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# Validation of Digital System Models: A Framework and SysML Profile for Model-Based Systems Engineering

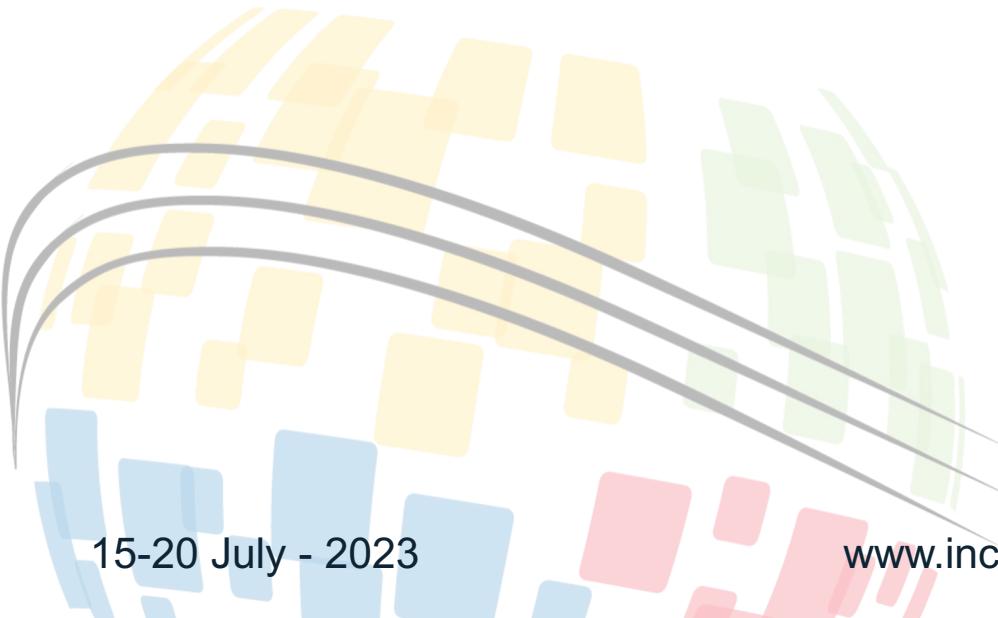
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# Overview



- **Introduction and Motivation**
- **Related Work – DE, MBSE, and Validation**
- **Methodology – Framework, Process, and SysML Profile**
- **Application of the Validation Profile**
- **Conclusions and Future Work**



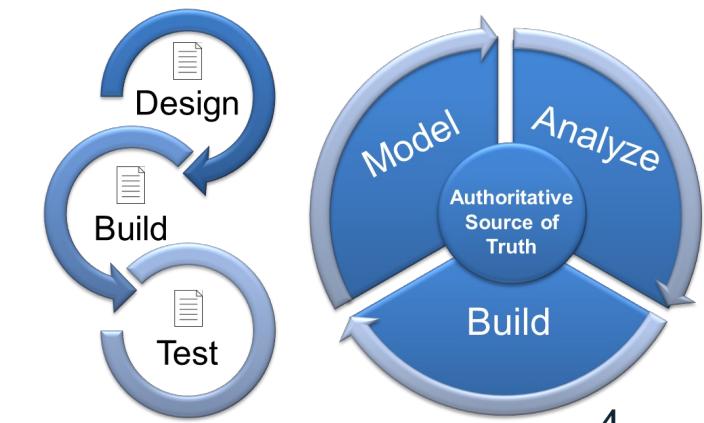
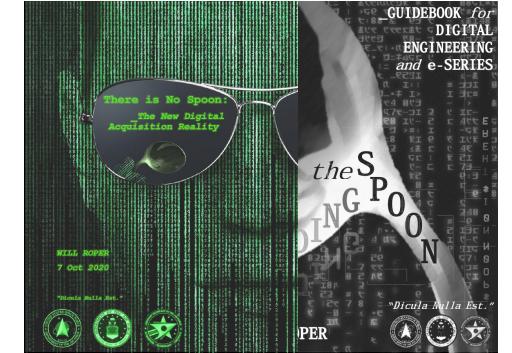


# Introduction and Motivation

# Introduction

## Digital Systems are the future of DoD Acquisition

- Defense programs will be “born-digital”
- Digital models will replace documents and static artifacts
- The Authoritative Source of Truth (ASoT) will be leveraged from cradle to grave
- Development will be via a Model-Analyze-Build methodology
- Digital twins developed and tested prior to the build of a physical system
- **Digital Transformation (DT) will drive Digital Engineering (DE), Model-Based Systems Engineering (MBSE), and Digital Materiel Management (DMM) in the development of DoD weapons systems via an ASoT and digital twin**

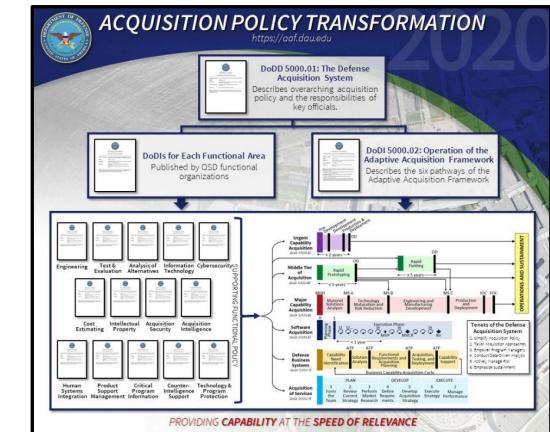


# Motivation



## Potential impact to all DoD acquisition programs

- Applies to Systems-in-Sustainment (SiS) and Systems-in-Development (SiD)
- Facilitate the Adaptive Acquisition Framework (AAF)
- Digital lifecycle models will allow for agility and rapid prototyping



- Certified ASoT is the foundation of DT/DE
- Certification via Validation, Verification, and Accreditation (VV&A)

How can a fully-digital design be trusted? The answer may lie in VV&A.



# **Related Work – DE, MBSE, and Validation**

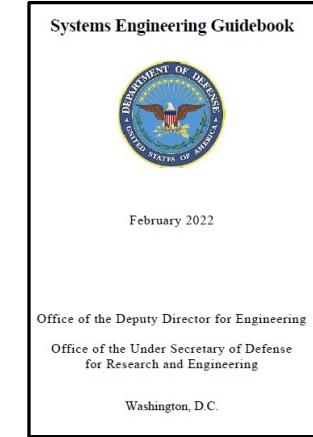
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# System Validation

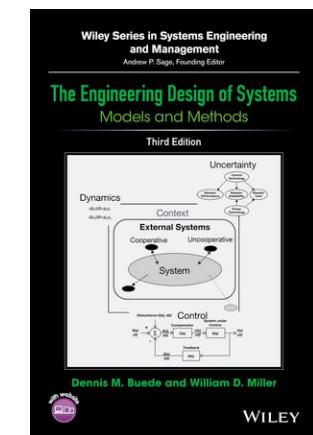
Validation in DoD Acquisition is synonymous with Validation of Systems



- DoD SE Guidebook and Defense Acquisition University
  - Validation provides objective evidence that the system **capability complies with stakeholder performance requirements**, achieving its use in its **intended operational environment**.
  - **“Was the right system built?”** is typically answered during Operational Test and Evaluation



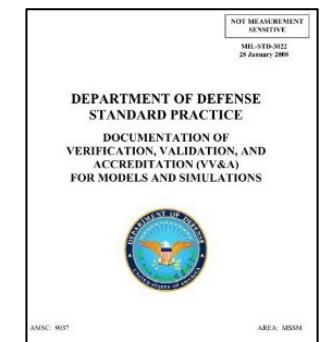
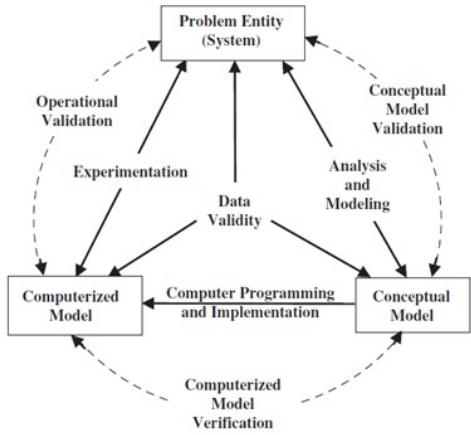
- The Engineering Design of Systems – Buede and Miller
  - A system's validity addresses whether we have **built the right system**. By extension **model validity** concerns whether we have **built the right model**.



