

# Affordable Systems: Balancing the Capability, Schedule, Flexibility, and Technical Debt Tradespace

Jo Ann Lane  
Supannika Koolmanojwong  
Barry Boehm

University of Southern California



# Overview

- Affordability overview
- Cost models to support affordability trades
- Tradespace examples
- Conclusions



# Affordability

- Why
  - Government mandates
  - Business value
- What
  - New systems
  - New capabilities
  - System of systems
- How
  - Analysis of options
  - Value-based decisions
  - Total ownership costs

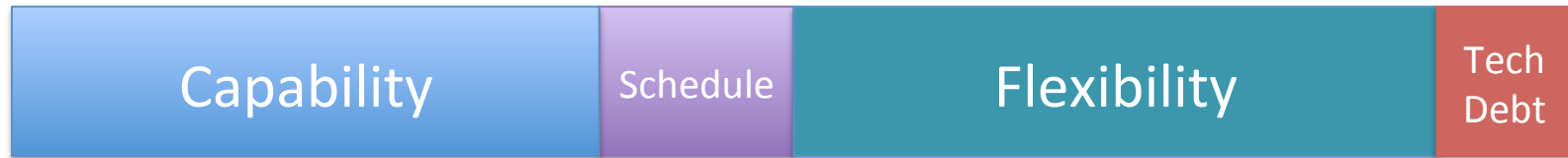


# Affordability Tradespace

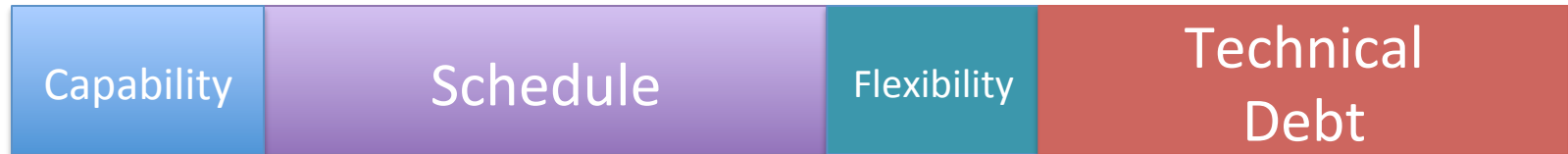
Tradespace:



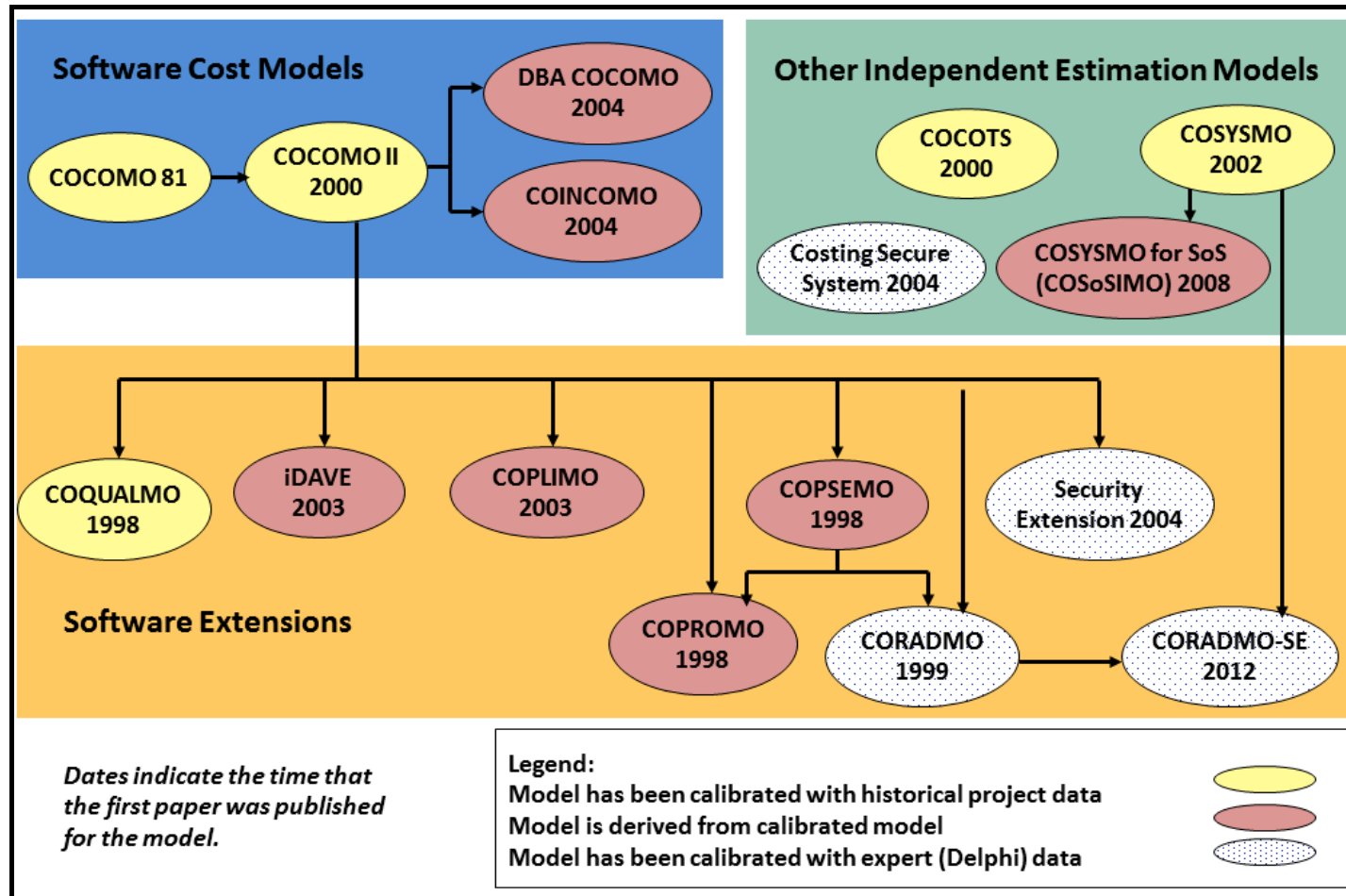
Desired balance:



