

# Research challenges and opportunities in the scope of complex systems development

Keynote at SoftNet 2014, Nice, France

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# AIRBUS ...at a glance

GROUP

 AIRBUS



 AIRBUS  
HELICOPTERS



 AIRBUS  
DEFENCE & SPACE



## Key figures

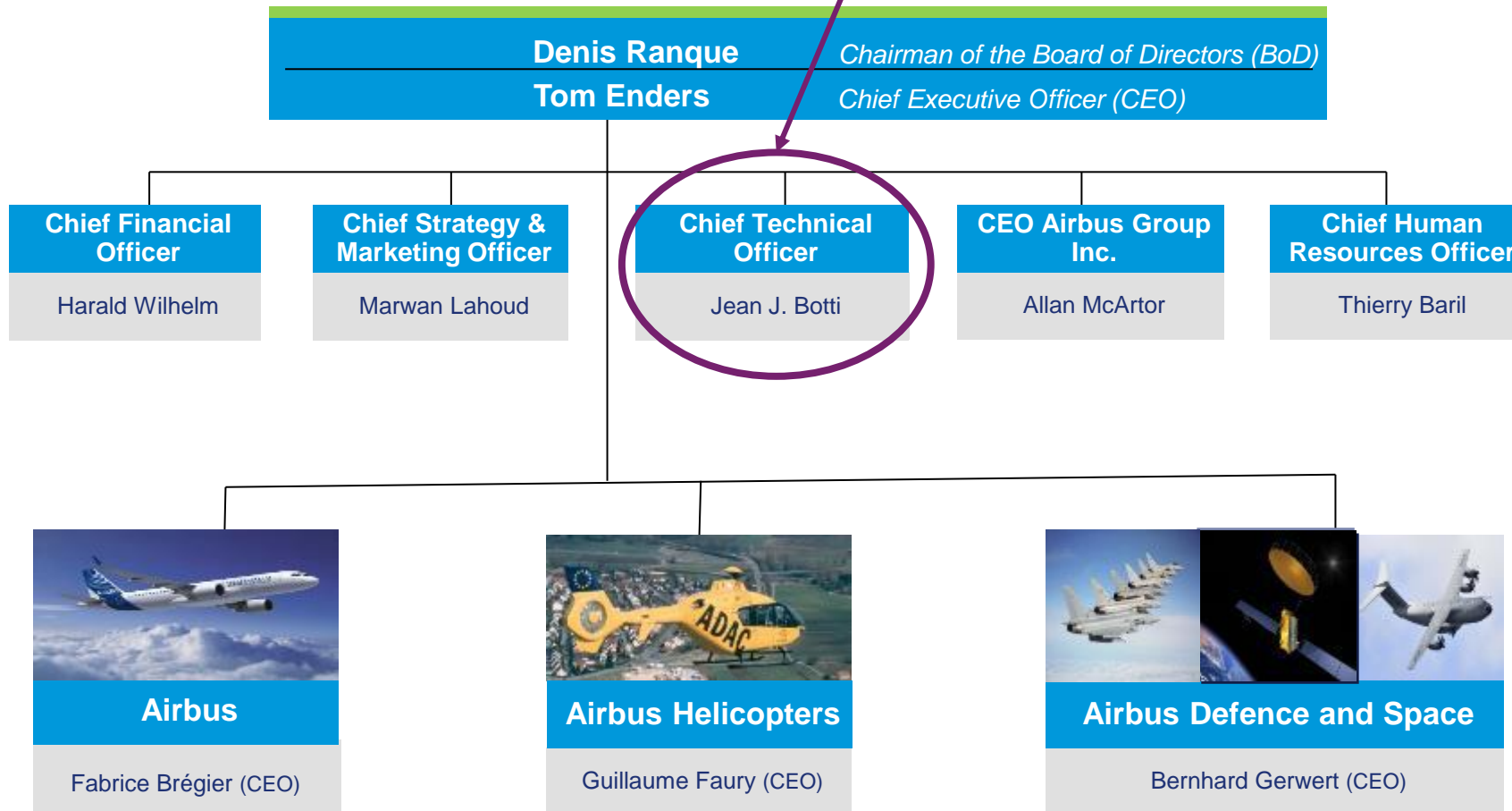
- Over 800 Researchers, Scientists, Engineers worldwide
- 20 sites around the world
- Located in 12 countries
- More than 100 new patent applications every year

## Airbus Group Innovations

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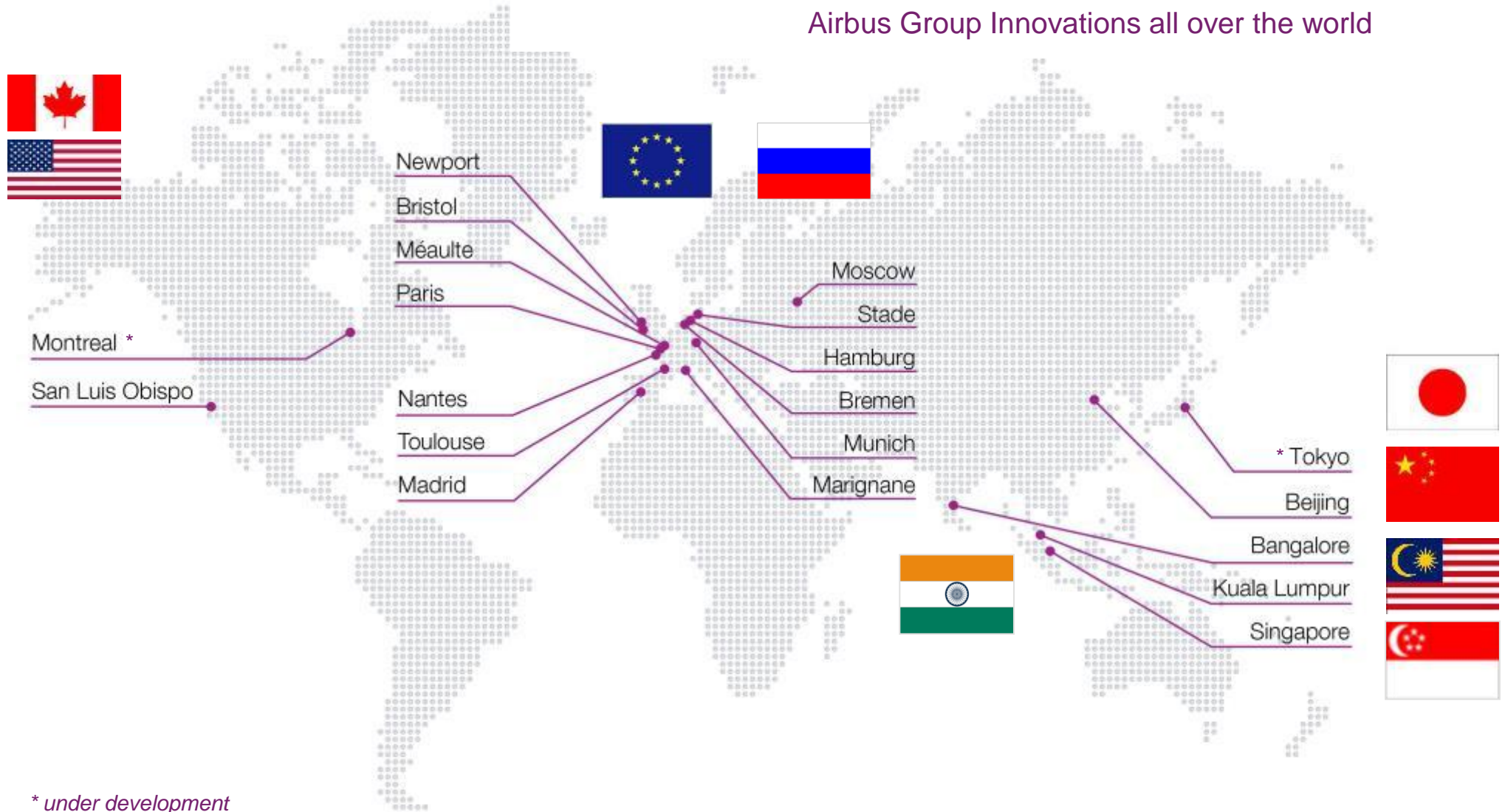
# Airbus Group Management structure