# Model Validation

## Validation of Modeling and Simulation (M&S)

- **Definition 1.** Validation is the process of determining the **degree to which** a model and its associated data are an **accurate representation of the real world** from the perspective of the **intended uses** of the model (Bair and Tolk, Cook and Skinner, DoD M&S Glossary).
- **Definition 2:** Model validation is substantiating that within its domain of applicability the model behaves with **satisfactory accuracy** consistent with the study **objectives** (Balci).
- **Definition 3:** The process of determining the degree to which a **model, simulation, or federation of models and simulations, and their associated data** are accurate representations of the real world from the perspective of the intended use(s) (MIL-STD-3022).



Three core elements of M&S model validation: the model, the real world, a bounding principle

# MBSE Model Validation

## Validation of MBSE System Models

- Inherently different than both systems and M&S validation
- Reality (real-world instantiation or data) not guaranteed for comparison / referent
- Occurs continuously throughout life cycle, not just during OT&E
- Existing system and M&S validation guidance could be applied, but not a seamless transition

## Why is MBSE validation required?

- For a given scenario (use case) model credibility must be established
- MBSE model is pedigreed data in the ASoT – must be validated prior to acceptance
- Guidance underdeveloped in comparison to M&S

## What is needed for MBSE validation?

- Model use cases, model requirements, model validation test cases, and validation relationships
- Requires guidance, methodology, and best practices



