Within The Raid Context

**Analysis needs drive model choices**



# Some Considerations for MS&A in Mission Engineering

## 1. Accessibility of Tools for Non-Experts

- Can we apply models across the engineering lifecycle if only a few people can use the tools?

## 2. Compatibility of Key Simulations for Mission Engineering

- Can industry-standard tools fulfill mission engineering requirements?

## 3. Applicability of Models within Mission Engineering

- What are some ways to integrate detailed models for ME?

## 4. Innovation in a Process-Oriented Enterprise

- How can we enforce process rigor but still foster innovation?

# Consideration 1: Accessibility of Tools for Non-Experts

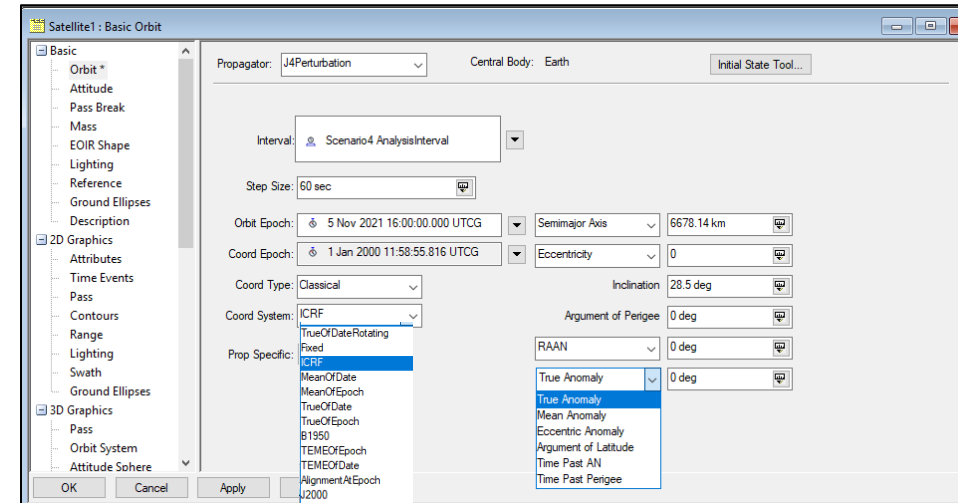
Aspiration: **Make tools accessible, to the workforce, across the engineering lifecycle**

## Difficulties

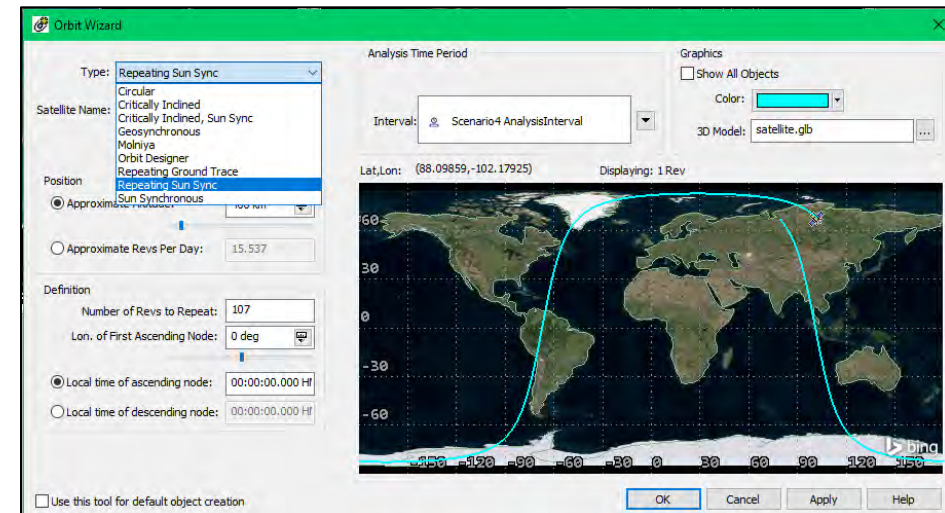
- Some tools require considerable training and experience for effective use
- Available workers lack background and skills
  - Domain knowledge
  - Coding
- Insufficient time and budget to learn and do

## Approaches

- Investment in user interfaces
- Workflow tool with U/I's
- AI/ML-empowered tools