Airbus Group Innovations is part of Chief Technical Officer Organization



# Where we operate?

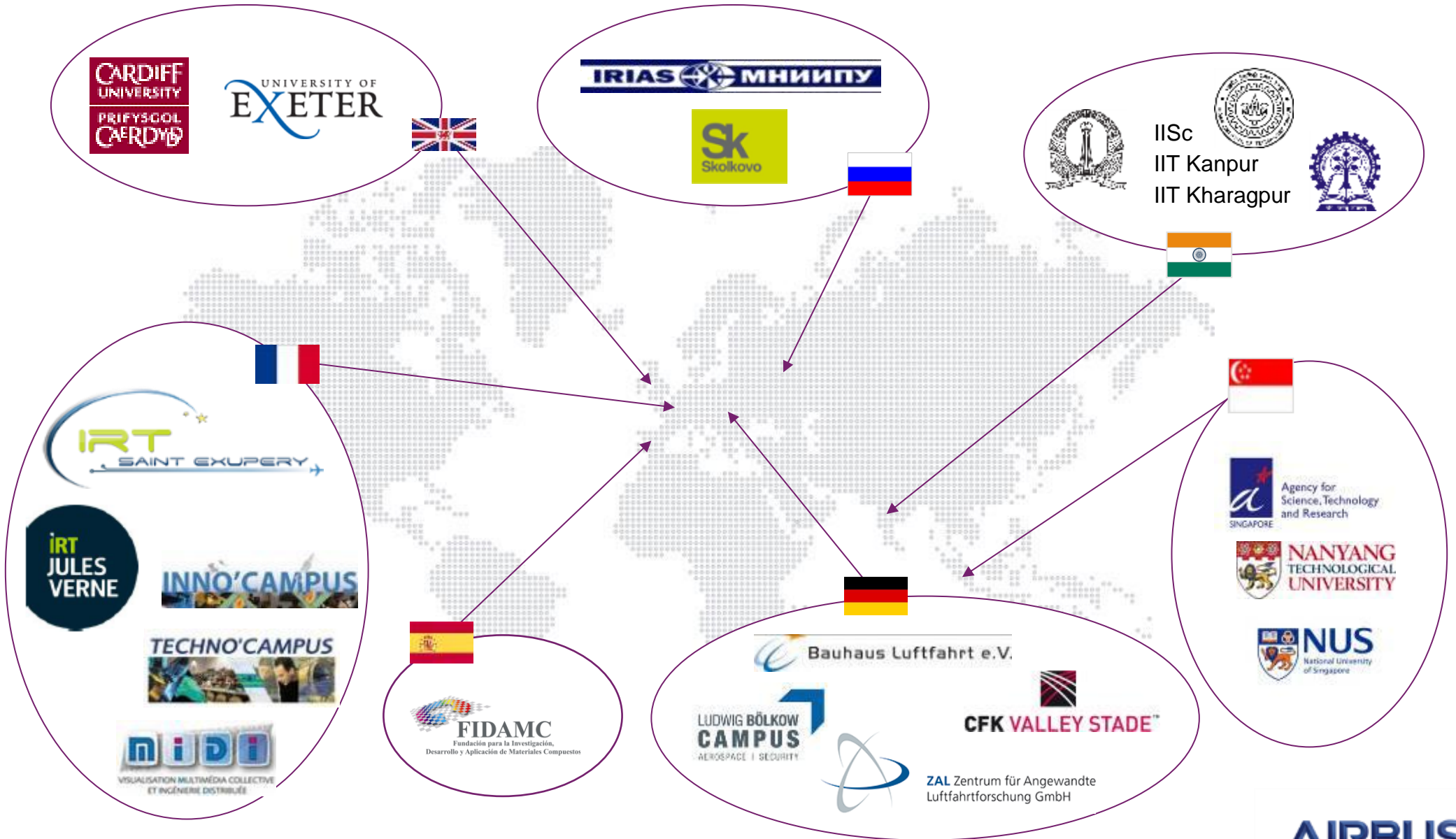
Airbus Group Innovations all over the world