**MBSE will not succeed without correct and complete systems engineering models (Hecht and Chen)**

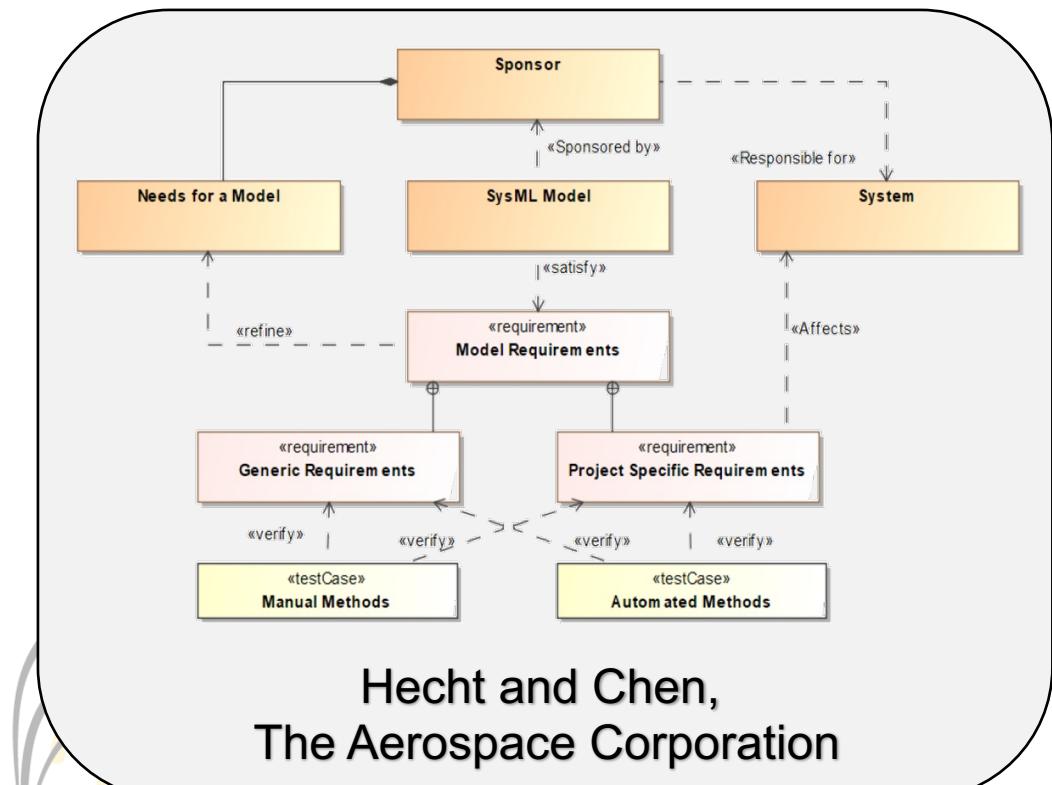


# **Methodology – Framework, Process, and SysML Profile**

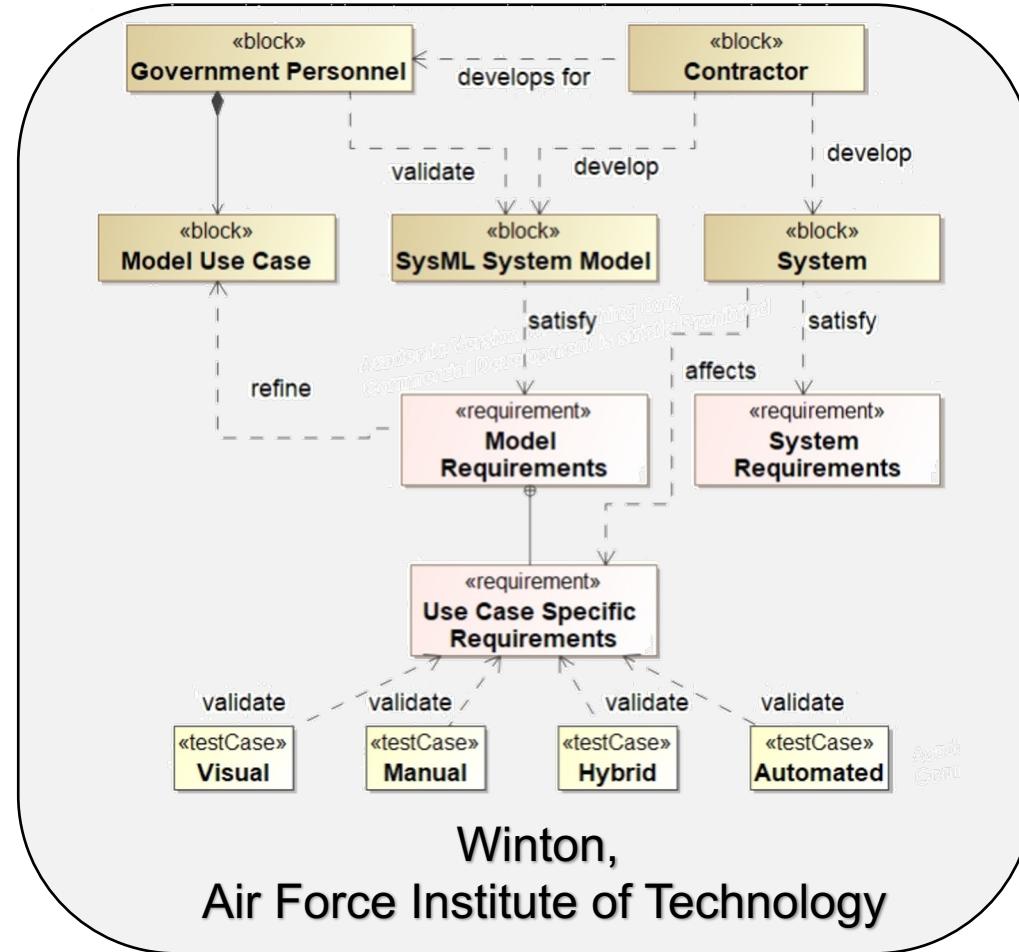