Good but hard for non-experts: STK Orbit Parameter GUI



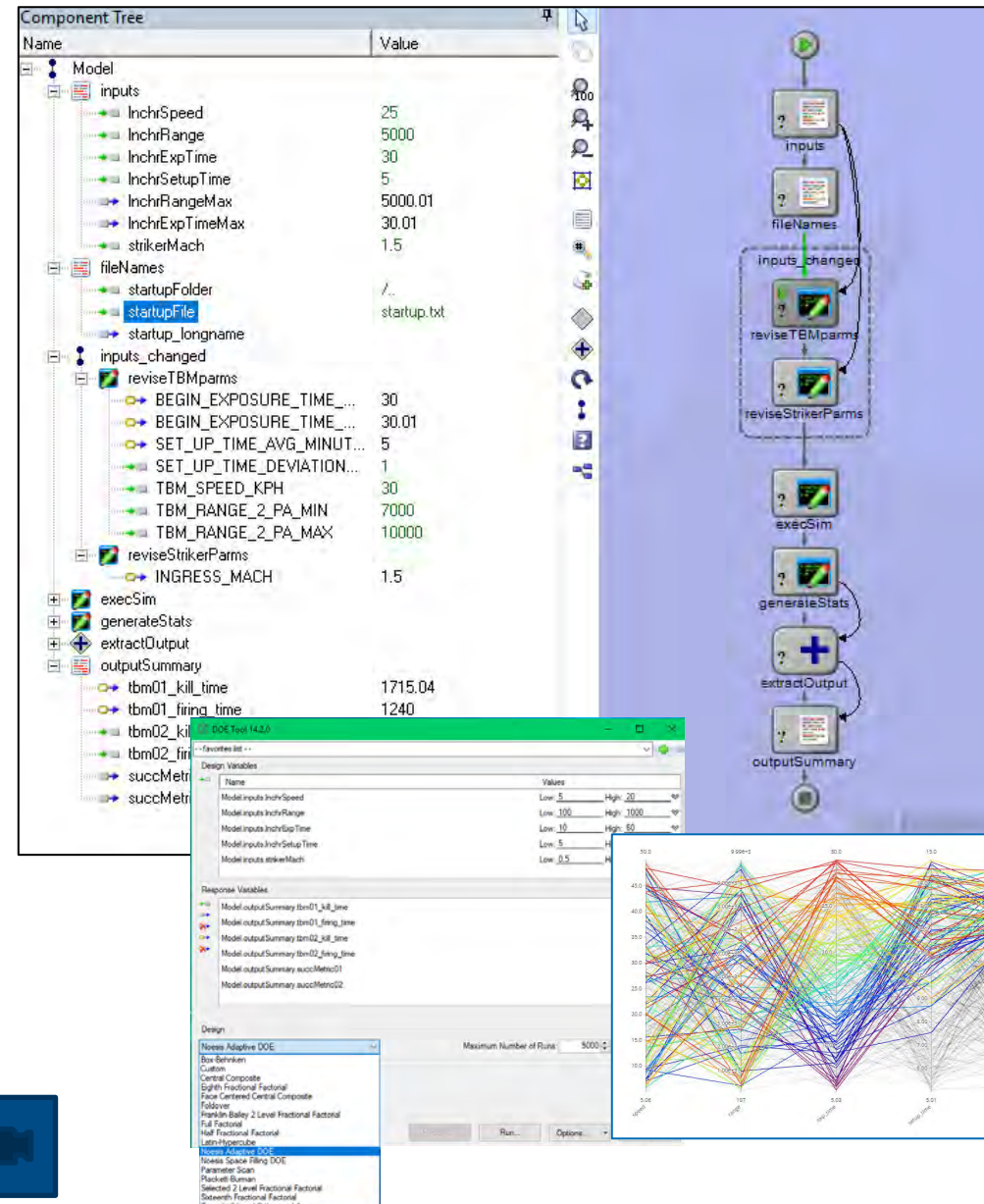
Refined, user-friendly interface: STK Orbit Wizard

# ModelCenter as a User Interface (U/I)

- Considerable capability in software with lacking or complex U/I's
- ModelCenter provides a unified U/I for
  - Legacy, command line tools
  - Mission Simulations (e.g., AFSIM)
  - Excel, Matlab, STK, other COTS tools
- Enables a workflow designer to limit variables exposed to end users
- Relatively quick way to provide a U/I
- Added benefit: access to ORSA, optimization, and prob. analysis tools

## Result

“You can do in a few minutes what would have taken me weeks...”



## ModelCenter style for Mission Sims

- Define inputs
- Define file names w/ relative paths
- QuickWrap inputs to Sims
- QuickWrap the Sim and post-processor
- Use file variables
- Parse the output
- Highlight Key FOMs



# MSBAI's GURU: AI/ML-enabled U/I for SAIC's AVATAR

## Problem

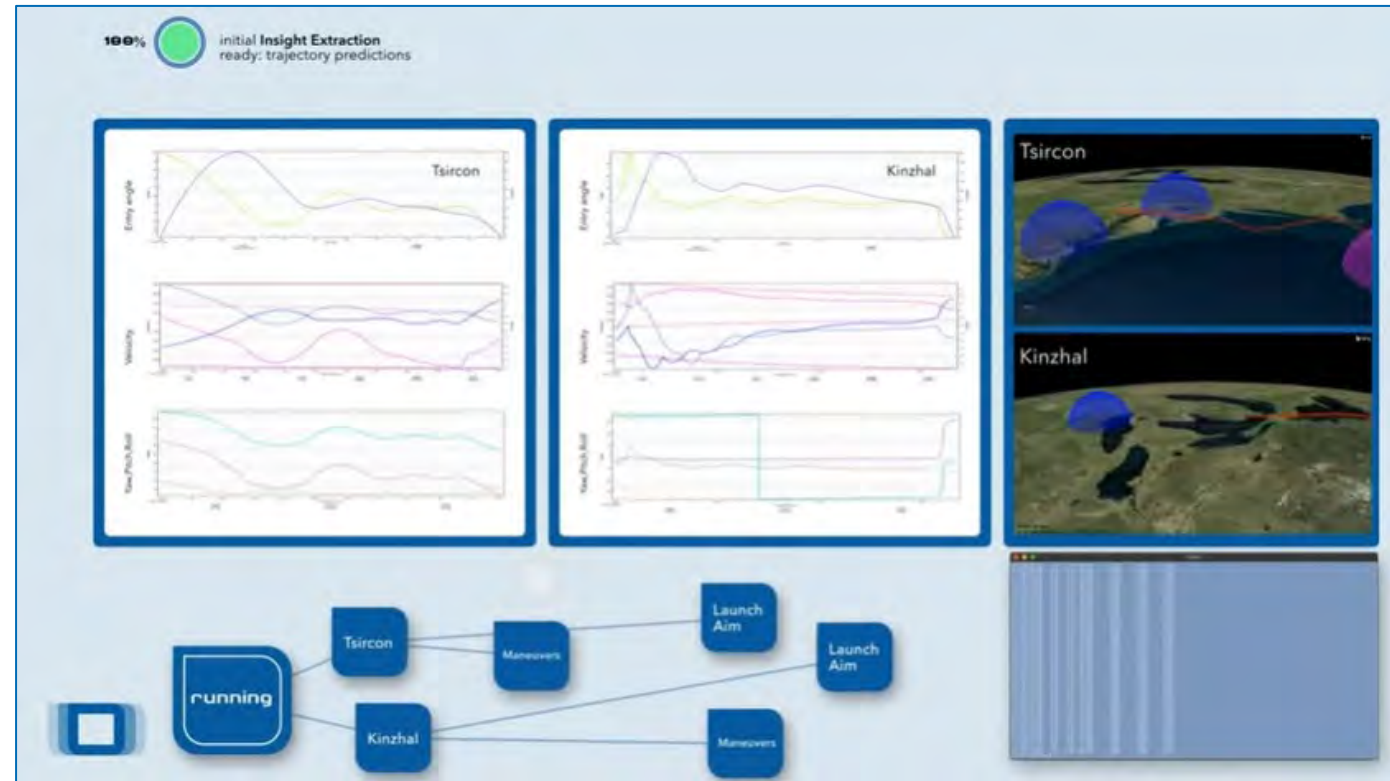
- Engineering-level simulations are complex
  - Many inter-dependent variables
  - Much experience and expertise often needed to create meaningful simulations
  - Can take experts a long time to build new models
- Simulation SMEs often not available
- We often cannot wait for training