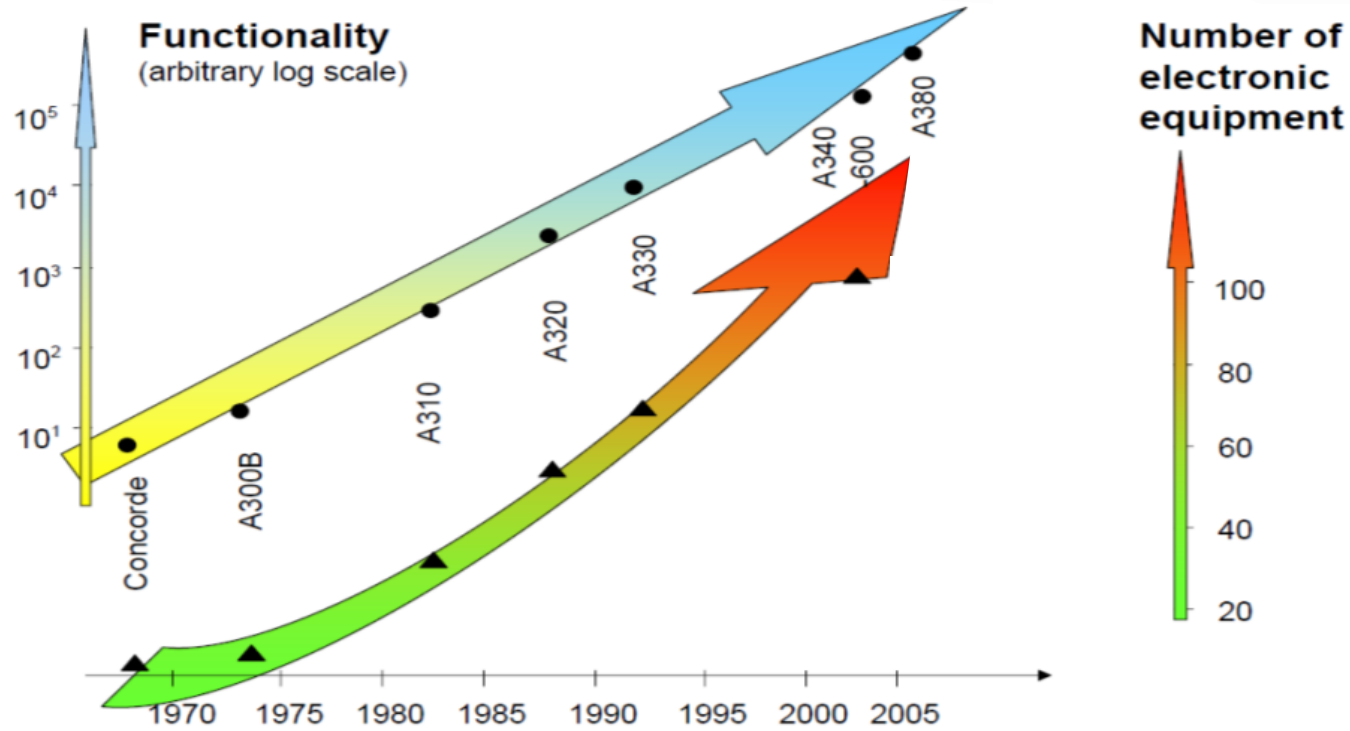
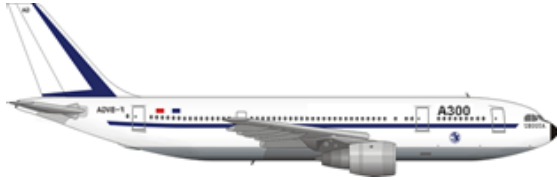
\* under development

# We optimize networking synergy to get innovations

○ Main partnerships



# Motivation Airbus Group



**Trend: Growing Complexity of Systems**



# Motivation Airbus Group

How can we develop systems that have to fulfill a large number of often opposing requirements?

Required Functions addressed?

Weight?

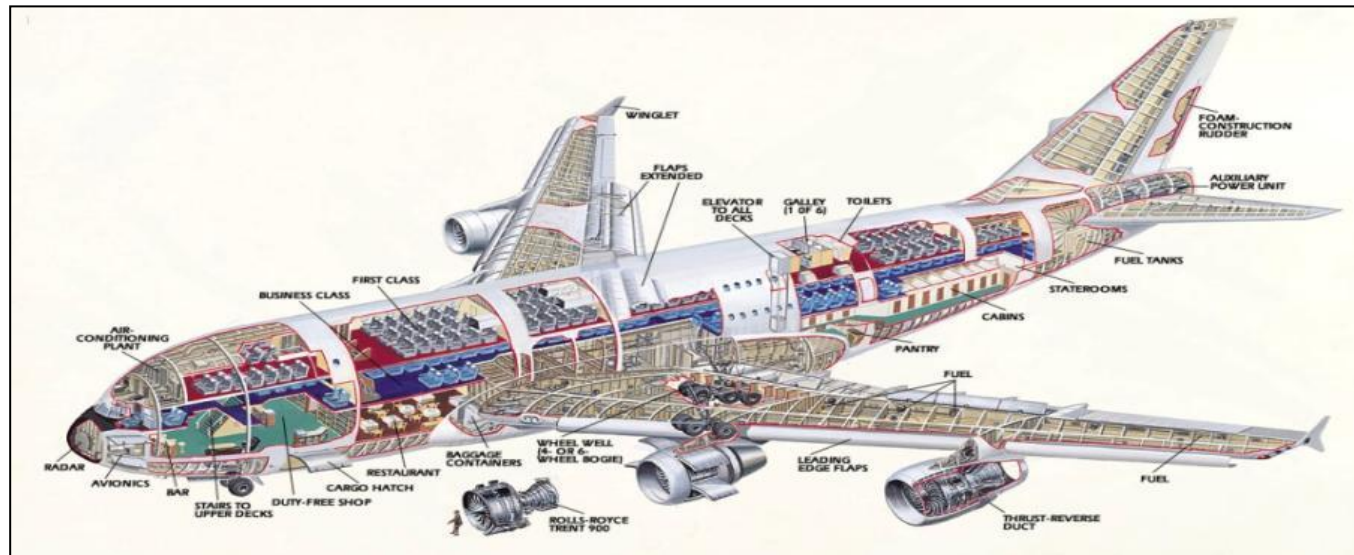
Costs?

Safety?

Timing?

Security?

Flexibility?