# Methodology – Metamodel



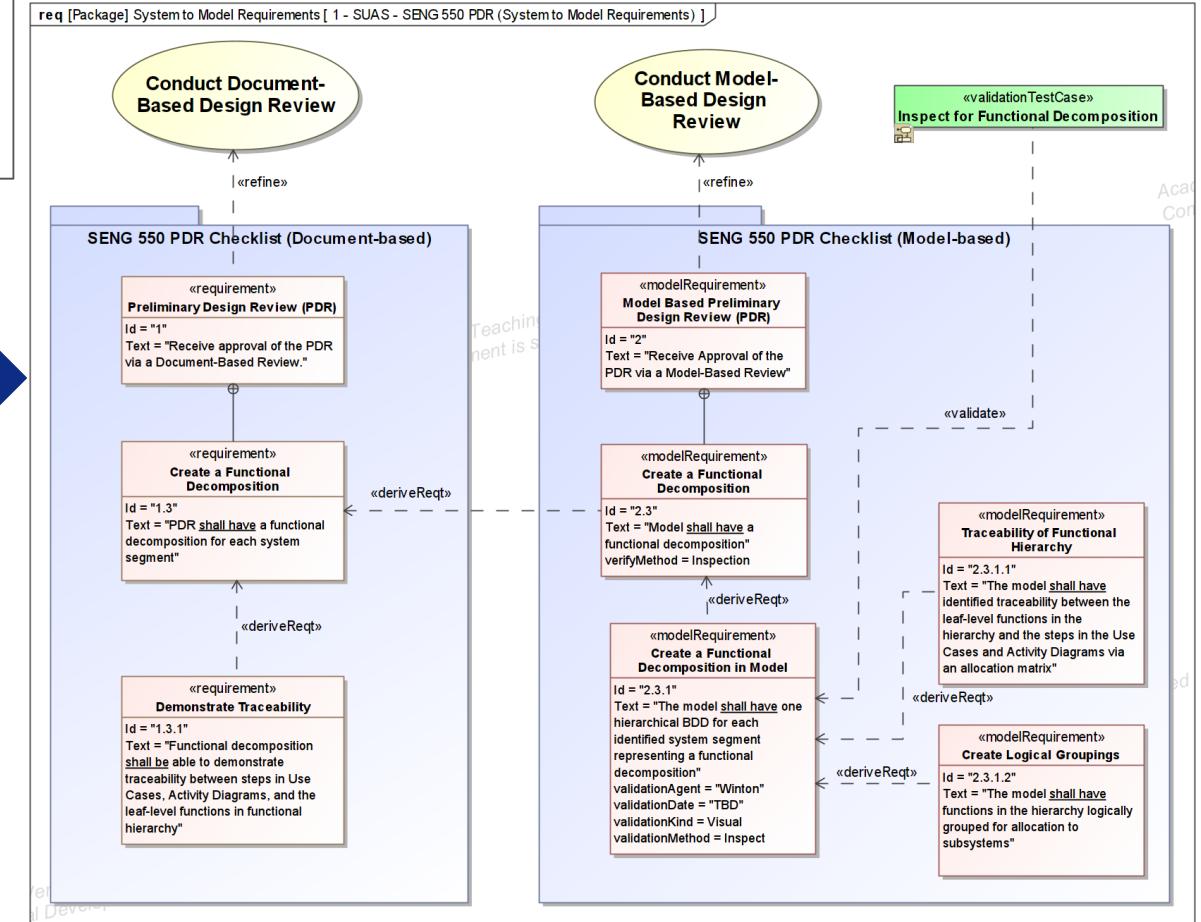
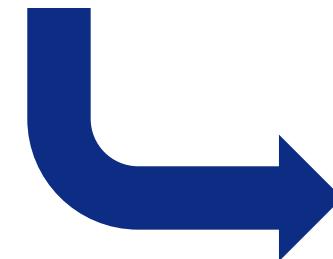
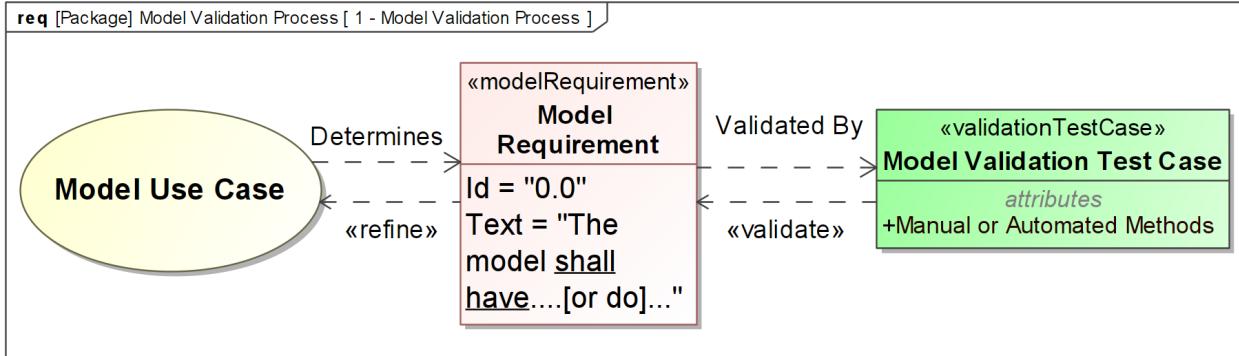
## Metamodel for Verification and Validation



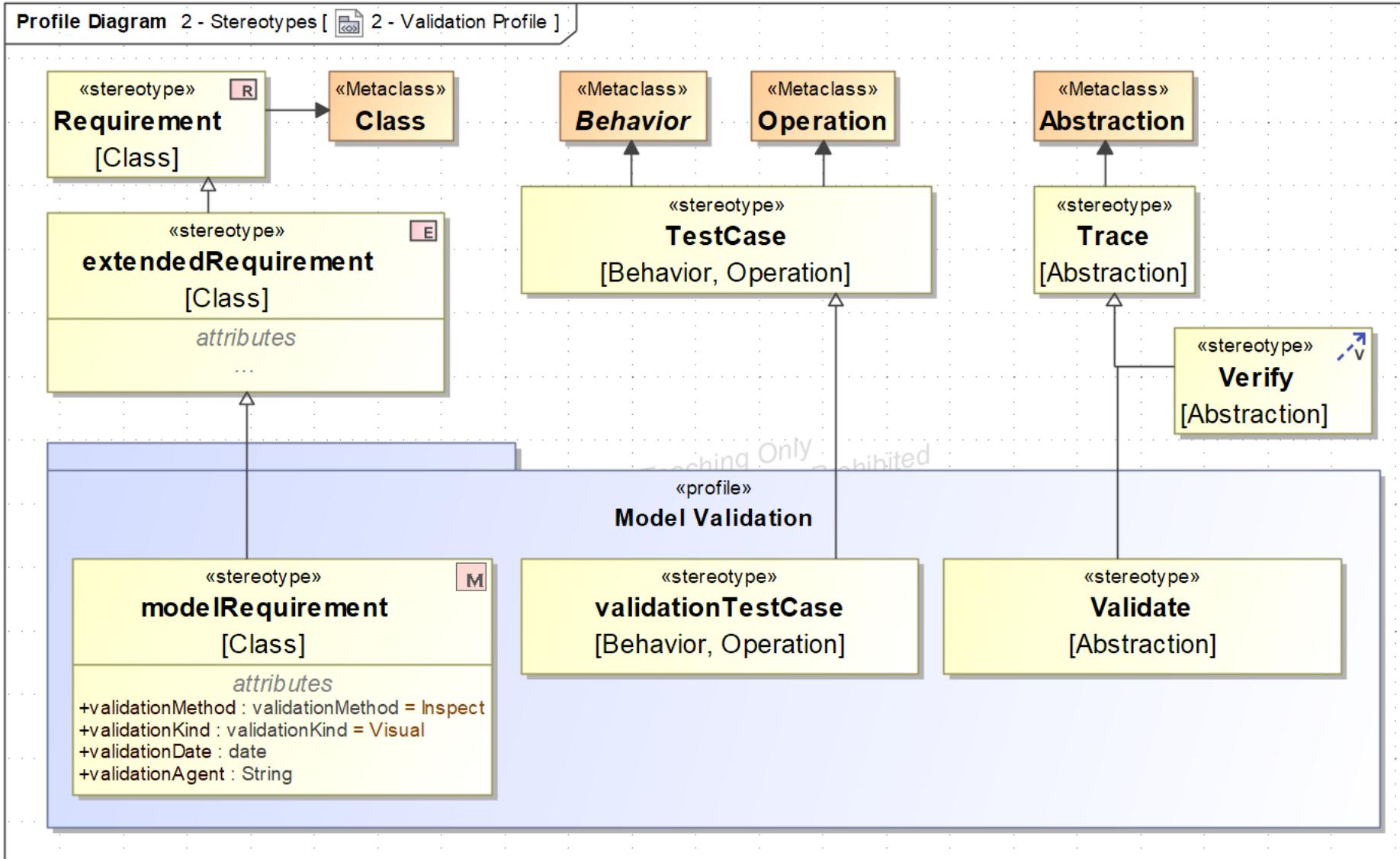
## Metamodel for Validation of Government Digital System Models