## Solution

- Use AI/ML to run numerous cases on HPC
- Create a U/I that assists in defining meaningful cases

## Result

- Lowers barriers for non-SME users



<https://exhibits.iitsec.org/2021/public/eBooth.aspx?IndexInList=165&FromPage=Exhibitors.aspx&ParentBoothID=&ListByBooth=true&BoothID=186860&Nav=False>



# Consideration 2: Compatibility of Simulations for ME

Aspiration: Use industry-standard tools and mission simulations together seamlessly

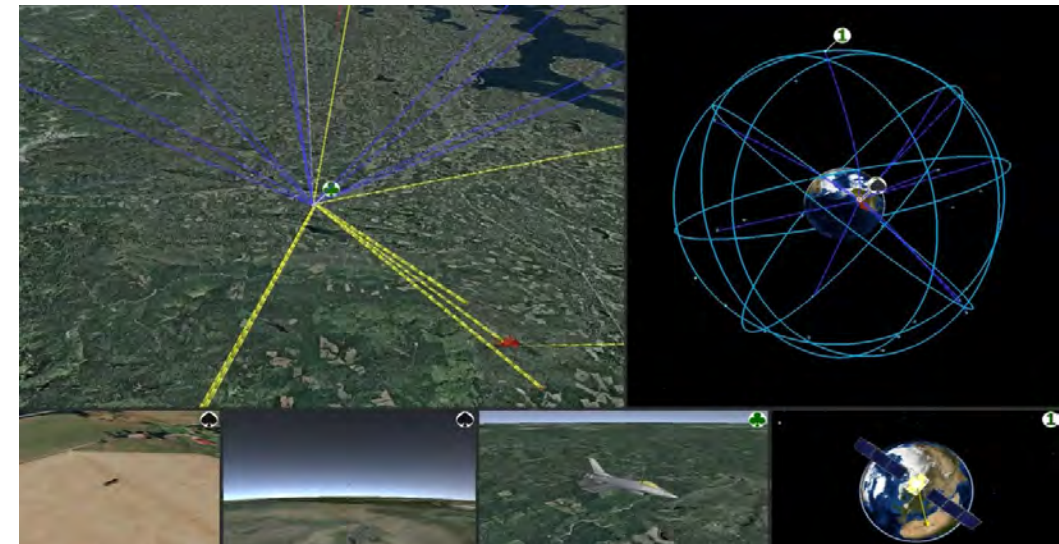
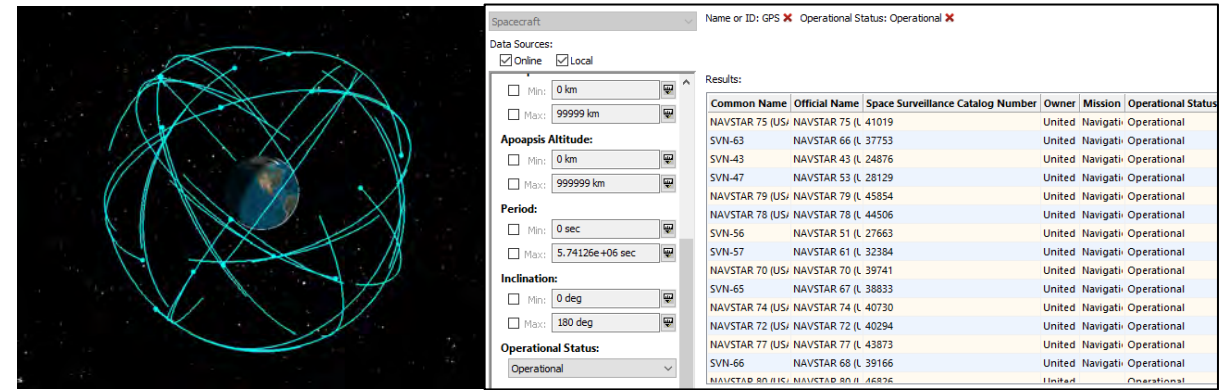
## Difficulties

- Some tools don't do mission simulation;
  - Do not describe behaviors and interactions
- No simple way to integrate analysis and mission tools for all models and functions

## Approaches

- Convert selected features from MS&A tool to mission tool
- Integrate with DIS/HLA
- Make the mission simulation more capable
- Make the analysis-focused simulation more capable