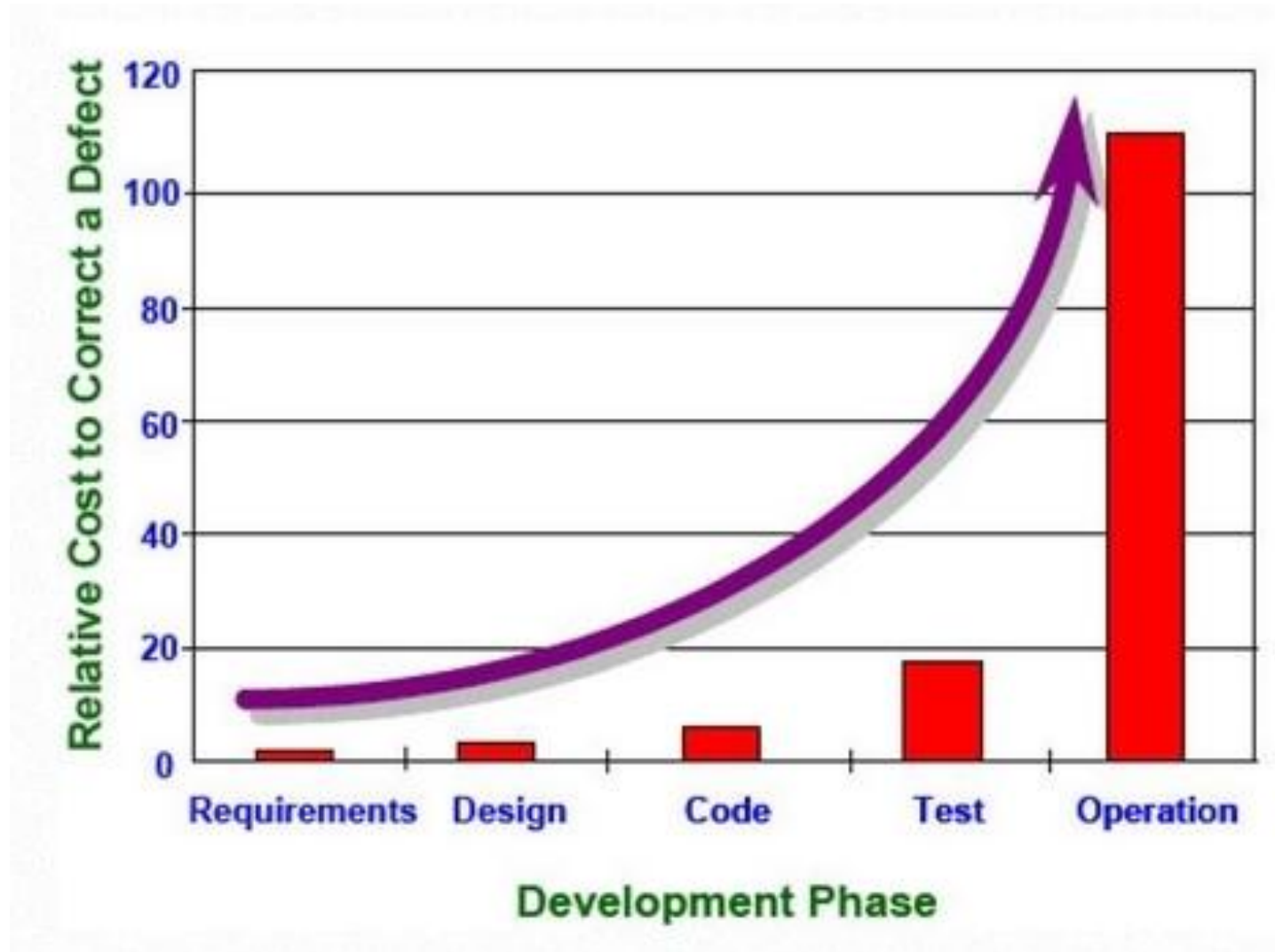


Maintenance?

Production?

Power Consumption?

# Motivation Airbus Group

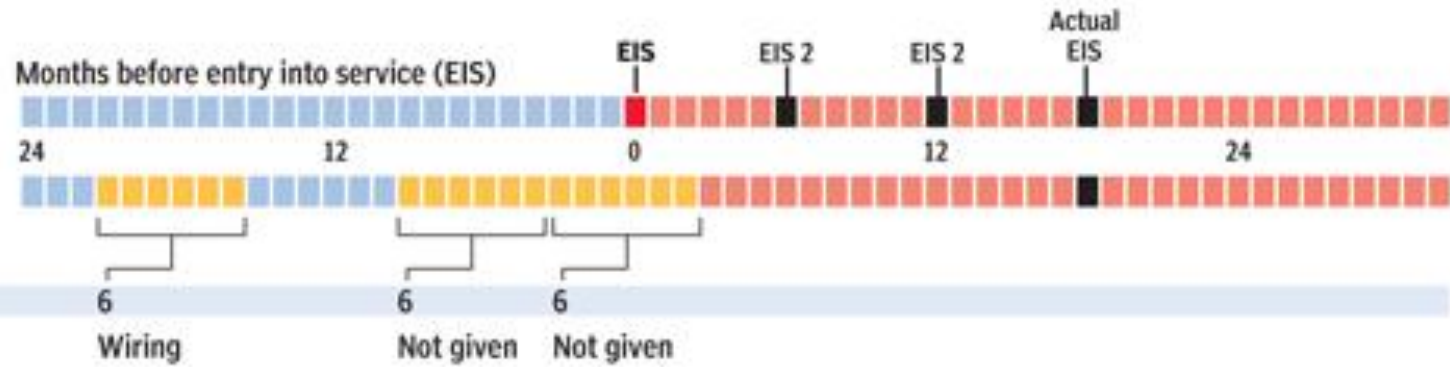


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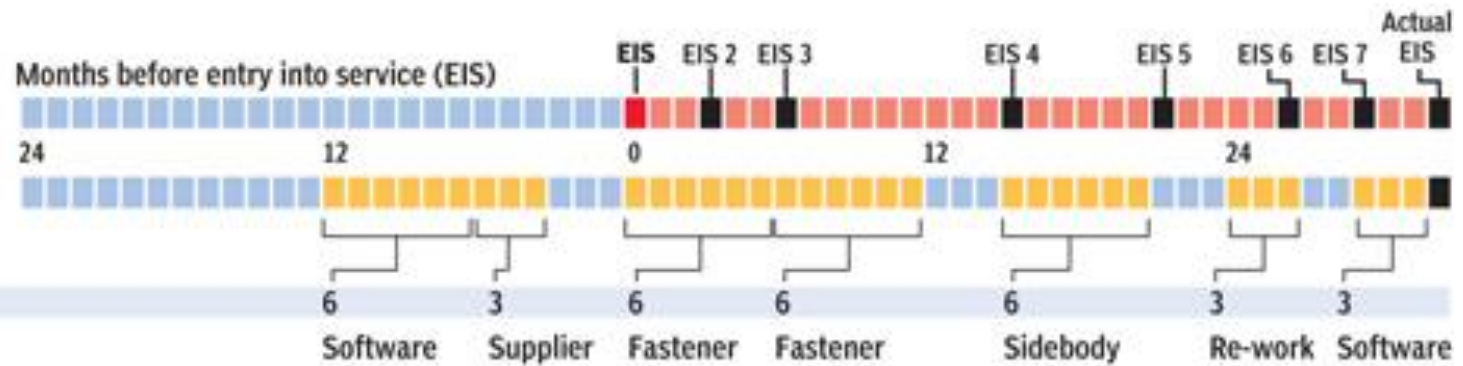
<http://newsbytes.ph/2014/08/11/blog-jollibee-chickensad-an-it-management-case-study/>

# Airbus Group Motivation

**AIRBUS A380**  
Program launch  
2000



**BOEING 787**  
Program launch  
2003



Source:

<http://business.financialpost.com/2011/11/15/bombardiers-bid-to-avoid-boeing-mistakes/>

# Airbus Group Motivation



First Flight: 1963  
Expected life: 2020



First Flight: 1987  
Expected life: ???