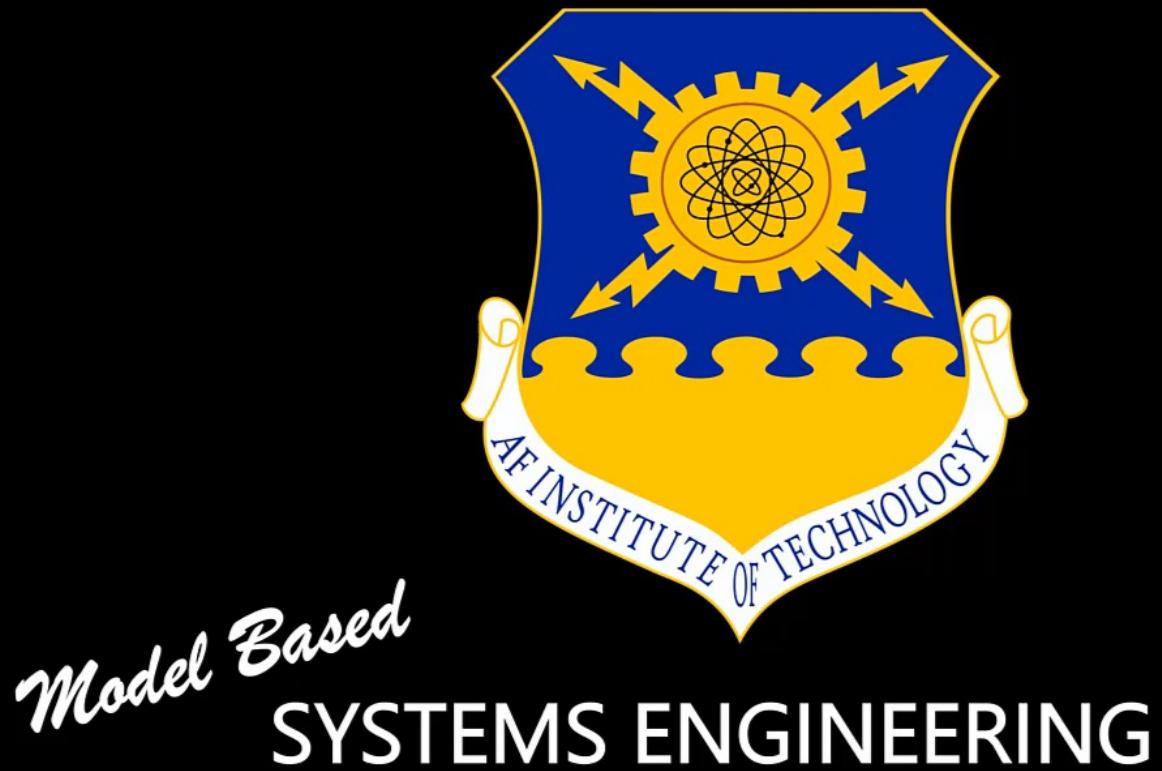
# Methodology – Framework



# Methodology – SysML Validation Profile



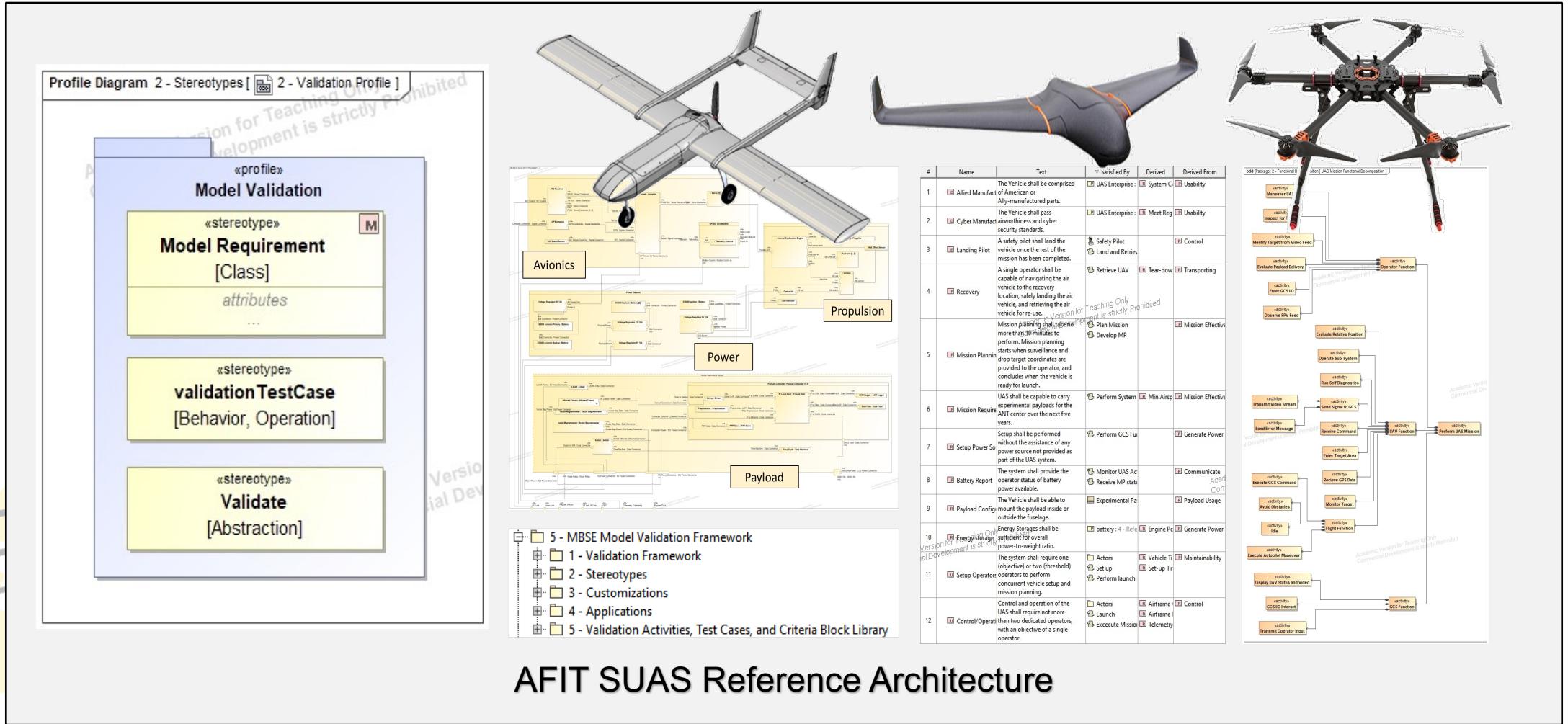
# Methodology – Framework Execution



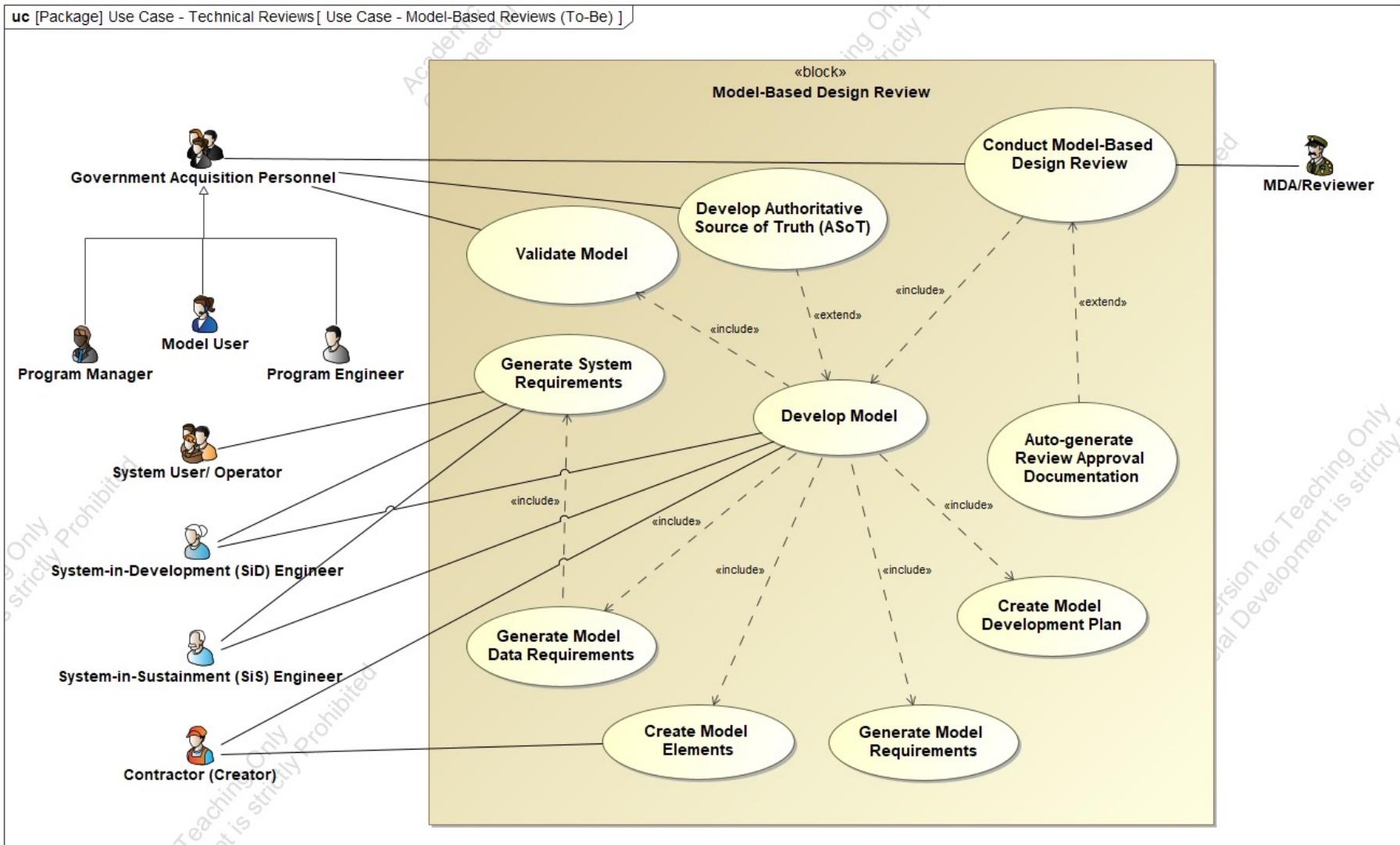


# Application of the Validation Profile

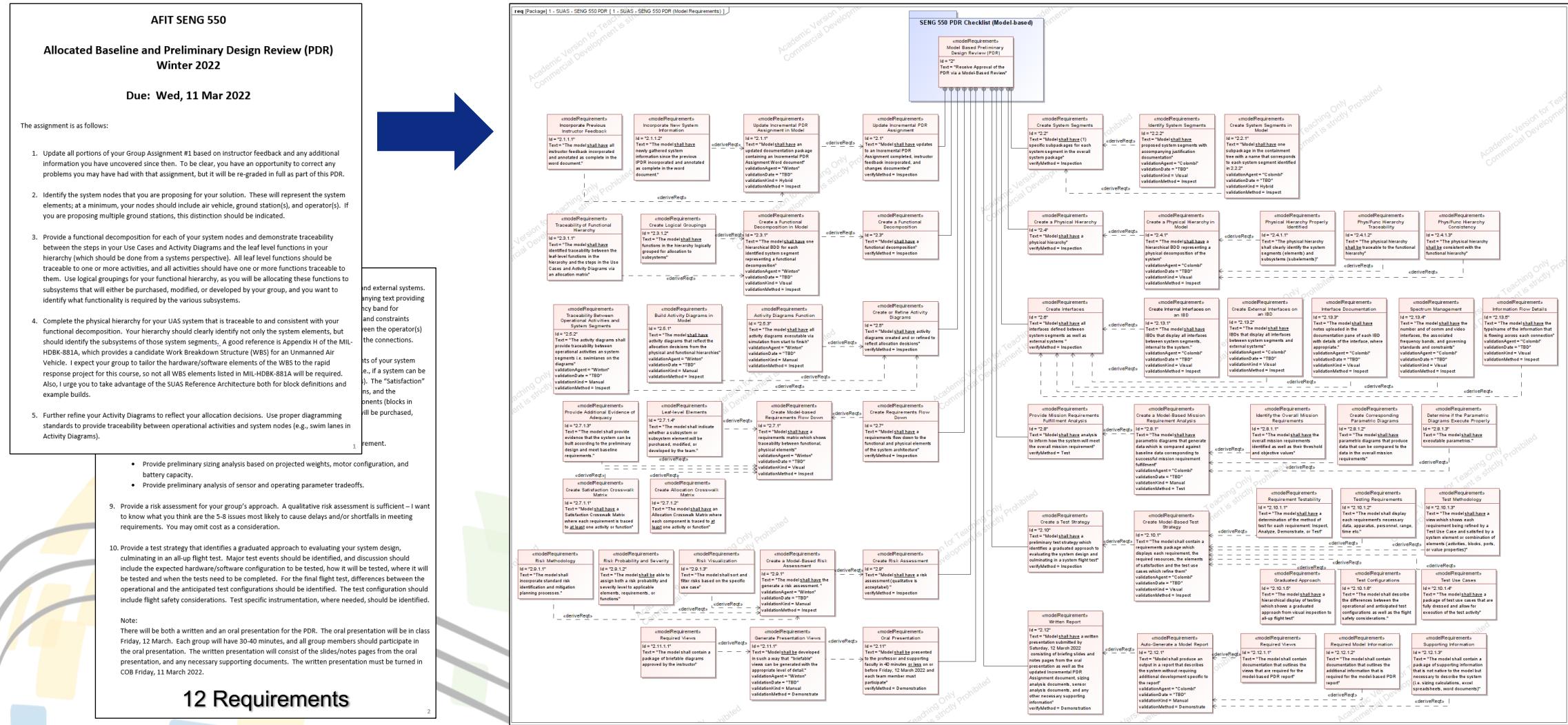
# Application – AFIT SUAS Reference Architecture