STK and satellite database



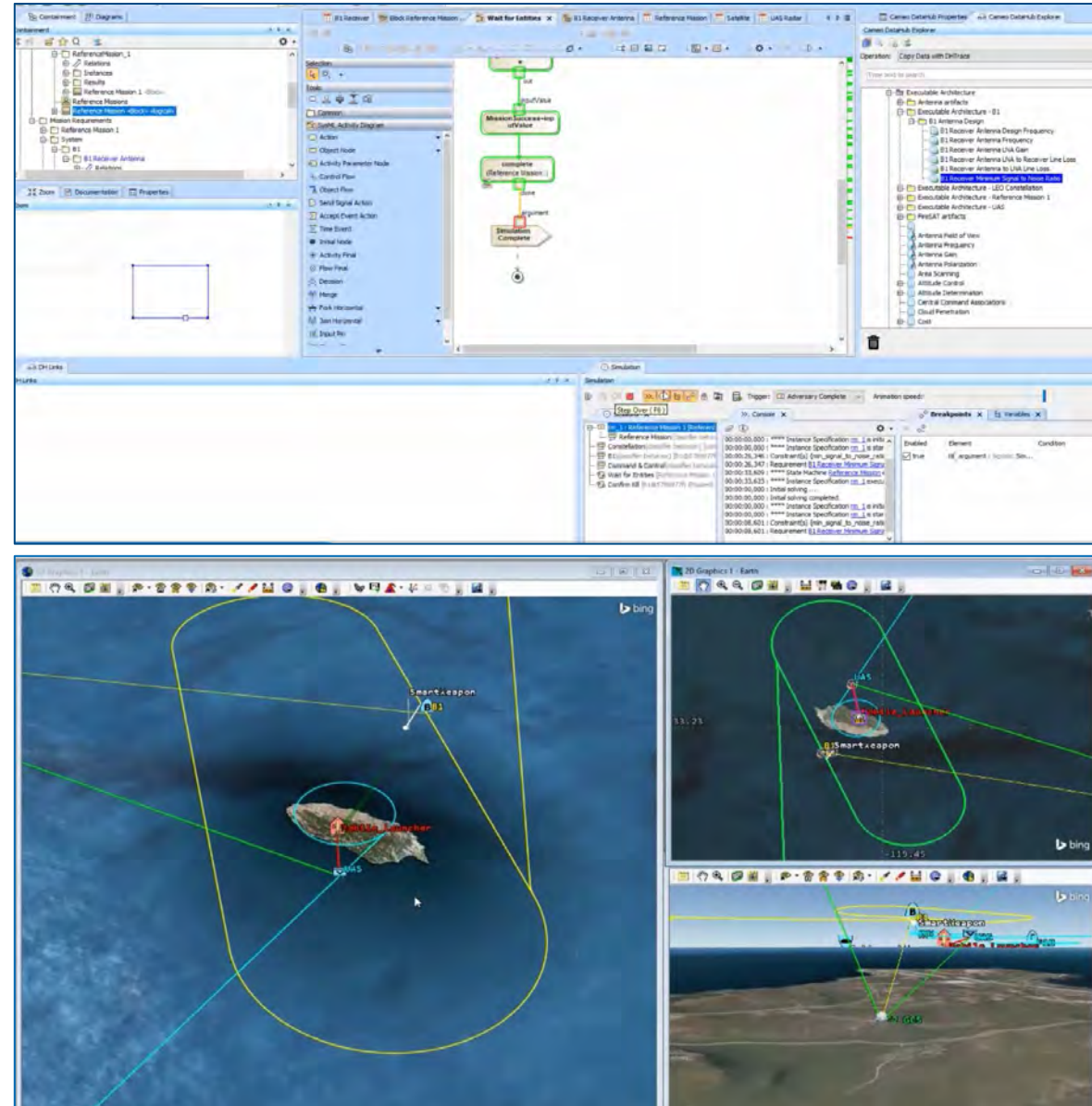
AFSIM <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8DMY5leZ2kA>

# Combined MS&A/Mission Tool: STK, Ansys Minerva, and Cameo

Use STK's mission capabilities with Cameo's behavior descriptions

- Based on Ansys Minerva
- Drive STK from the Cameo model
  - STK follows behaviors defined in SysML
  - Extract mission FOMs
  - Confirm requirements met based on a simulation

Result: Industry-standard tools adapted to Mission Engineering



SAIC JADC2  
video



SAIC

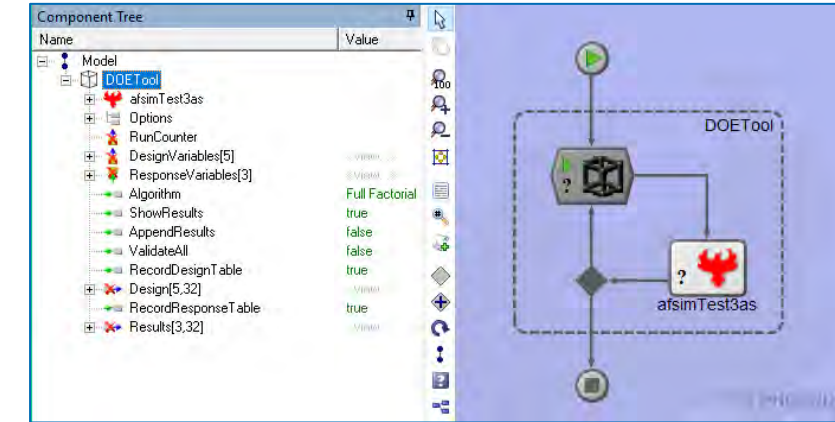
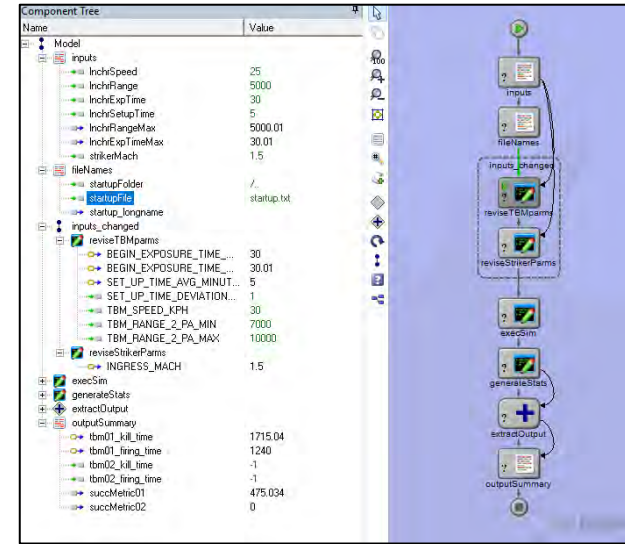