First Flight: 1974  
Expected life: 2019

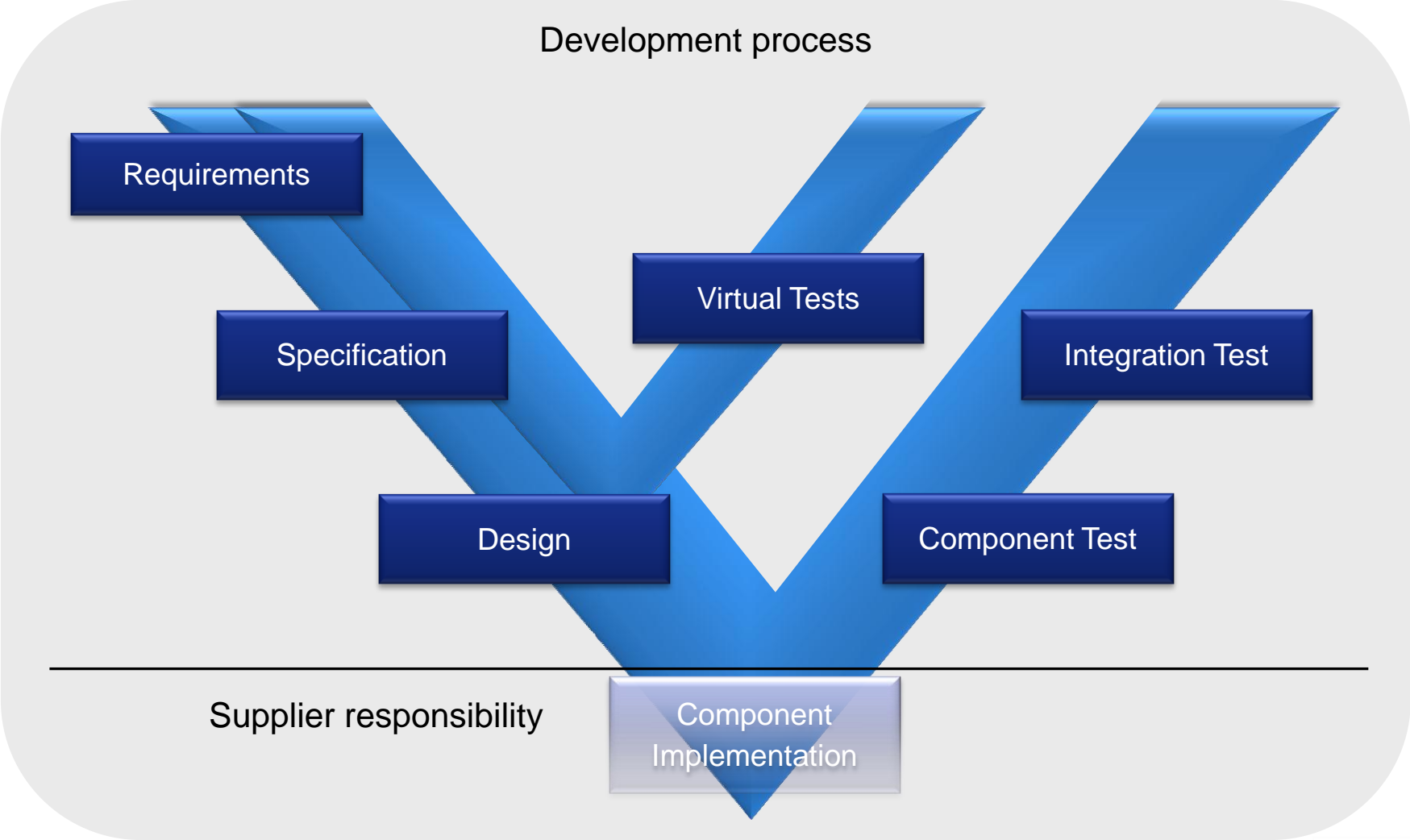
Source:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transall\\_C-160](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transall_C-160)

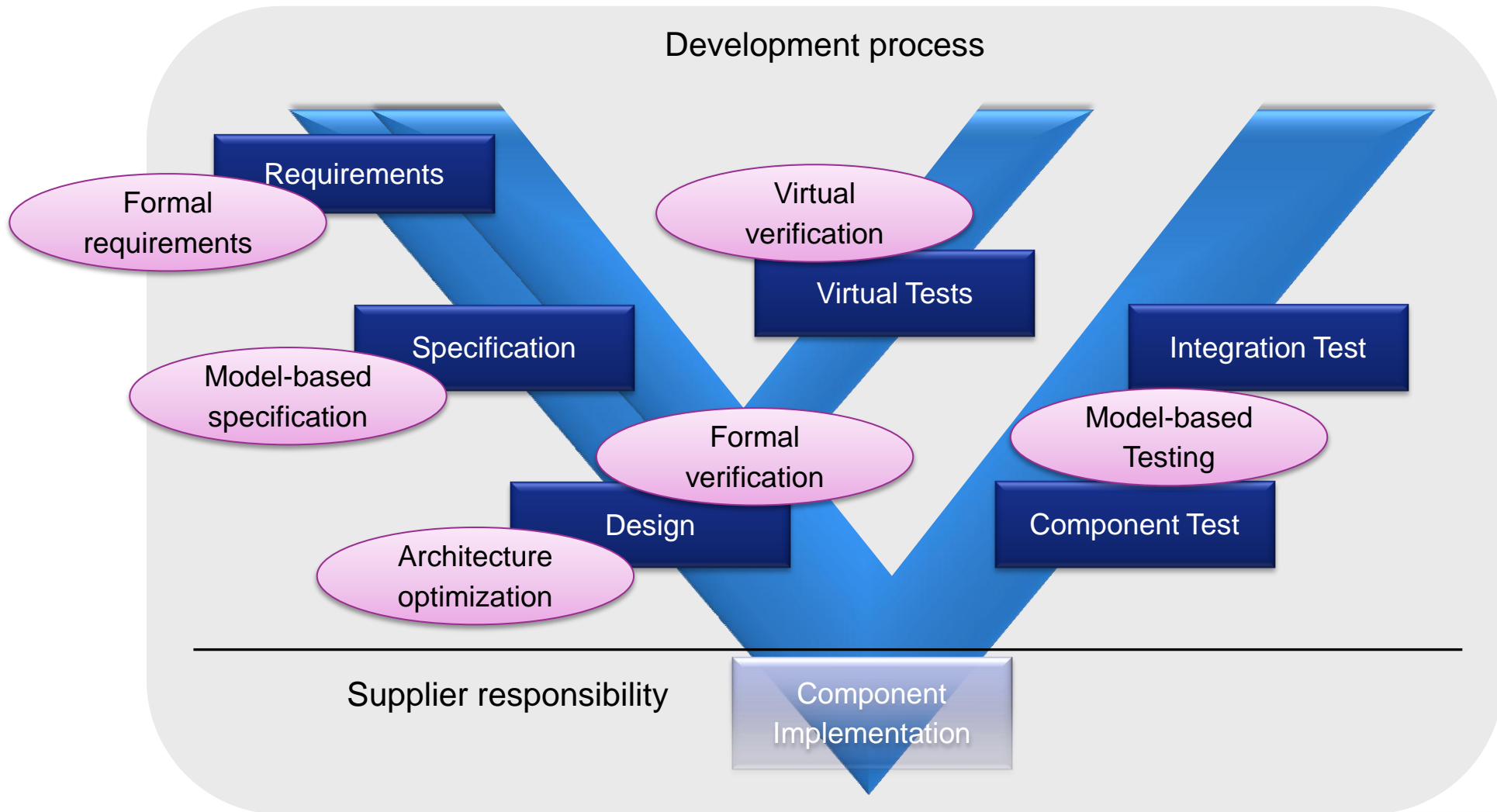
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panavia\\_Tornado](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panavia_Tornado)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Airbus\\_A320\\_family](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Airbus_A320_family)