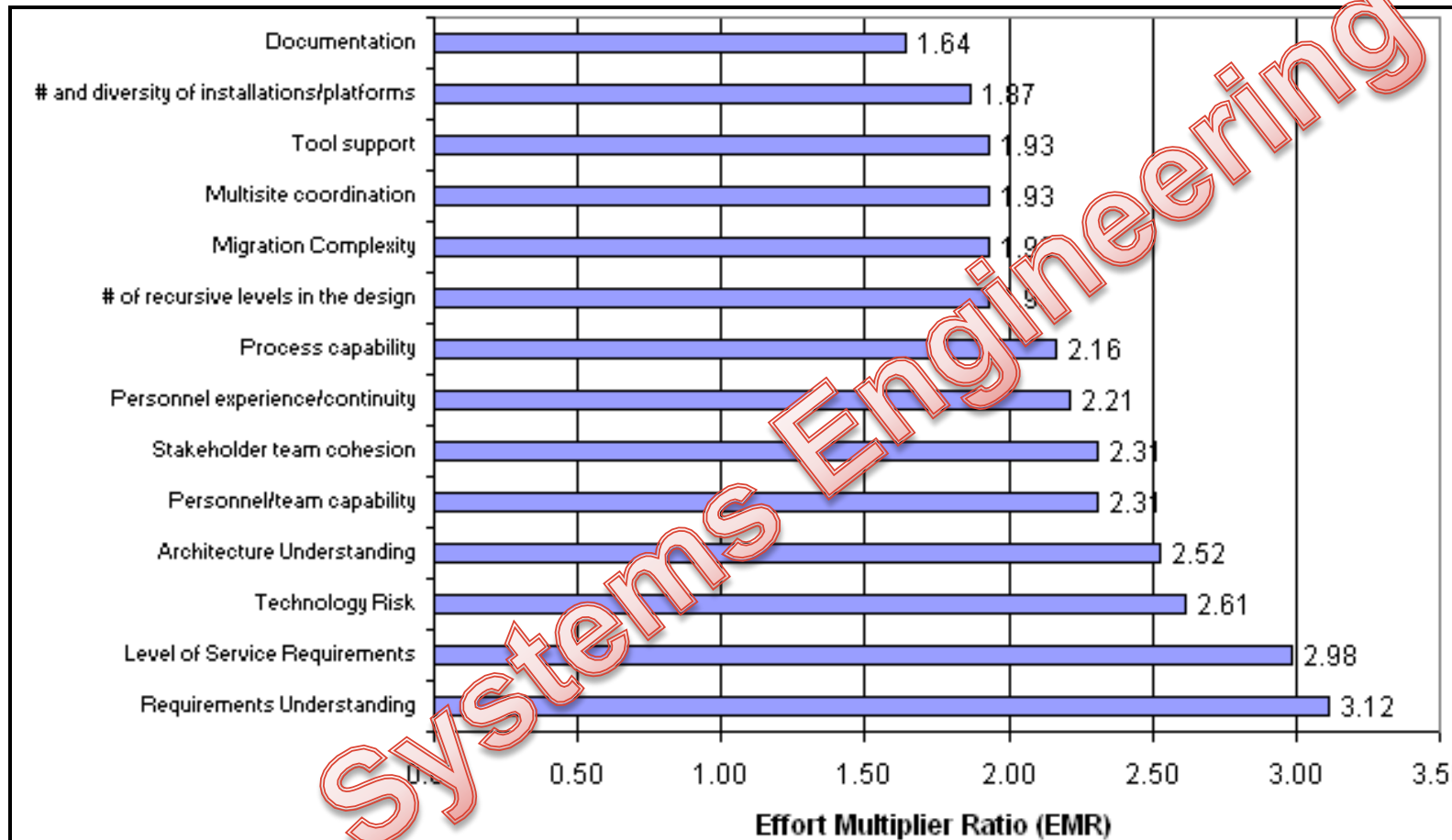
Typical results:



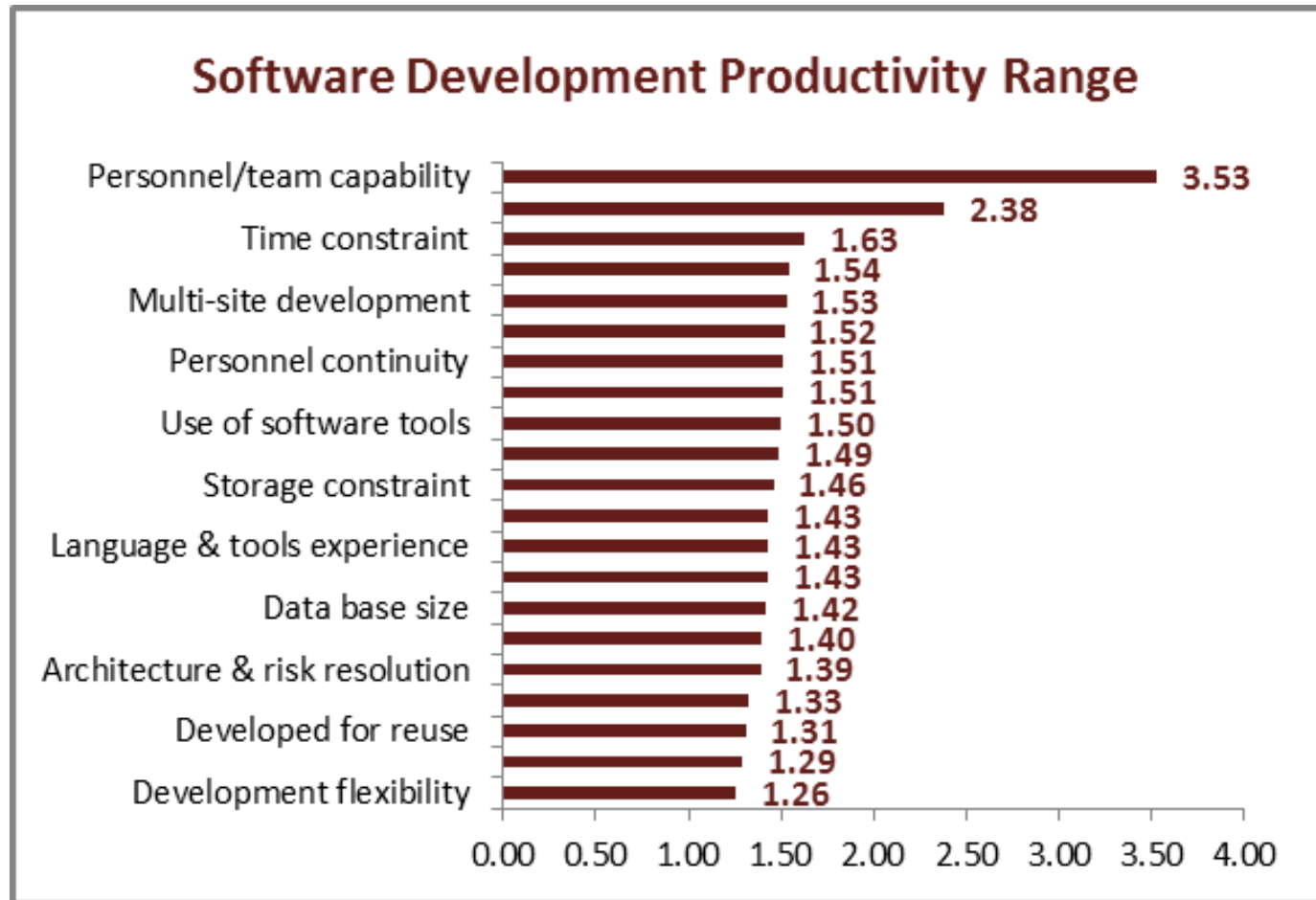
# Affordability Analysis with Cost Models