# ModelCenter with PACZ

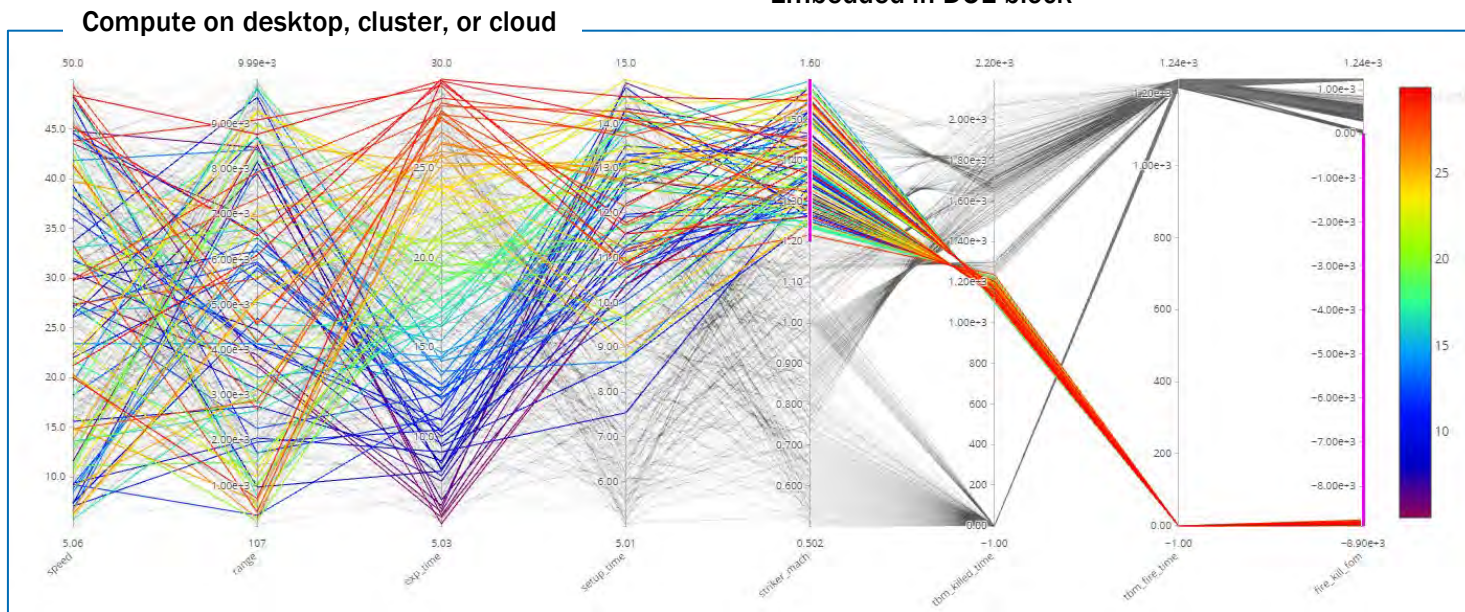
Ensure ModelCenter workflows are widely applied in the DE/ME ecosystem

- Consider portability from the beginning of a ModelCenter project
  - Use relative file paths, file variables
  - Use AnalysisServer or ModelCenter Cloud
- Clearly define variables and artifacts
  - You might not be the next user
  - Makes it easier to verify
- Plan to create PACZ files
  - Test on multiple platforms
  - Access to Cameo or Rhapsody via ModelCenter MBSE

**Result:** Improved ability to combine and curate tools



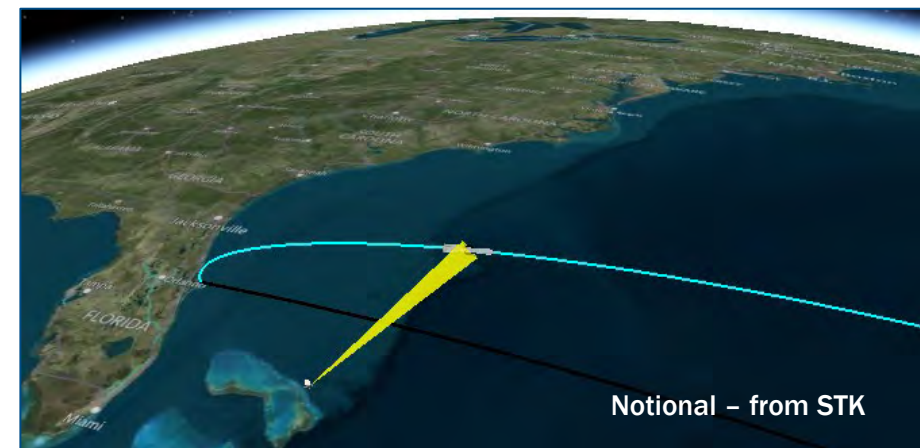
Project saved as PACZ  
Embedded in DOE block



# Consideration 3: Applicability of Models Within Mission Engineering

Aspiration: **Apply the same engineering models throughout the lifecycle**

- Consistent with a single source of truth
- Fewer models to maintain
- **Difficulties**
  - Hard to use the same solution end-to-end
  - Model might be too detailed for a mission simulation
  - Might be too slow to execute
  - Might be hard or impossible to obtain
    - OEM-owned; proprietary; not deliverable; IP issues
    - Represents a system not in digital form
- **Approaches**
  - Derive, simplify, validate, curate with a process
  - Benchmark simplified models vs. more detailed
  - Create and verify surrogate models



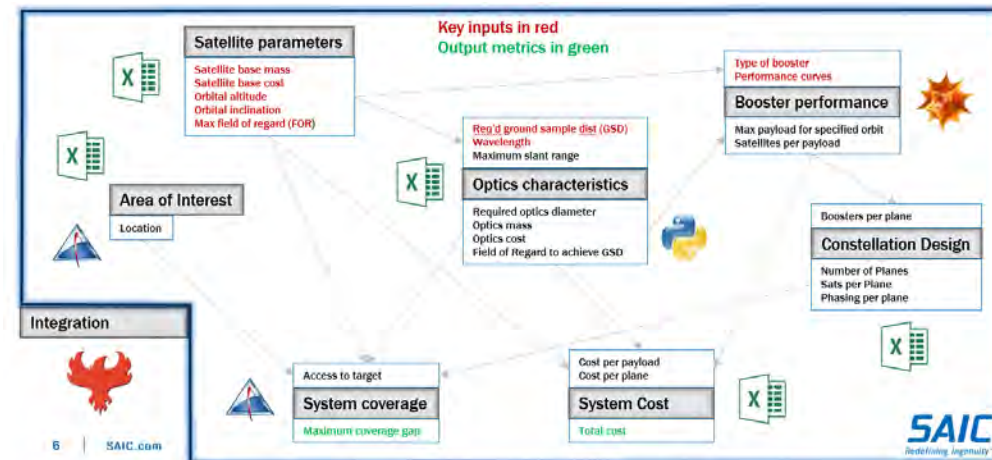
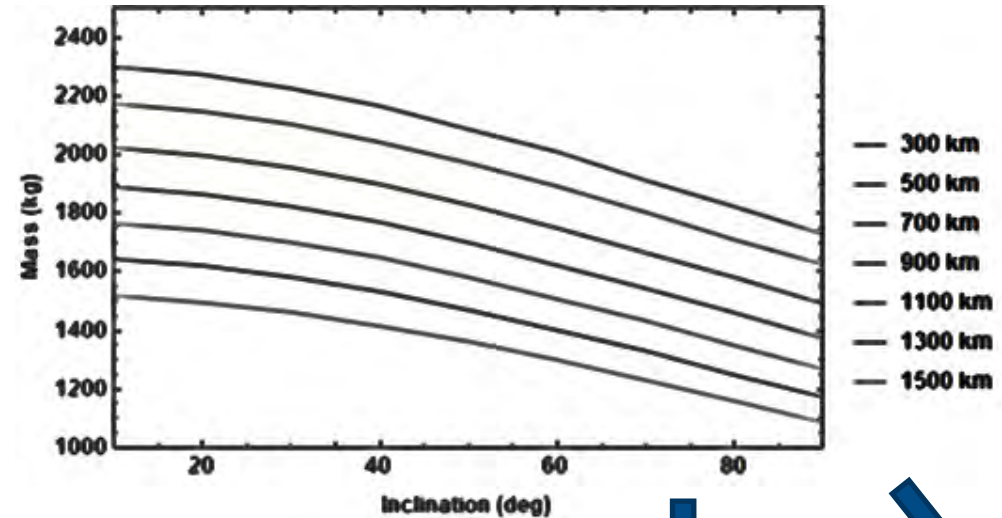