# Typical system development process



# Typical system development process



# Formal requirements

## **What we see today:**

- Natural language requirement still dominate the system requirements definition
- Working formal specification approaches exist

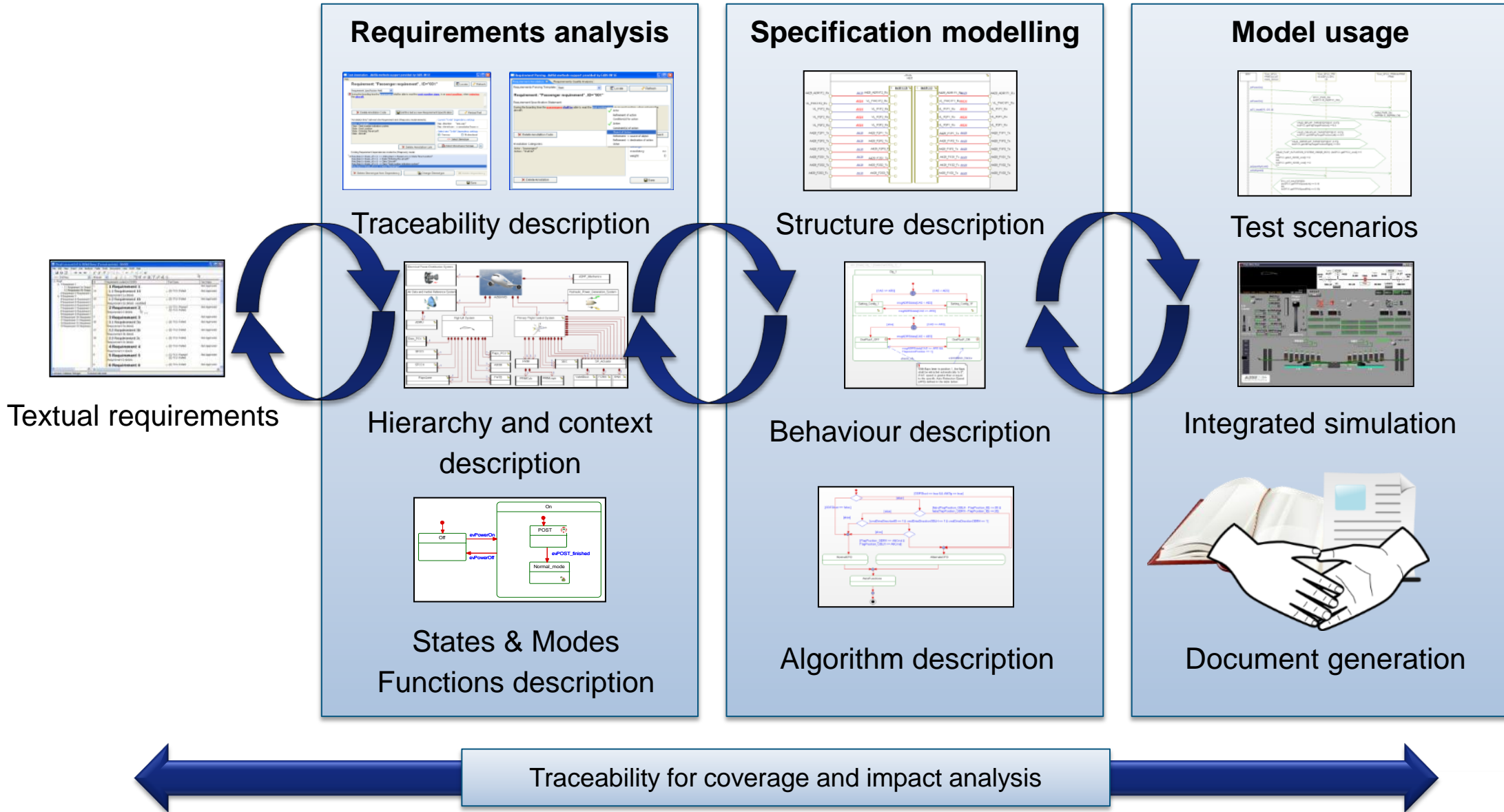
## **But:**

- Increasing systems complexity make it increasingly impossible to communicate the system definition using text alone (inconsistencies, gaps, contradictions,...)
- Formal languages not alluring to system engineers

## **Open challenges:**

- Make model-based approaches and formal specification more usable for system engineers (structured text, boilerplates, domain-specific formal languages for writing requirements, tool supported formalization)

# Model-based specification





# Model-based specification

## **What we see today:**

- Model-based approaches for modelling functional requirements,
- Document generation and model execution for specification validation is possible