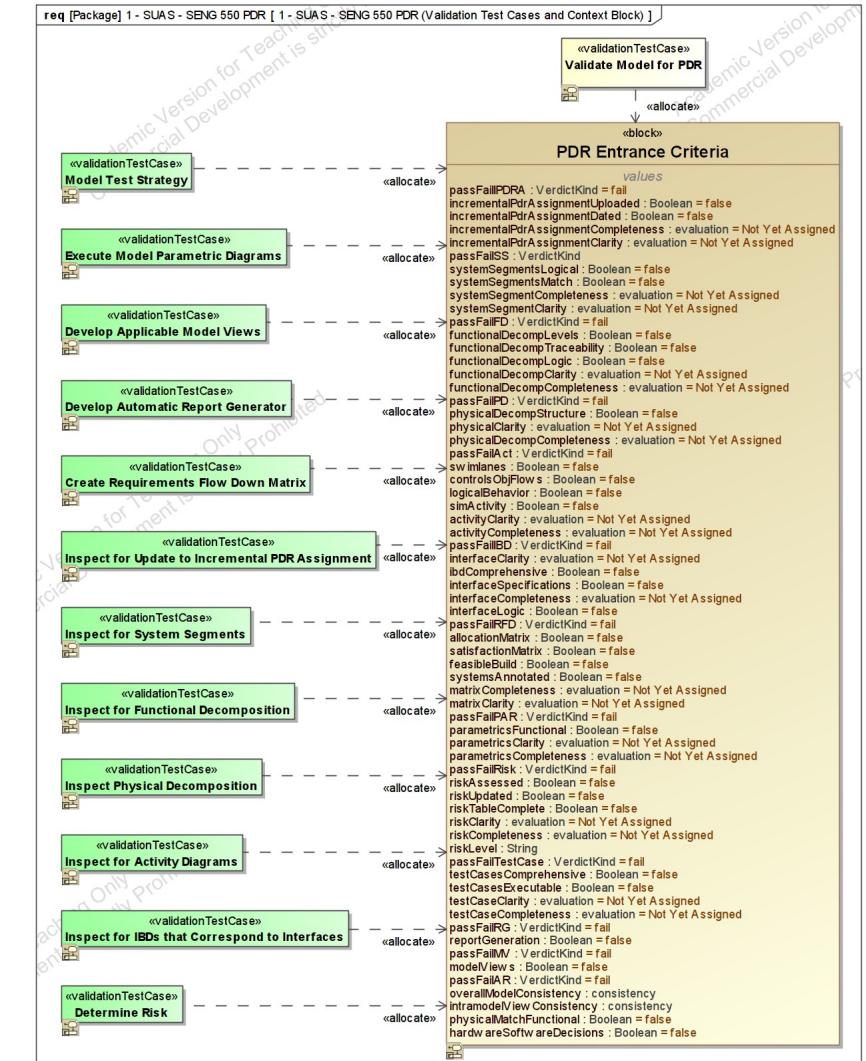
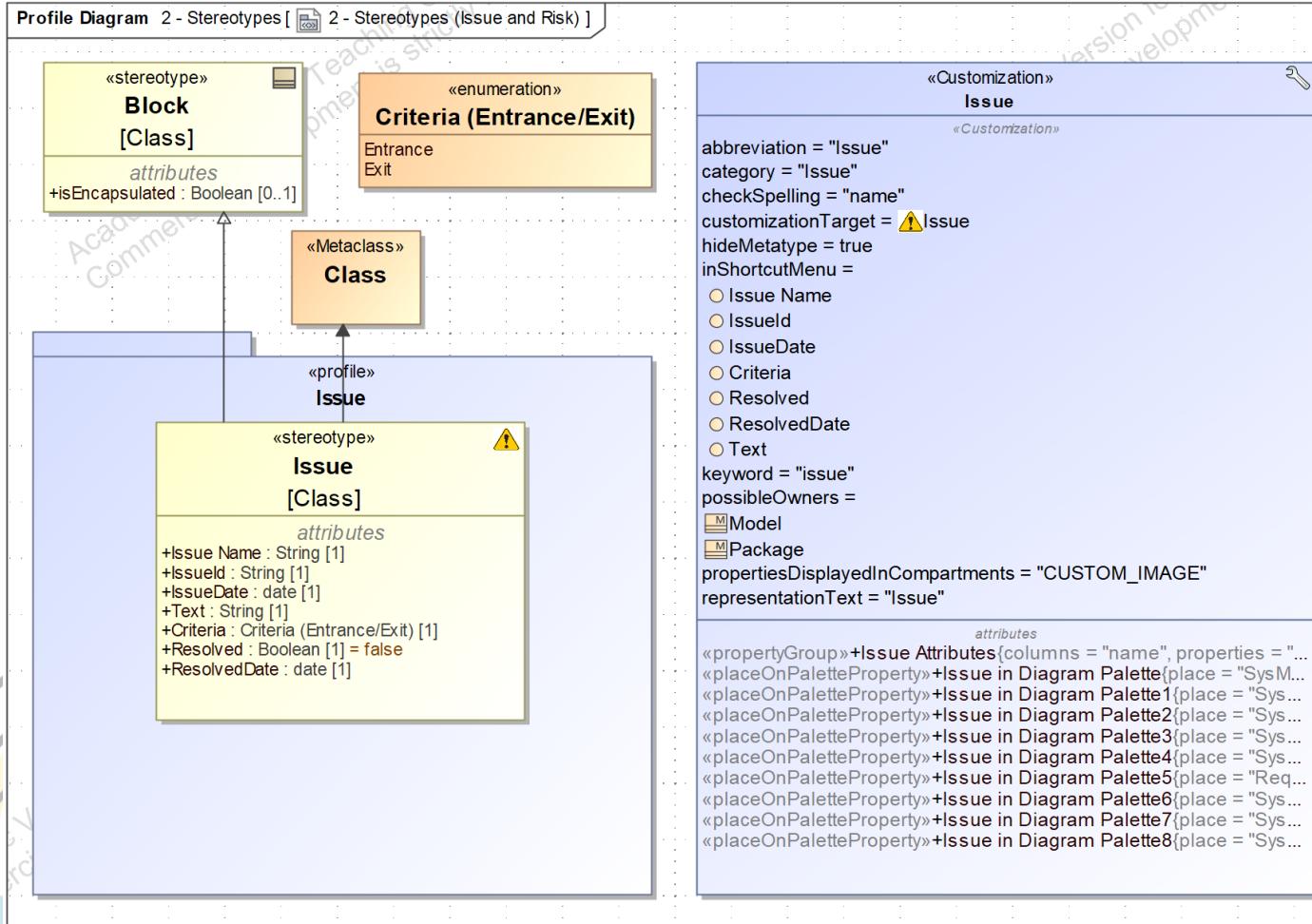
# Application – Use Cases