# Cost Model Parameters Reflect Tradespace Decisions



# Cost Model Parameters Reflect Tradespace Decisions *(continued)*



# Example Framework: Affordability Opportunity Tree

Affordability  
Improvements  
and Tradeoffs

**Get the Best from People**

*(Expedite, Minimize Tech Debt)*

**Make Tasks More Efficient**

*(Expedite)*

**Eliminate Tasks**

*(Expedite)*

**Eliminate Scrap, Rework**

*(Expedite, Minimize Tech Debt)*

Staffing, Incentivizing, Teambuilding

Facilities, Support Services

Kaizen (continuous improvement)

Tools and Automation

Work and Oversight Streamlining

Collaboration Technology

Lean and Agile Methods

Task Automation

Model-Based Product Generation

Early Risk and Defect Elimination

Evidence-Based Decision Gates

Modularity Around Sources of Change

Incremental, Evolutionary Development

Value-Based, Agile Process Maturity

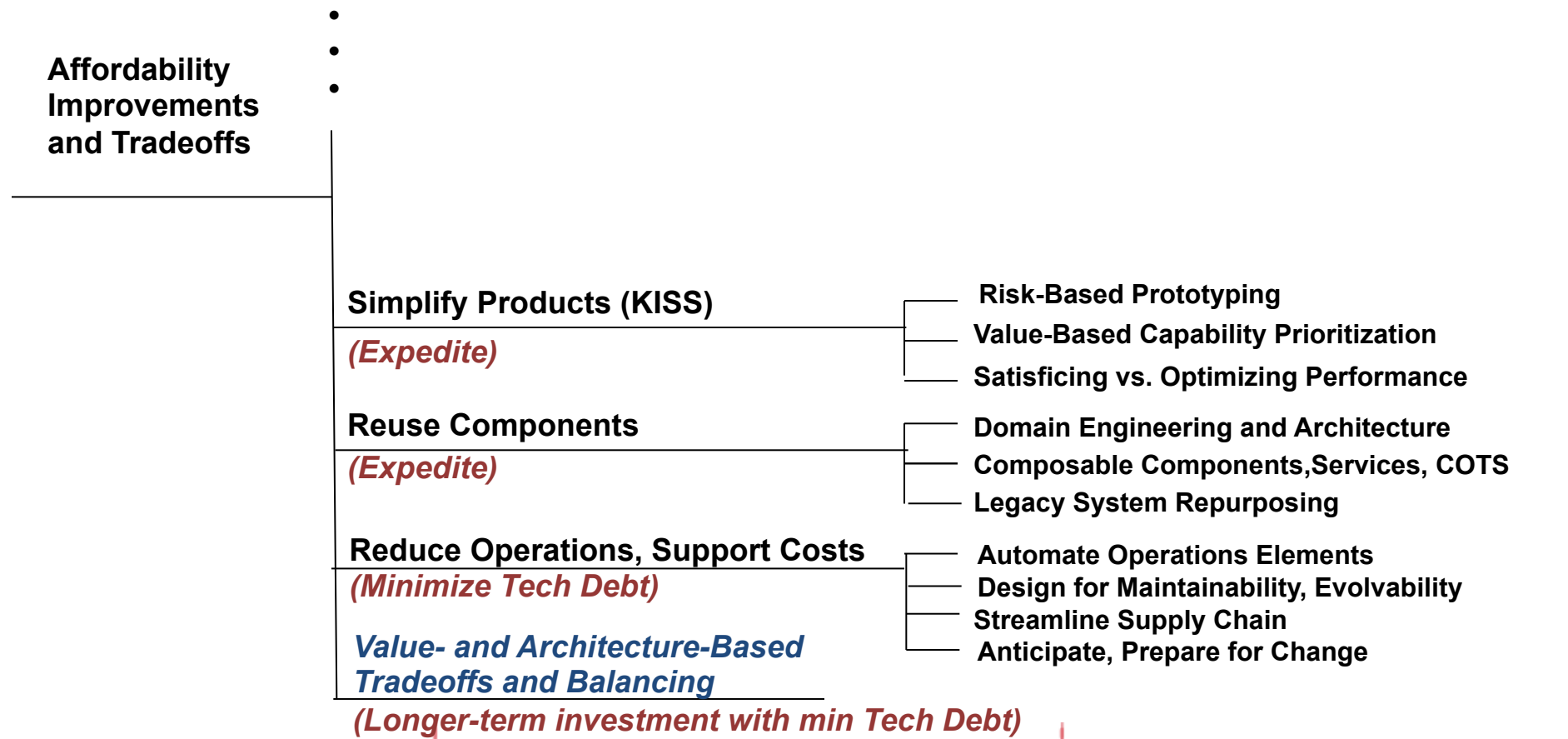
Risk-Based Prototyping

...





# Example Framework: Affordability Opportunity Tree *(continued)*



# Example: Architecture Strategy Options

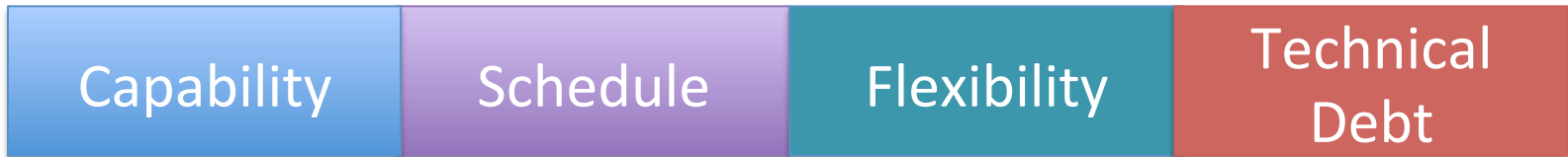
- High module cohesion/low module coupling
- Service-oriented architecture
- Autonomous adaptive systems
- Modularization around sources of change
- Multi-layered architecture
- Many built-in options, entry points
- User configurability/programmability
- Spare/expandable capacity
- Product line architecture/reusable components
- ...

*Each has synergies and conflicts with respect to flexibility and affordability*

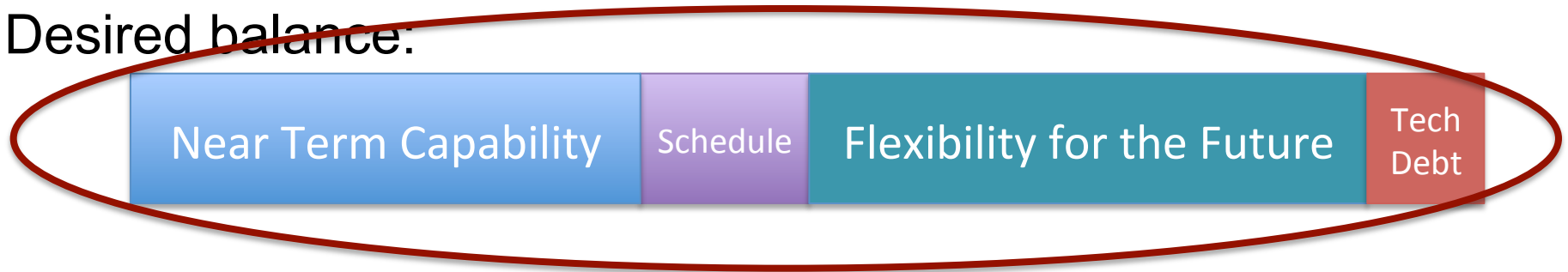


# Affordability Tradespace Revisited

Tradespace:



Desired balance:



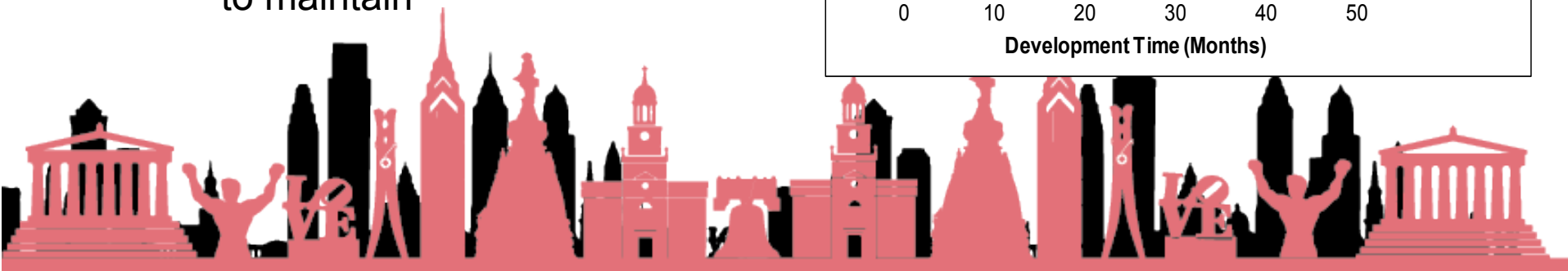
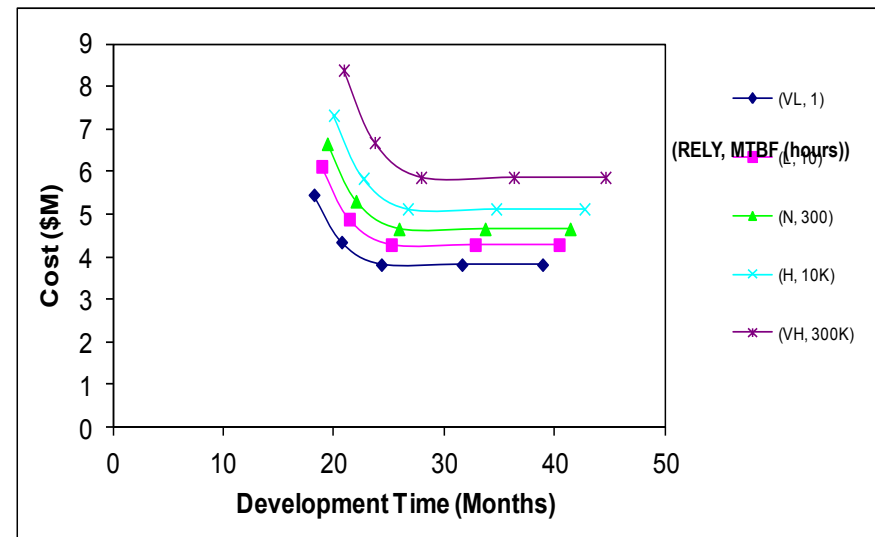
Typical results:



# Summary of Affordability Research to Date

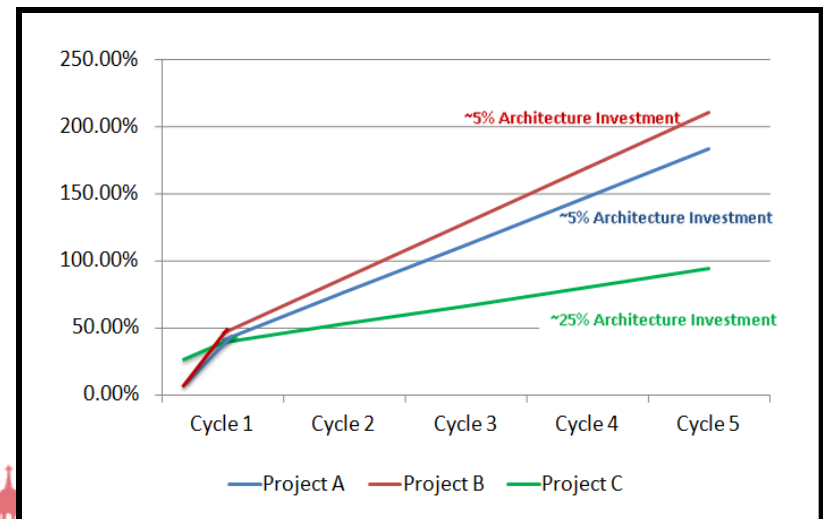
- Affordability considerations
  - Include development of
    - New systems
    - Existing systems
    - Systems of systems
  - Start with balancing capabilities and their performance characteristics
  - Continue with investments in foundations and architecture
    - Manufacturability
    - Maintainability
    - Future options and opportunities
    - Total cost of ownership considerations
  - Plan for the retirement of aging, fragile systems that are difficult to maintain

- Candidate models and tools to support affordability trades
  - “How much is enough”



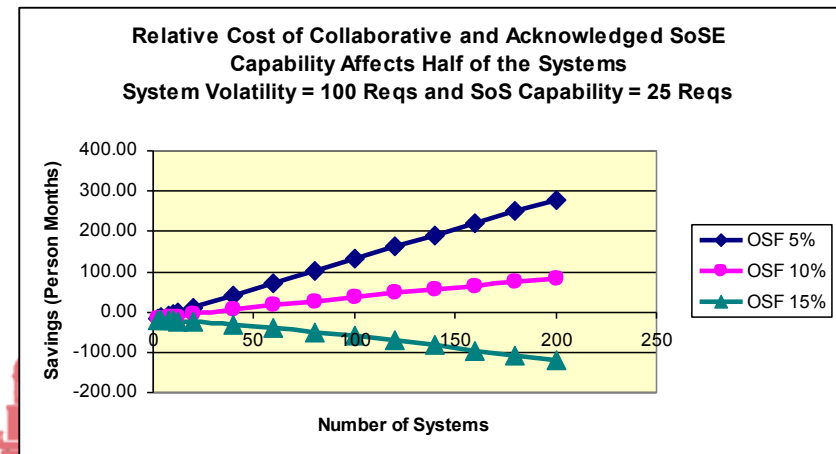
# Summary of Affordability Research to Date

- Affordability considerations
  - Include development of
    - New systems
    - Existing systems
    - Systems of systems
  - Start with balancing capabilities and their performance characteristics
  - Continue with investments in foundations and architecture
    - Manufacturability
    - Maintainability
    - Future options and opportunities
    - Total cost of ownership considerations
  - Plan for the retirement of aging, fragile systems that are difficult to maintain
- Candidate models and tools to support affordability trades
  - “How much is enough”
  - Total cost of ownership



# Summary of Affordability Research to Date

- Affordability considerations
  - Include development of
    - New systems
    - Existing systems
    - Systems of systems
  - Start with balancing capabilities and their performance characteristics
  - Continue with investments in foundations and architecture
    - Manufacturability
    - Maintainability
    - Future options and opportunities
    - Total cost of ownership considerations
  - Plan for the retirement of aging, fragile systems that are difficult to maintain
- Candidate models and tools to support affordability trades
  - “How much is enough”
  - Total cost of ownership
  - System of systems engineering investments



# Conclusions

- Affordability tradespace focus
  - Value-based capability assessments
  - Incorporation of flexibility
  - Minimization of technical debt
- Parametric cost models critical to analysis of options
  - Alternative solutions
  - Future options
- Early investments in flexible architectures enhance
  - Expedited engineering
  - Flexibility for future options
  - Affordability over the life of the system and associated systems of systems



# Acknowledgement

This material is based upon work supported, in whole or in part, by the U.S. Department of Defense through the Systems Engineering Research Center (SERC) under Contract H98230-08-D-0171. SERC is a federally funded University Affiliated Research Center managed by Stevens Institute of Technology.





# Survey

Please take the time to rate this presentation  
by submitting the web survey found at:

[www.incose.org/symp2013/survey](http://www.incose.org/symp2013/survey)