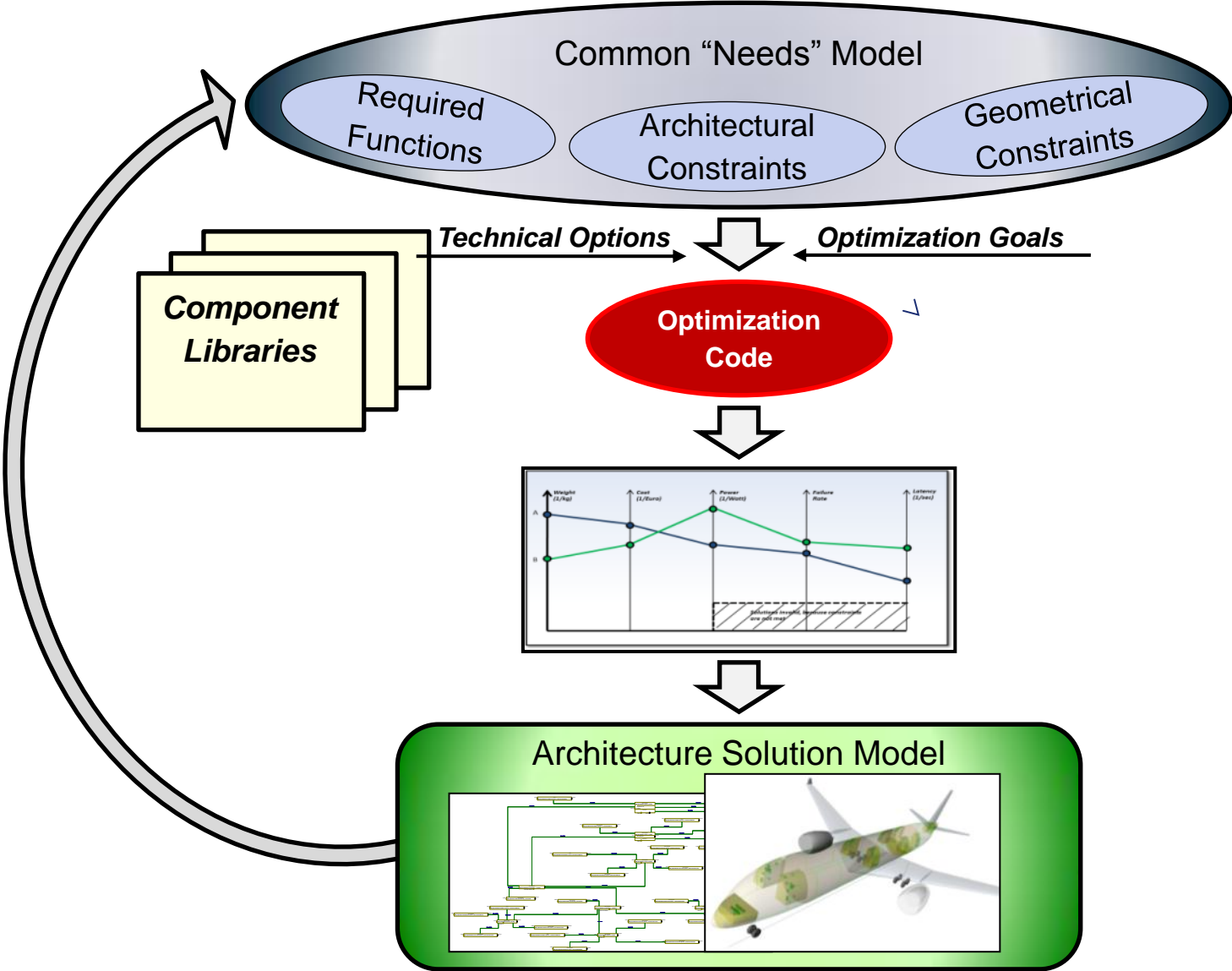
## **But:**

- Non-functional requirements (and other process requirements, e.g. installation) are often still in natural language
- Very slow uptake in industrial practice
- Tools are not adapted to systems engineer needs (many tools started in the SW domain)

## **Open challenges:**

- Increase usability for system engineers, focus on the way they used to express the specification

# Architecture optimization



# Architecture optimization

## **What we see today:**

- Proof-of-concept demonstrator for system architecture optimization approach
- Isolated optimisation (cable routing, task allocation,...)

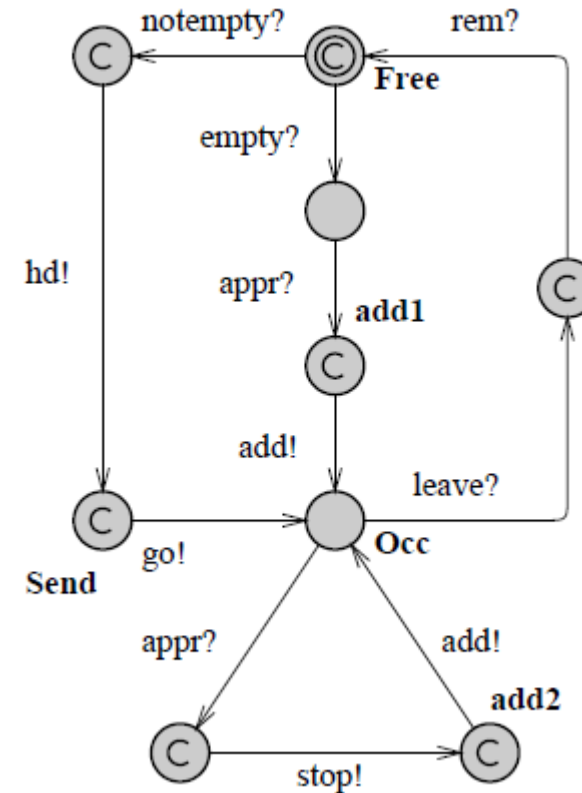
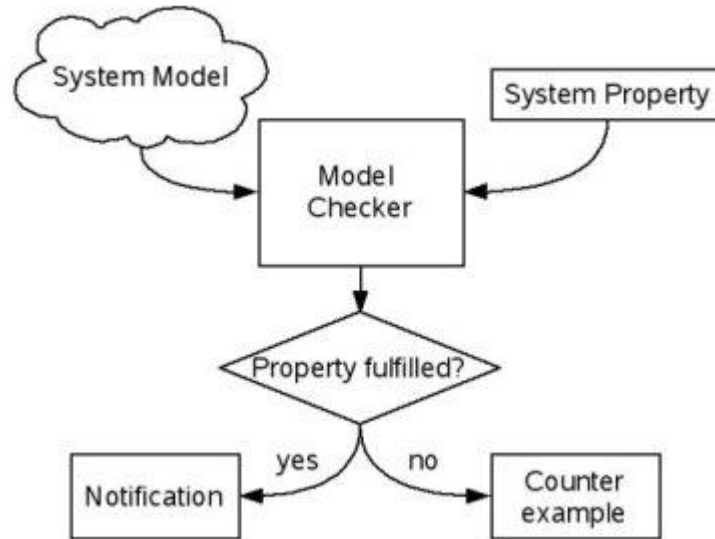
## **But:**

- Focus on standard metrics (weight, cost, ...)
- Does not consider dynamic behaviour
- Limited to linear problems

## **Open challenges:**

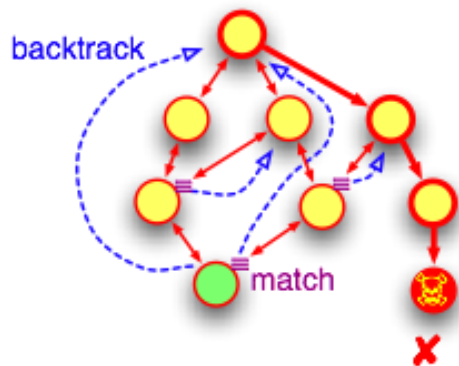
- Consider more metrics during optimization
- Measurement of hard-to-measure metrics (security, maintainability, flexibility,...)
- Efficient algorithms for non-linear optimization problems

# Formal verification



model checking:

all program state are explored  
until none left or defect found



- <http://embsys.technikum-wien.at/projects/decs/verification/formalmethods.php>
- [http://babelfish.arc.nasa.gov/trac/jpf/iki/intro/testing\\_vs\\_model\\_checking](http://babelfish.arc.nasa.gov/trac/jpf/iki/intro/testing_vs_model_checking)
- <http://www.cs.aau.dk/~adavid/publications/21-tutorial.pdf>

# Formal verification

## **What we see today:**

- Usable industrial strength model checkers are available (UPPAAL, CBMC, SPIN)

## **But:**

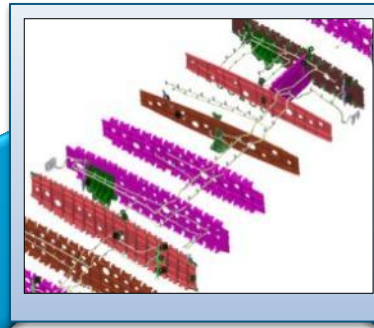
- Available model checkers usually work on a proprietary language (UPPAAL) or heavily restrict the usage of standard modelling languages (STSTest)
- Model checkers either work on code (CBMC) or on a model not on models that include code
- Scalability is still an issue
- Formal verification hardly used in industrial systems engineering