# Surrogate Modeling

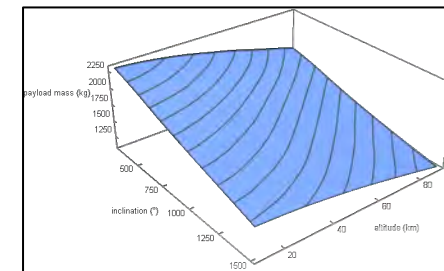
## Rapid analysis requirement

- Include mass-on-orbit performance in an initial, integrated smallsat analysis
  - Very sparse documentation available from OEM
  - Parametric analysis; optimization
- Naïve method
  - Put a full launch simulation in the workflow - “In the loop”
  - Slow, difficult, and uncertain to create and verify new models for a launch system
- First solution
  - Measure a table of points from OEM graphics
  - Create a surrogate model
  - Two days to code and verify
  - Embedded in a ModelCenter QuickWrap, .bat file

Input data from OEM – graphic only  
(notional example; intentionally blurred)



Digital surrogate model

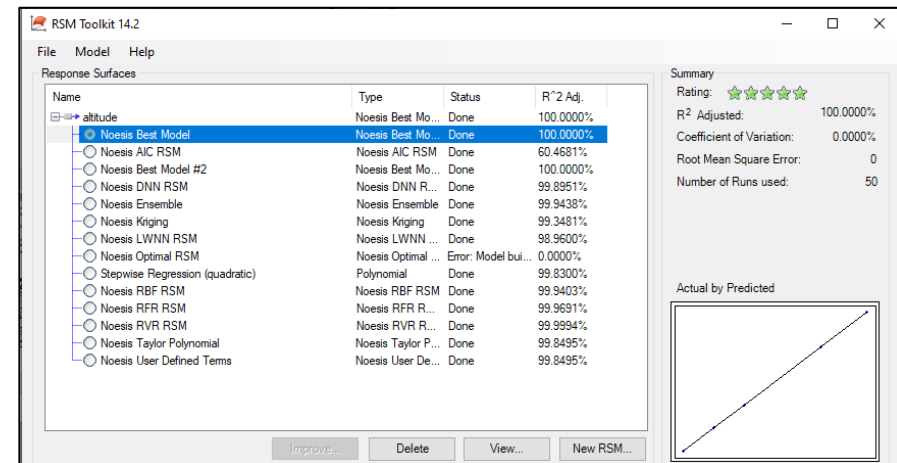
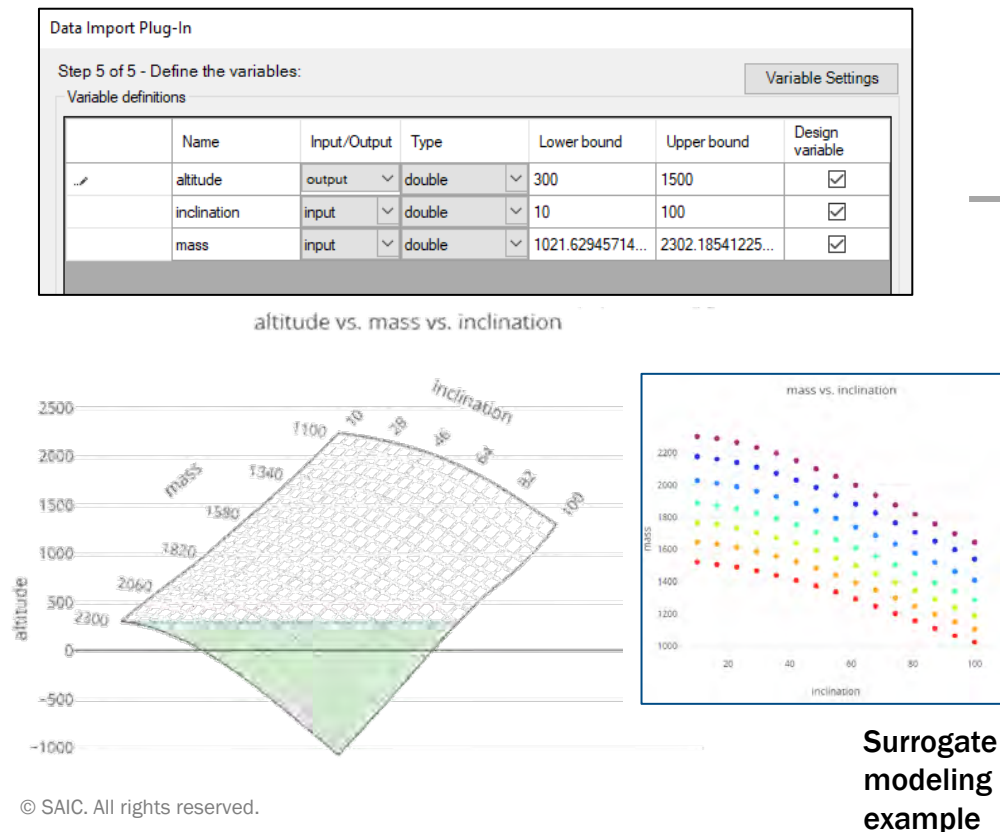