# Application – Document-to-Model Translation

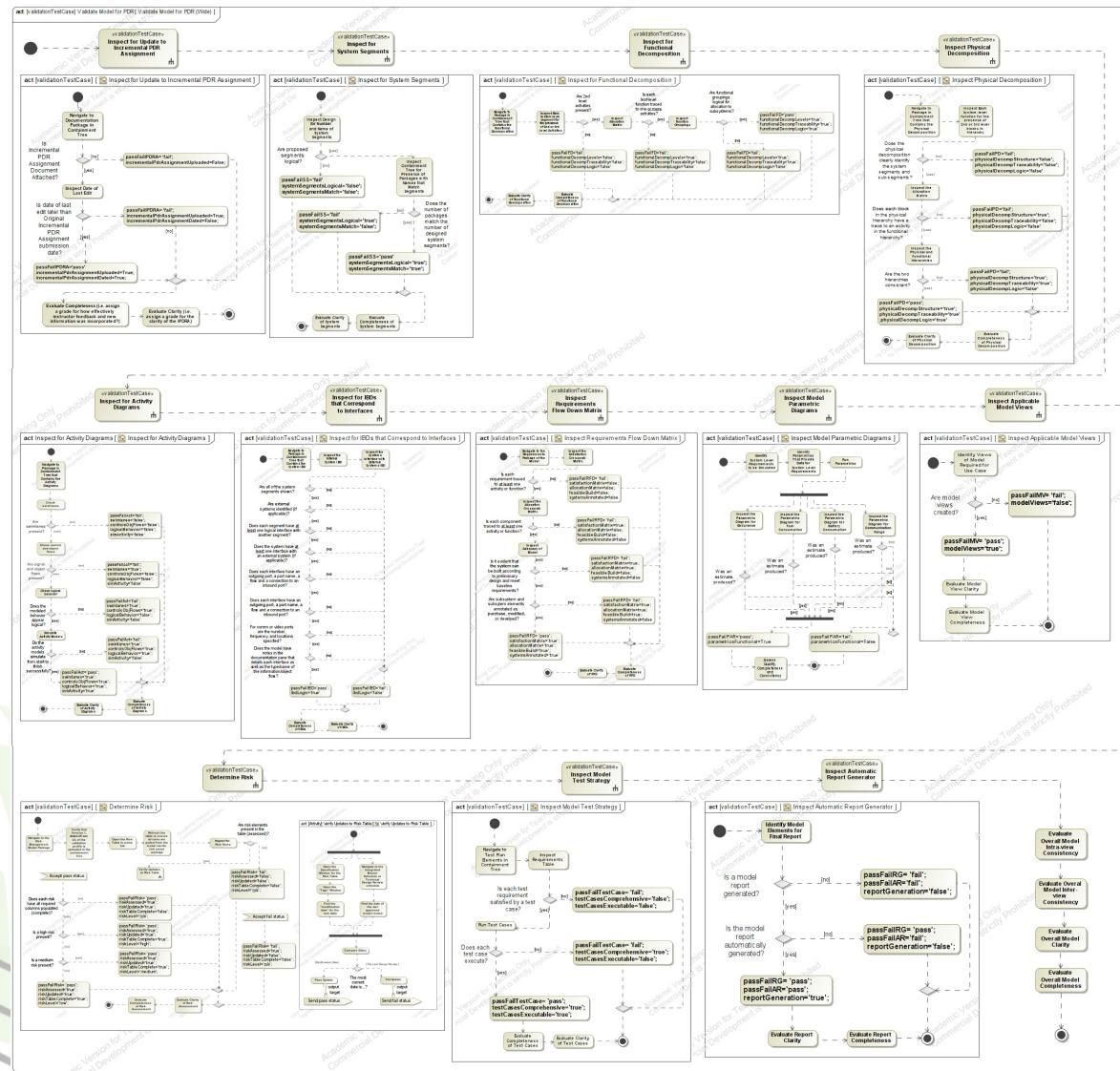


# Application – Custom Elements and Validation Context Block

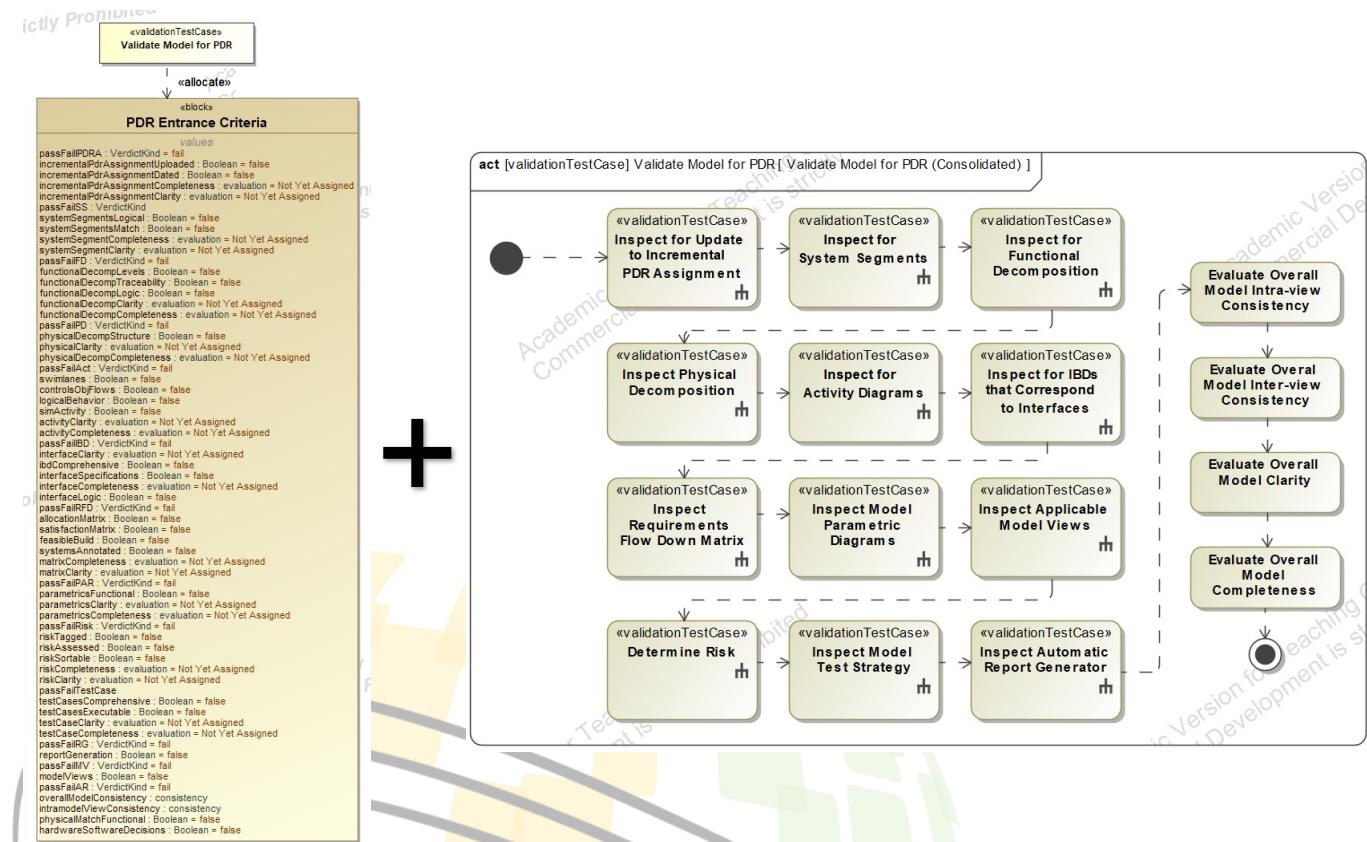


# Application – Activity Diagram for Validation Test Cases

12 Validation Test Cases:  
One for each of the 12  
SENG 550 PDR  
Assignment Items



# Application – Instantiated Context Block



Criteria								pdr_entrance_criteria12 : PDR Entrance Criteria	
Element Type:	Issue	Scope (optional):		All Issues	Key				
#	Name	Issue Id	Issue Name	Issue Date	Criteria	Resolved	Resolved Date		
1	PDR Entrance Criteria Not Satisfied	1	Entrance Criteria Not Satisfied	1/20/23	Entrance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> true	1/25/23	The PDR entrance criteria were not satisfied.	Academic Version
2	Functional Decomposition Consistency	2	Functional Decomposition Consistency	1/20/23	Exit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> true	1/25/23	Functional Decomposition consistency was not met.	Commercial Version
3	System Segments	3	System Segments Incomplete	1/20/23	Exit	<input type="checkbox"/> false	TBD	One system segment was incomplete.	Academic Version
4	IPDRA Does Not Have Instructor Feedback Incorporated	4	IPDRA Does Not Have Instructor Feedback Incorporated	1/20/23	Exit	<input type="checkbox"/> false	TBD	The IPDRA is update feedback from the functional decom.	Commercial Version
5	Physical Hierarchy Subsystem Missing Element Name and Documentation	5	Physical Hierarchy Subsystem Missing Element Name and Documentation	1/20/23	Exit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> true	1/25/23	A portion of the physical hierarchy documentation is missing.	Academic Version
6	Activity Diagram	6	Activity Missing an Executable Activity Diagram	1/20/23	Exit	<input type="checkbox"/> false	TBD	An activity in the executable activity diagram is missing.	Commercial Version
7	IBD	7	IBD Missing Flows	1/20/23	Exit	<input type="checkbox"/> false	TBD	IBDs are missing flows.	Academic Version
8	Requirements Flow Down	8	Requirements Flow Down Missing the Allocation Matrix	1/20/23	Exit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> true	1/25/23	The requirements flow down allocation matrix is missing.	Commercial Version
9	Parametrics	9	Non-functional Parametrics	1/20/23	Exit	<input type="checkbox"/> false	TBD	Two of the parametrics were not annotated.	Academic Version
10	Test Use Cases	10	Containment Tree Missing Test Use Cases	1/20/23	Exit	<input type="checkbox"/> false	TBD	The testing portion of the containment tree is missing, however, it lacks functional annotations.	Commercial Version
11	Diagram Views	11	Diagram Views Not Consolidated	1/20/23	Exit	<input type="checkbox"/> false	TBD	The containment tree diagram views are not consolidated.	Academic Version
12	Sizing Documentation	12	Sizing Spreadsheet and Calculations Missing	1/20/23	Exit	<input type="checkbox"/> false	TBD	The sizing calculations are not annotated.	Commercial Version