## **Open challenges:**

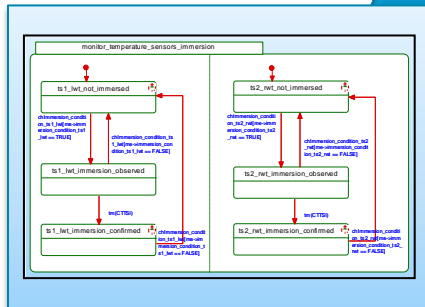
- Easy to use model checkers that work on large-scale system models which include code for model execution (see MBS) integrated into existing tool chains
- Making sure that an implemented component behaves according to the checked model

# Virtual verification

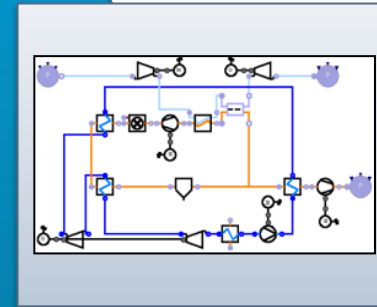
Visualisation in DMU  
(e.g. Catia)



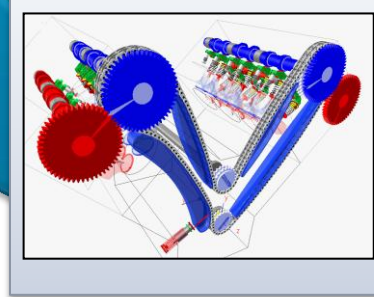
**Heterogeneous Simulator**



Control behaviour  
(e.g. Rhapsody)



Electrical behaviour  
(e.g. Dymola)



Mechanical behaviour  
(e.g. SimPack)

# Virtual verification

## **What we see today:**

- Simulation is a standard mean for virtual verification
- FMI as emerging standard for simulation exchange

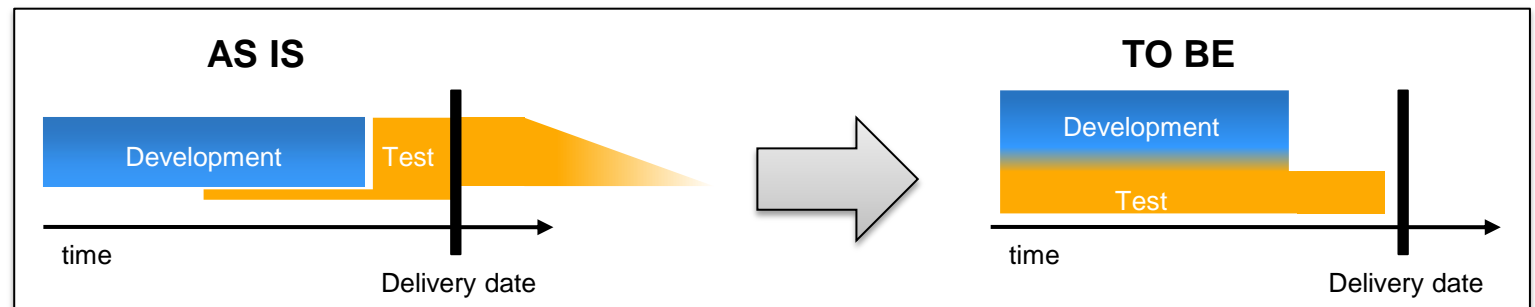
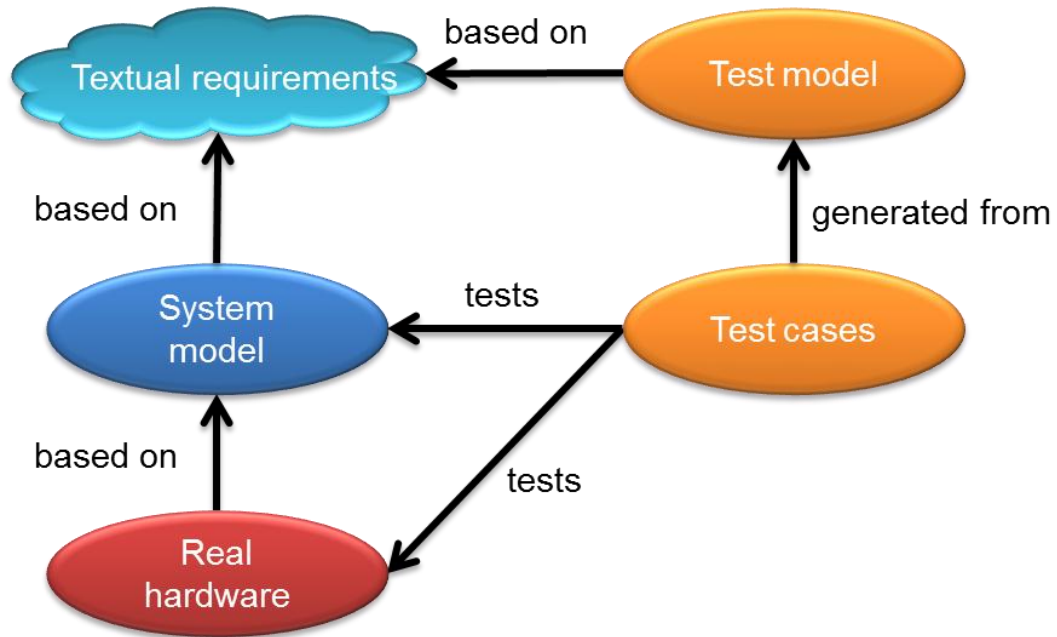
## **But:**

- Multi-domain simulation are often pressed into a single tool
- Co-simulation often not easy to use

## **Open challenges:**

- Simulation environment that allow choosing the best tool for the job
- Seamless integration of simulations coming from different tools

# Model-based testing





# Model-based testing

## **Where we are today:**

- Model-based testing has been proven as an effective technique for testing (see e.g. ARTEMIS MBAT project) and commercial tools are available

## **But:**

- MBT typically generates a large number of test cases based on exhaustive search
- Expert knowledge is not taken into account in order to optimize the generated test suite  
include all relevant and realistic test cases

## **Open challenges:**

- Integration of testing and development activities
- Reuse of artefacts from the development phase in the testing phase
- Optimisation of test suites from different sources
- Identification of the most critical test cases in a test suite

# Conclusion

- Many open challenges for complex systems development
- Main obstacle for adaptation of new methods and tools is usability for engineers
- Integration into existing workflows and tool environments is important
  
- However, it is crucial for ensure research questions are solved in realistic context
  - Scalability and usability considerations should be part of the problem definition from the beginning
  - Make sure that end users are involved from the beginning
  - Any new solution should be able to communicate its practical relevance, expected acceptance of end users, and perspectives for mid- and long-term applications

# Questions?

**Airbus Group Innovations**

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