# Better Solution for Surrogate Modeling

Create a surrogate from a data table

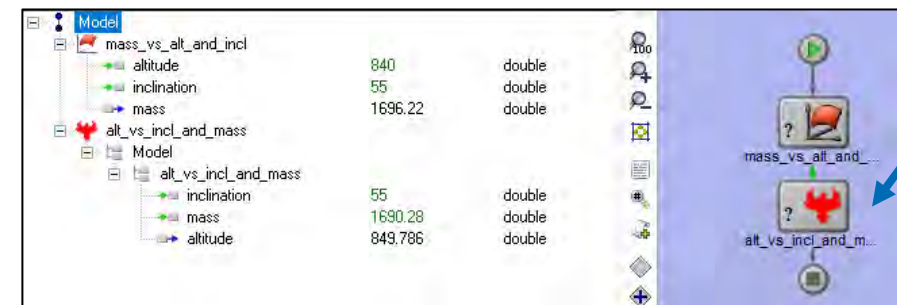
- Ingest into ModelCenter Explore with the Data Import Plug-in
- Apply the RSM Toolkit

- Took less than two minutes to ingest the data, evaluate, and place into ModelCenter
- Provides diagnostics of accuracy
- Enables redefining dependent variable



Export to AnalysisServer

- Curate
- Reuse



# Consideration 4: Innovation in a Process-Driven Enterprise

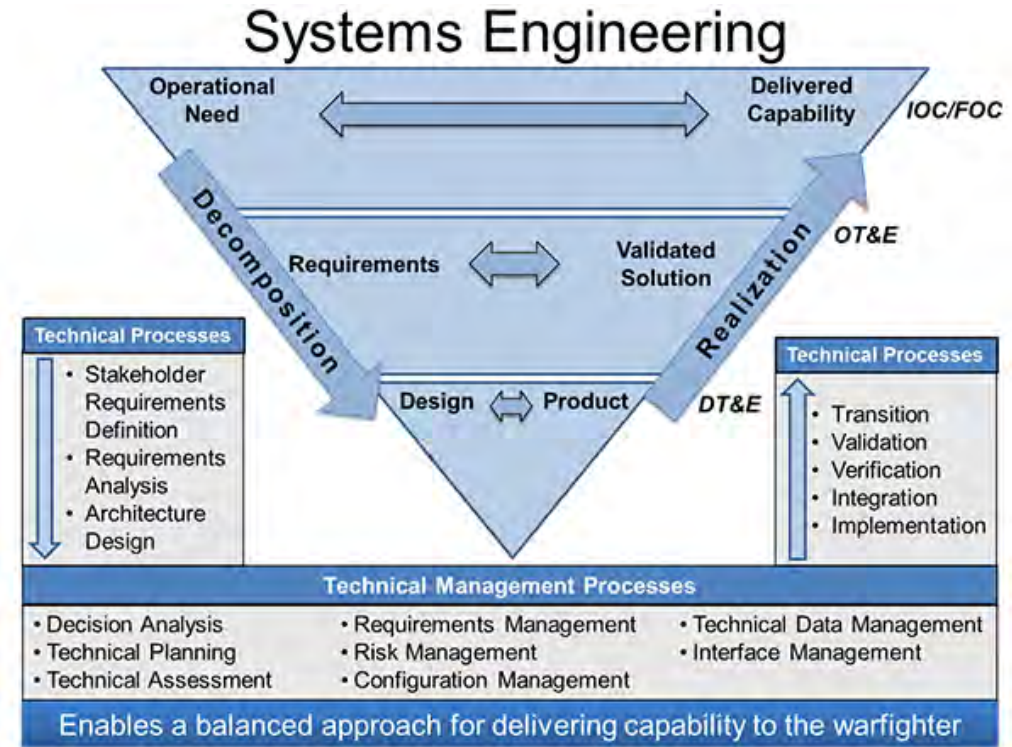
Aspiration: **Encourage Mission Engineering innovation within the DE framework**

## Difficulties

- To reduce risk, we look only to proven SE tools and processes
- Sometimes have to use validated M&S tools even if hard to integrate or inferior
- Biased towards sunk costs and existing infrastructure

## Approaches

- Use Agile processes where appropriate
- Make the SE process itself resilient
- Include innovation in contract scopes if possible
- Create pilot programs
- Give selected workers freedom to innovate

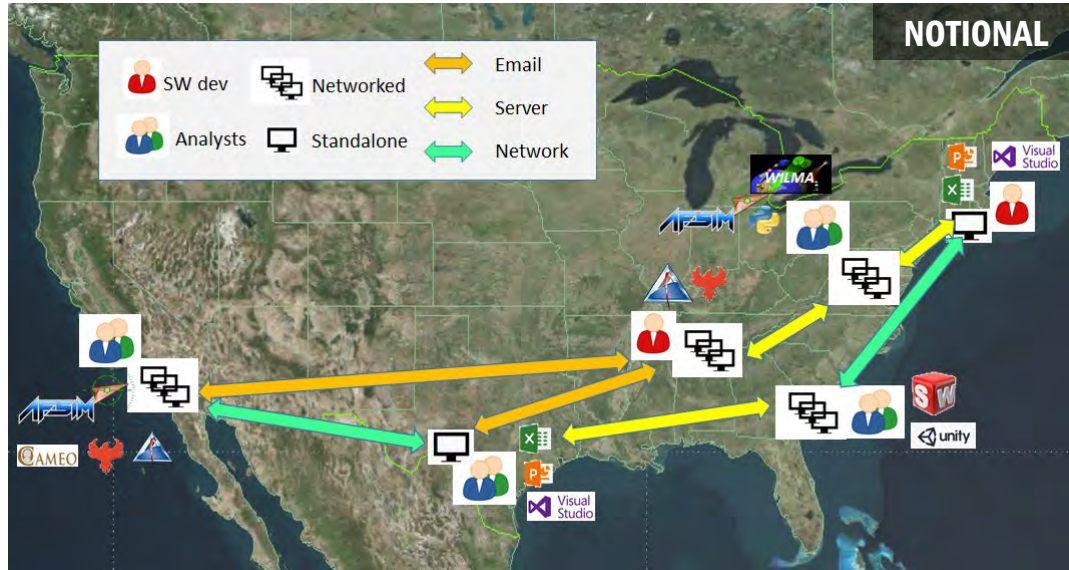


DAU Acquiopedia: Systems Engineering Process

How do we enable innovation happen in a rigorous process?



# Innovation in Infrastructure: MS&A on Cloud



## PREVIOUS/CURRENT STATE

- **Solution Teams:** M&S analysts, developers, operators
- **Obstacles:** Geography, orgs, time zones, networks, data transfer, ...
- **Moving Parts:** M&S software, analytics, software development, formats, ...
- **Data Transfer:** Email, server, network
- **Integration:** Slow, tedious, error-prone, bottlenecked
- **Cost Assessment:** Hard to estimate
- **Security:** Long ATO

## OUTCOMES

- Eliminate M&S stovepipes
- More effort on solutions, not IT
- Faster solutions
- Stand up new work faster
- Teamwork without geographic and network barriers
- Common framework across multiple security levels

## SOLUTION

- **Execute:** M&S and analytic tools in one GovCloud environment
- **Scale:** Elastic cloud based
- **Integrate** with cloud based M&S
- **Transfer** data within cloud
- **Access** from anywhere and by anyone on project
- **Define** a reusable solution
- **Visualize** from M&S on cloud
- **Security:** Continuous ATO





# Innovation for Production Speed: Temporary AWS Nodes

## Objective

- Satellite constellation coverage trades – in-house code
- Vary satellite orbit and viewing parameters
- Create Pareto fronts for analysis
- Example FOMs: average gap, max gap, and minimum number of satellites for full coverage

## Problem

- With standard employee computer – would take 6-8 weeks based prior scenarios
- Compute cluster occupied with other work

## Solution

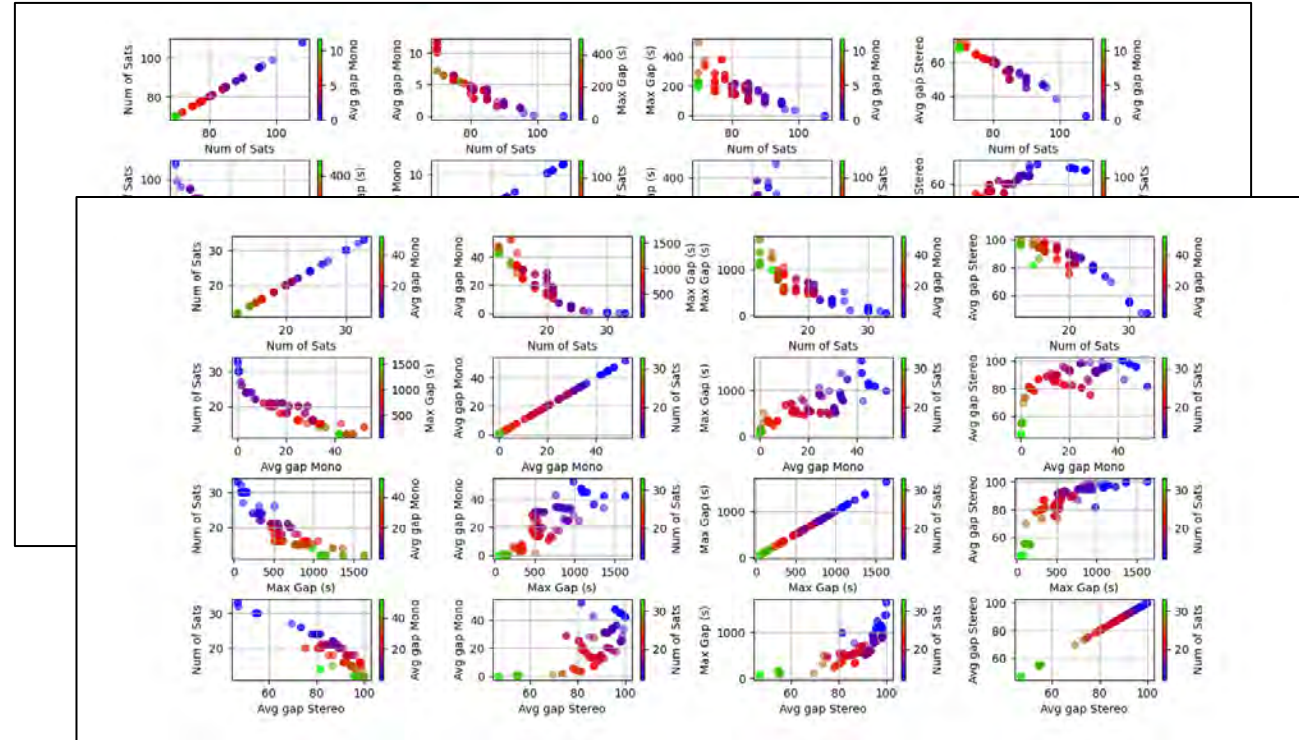
- Used AWS GovCloud: 9 servers with 96 CPUs each
- Parallel processes
- Runtime decreased to 72 hours

## Cost

- About \$6000 for AWS cores – no recurrent cost

## Result

- Supported time critical analysis



For COTS, flexibility in licensing is key

# Summary

## Modeling, Simulation, and Analysis in Mission Engineering at SAIC

- Supporting work of national significance
- Innovating to improve human interaction, integration, interoperability, curation, cost, and more
- Continuing to develop and innovate to support emerging customer needs

Looking for further connections with other innovative partners

# For More Information

MBSE Jobs: <https://jobs.saic.com/pages/mbse>

Digital Engineering: <http://www.saic.com/digital-engineering>

Contact Us: [DigitalEngineering@saic.com](mailto:DigitalEngineering@saic.com)