# Application – Validation Results

## ▪ Successes:

- Use case to perform academic model-based PDR
- 12 translated Model Requirements (and derivations) satisfied through Validation Test Cases
- Activity Diagrams executed and populated Criteria scoresheet with “measures of closeness”
- Issues and entrance/exit criteria captured in the custom issue table

## ▪ Failures:

- None

## ▪ Validation Determination: **FULLY VALID**

- Model **VALID** for executing a model-based PDR



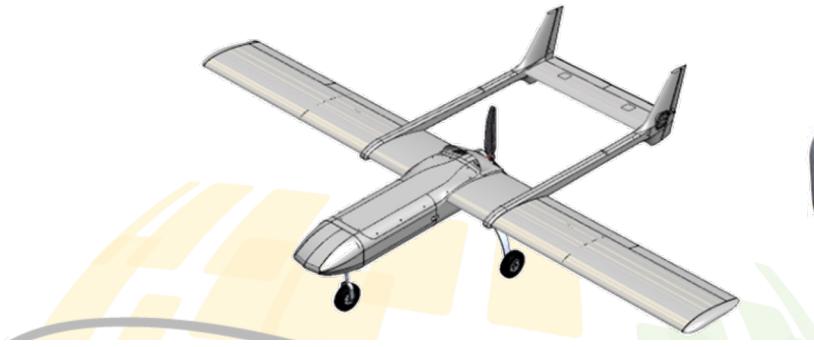
pdr entrance criteria12 : PDR Entrance Criteria					
Issue	Issue Id	Issue Description	Scope (optional): All Issues	Resolved	Resolved Date
PDR Entrance	1	Criteria Not Satisfied	Entrance Criteria Not Satisfied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> true	1/25/23
Functional Decomposition	2	Functional Decomposition Consistency	Functional Decomposition Consistency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> true	1/25/23
System Segments	3	IPDRA Does Not Have Instructor Feedback Documented	IPDRA Does Not Have Instructor Feedback Documented	<input type="checkbox"/> false	TBD
Physical Hierarchy	4	Physical Hierarchy Subsystem Missing Element Name and Description	Physical Hierarchy Subsystem Missing Element Name and Description	<input type="checkbox"/> false	TBD
Activity Diagram	5	Physical Hierarchy Subsystem Missing Element Name and Description	Physical Hierarchy Subsystem Missing Element Name and Description	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> true	1/25/23
IBD	6	Activity Missing an Executable Activity Diagram	Activity Missing an Executable Activity Diagram	<input type="checkbox"/> false	TBD
Requirements	7	IBD Requirements Flow Down Missing the Allocation Matrix	IBD Requirements Flow Down Missing the Allocation Matrix	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> true	1/25/23
Elements	8	Non-functional Parametric	Non-functional Parametric	<input type="checkbox"/> false	TBD
Test Cases	9	Containment Tree Missing Test Use Case	Containment Tree Missing Test Use Case	<input type="checkbox"/> false	TBD
Diagram Views	10	Diagram View Not Consolidated	Diagram View Not Consolidated	<input type="checkbox"/> false	TBD
Sizing Documentation	11	Sizing Spreadsheet and Calculations Missing	Sizing Spreadsheet and Calculations Missing	<input type="checkbox"/> false	TBD

The Osprey model can be validated but in its current form, would not pass a PDR

# Additional Use Case Demonstrations



- **Use Case 1:** Osprey Mark IV - Academic PDR with Criteria and Issue Element
- **Use Case 2:** Osprey Mark IV - DoD PDR with Automated Risk Analysis
- **Use Case 3:** Skywalker X-8 - Simulated Operations Scenario with Born-Digital Model Requirements
- **Use Case 4:** Tarot 960 Hexframe Pixhawk 2 Autopilot - Simulated Sustainment Scenario



- A full analysis is contained in the AFIT School of Engineering and Management thesis titled “Validation of Digital System Models” which can be found at <https://scholar.afit.edu/> or <https://discover.dtic.mil/>



# Conclusions and Future Work

# Results – Observations



## 1. SiD versus SiS interact in a continuous cycle

- SiD can integrate models into ASoT at inception
- SiS require additional translation and development to convert document-based to model-based
- Both rely on models and ASoT

## 2. Perspective differences:

- Model developers versus model users
- Students versus instructors, developers versus reviewers
- All roles use model requirements in a different way
  - Rubric versus evaluation, design choices versus evaluation criteria

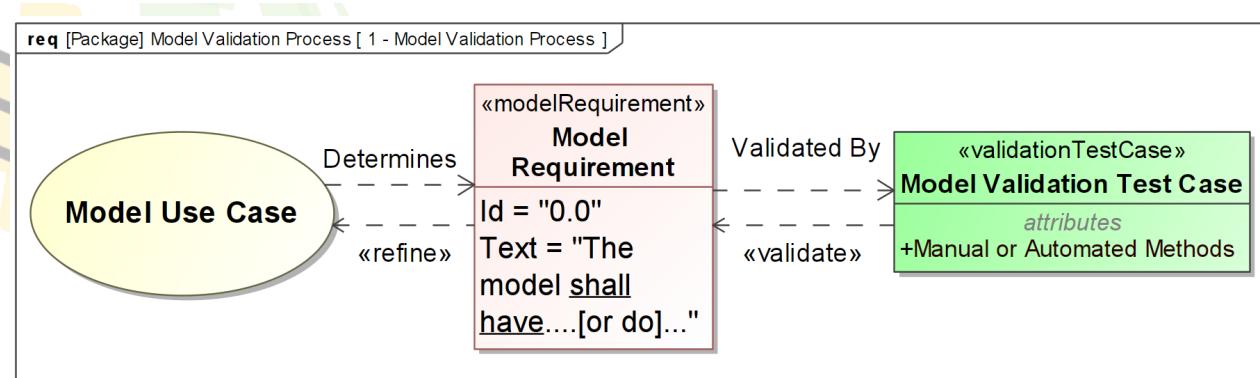
## 3. Criteria for validation must be established early

- Contractors will want and need
- Early application increases effectiveness

# Conclusions



- 1. MBSE Model Validation Framework with SysML Profile and Customizations**
- 2. Newly Proposed MBSE Model Validation Definition**
  - **Definition 4:** MBSE model validation is the structured process of demonstrating that a model is a suitable representation of a real system-in-sustainment or a conceptual system-in-development that satisfies model requirements derived from the intended use case(s).
- 3. Use cases bridge academic and real-world implementation of validation profile**
  - Proof-of-concept on academic RA with academic and simulated real-world use cases
- 4. A validated need for validation of MBSE digital system models**



# Future Work

## 1. Increase capability of automated methods

- Size of future models will likely make manual and inspection methods difficult or impossible
- Efficiency gains through opaque actions (Jython, Javascript), Alf, adaption of verification suite to validation suite

## 2. Demonstrate on a real system, like the F-16 fuel subsystem structure

- Validation of a model prior to OT&E can generate substantial cost and schedule savings for a program

## 3. Prototype on SiS modification, ACAT III, or rapid acquisition program

- Integration of model-based, digital validation practices from the inception of a born-digital program
- Cradle-to-grave validation is key

## 4. Pursue application areas in AFOTEC and MAJCOM T&E

- Cost savings to programs
- Manpower savings to T&E efforts
- Scheduling savings for MRTFB





# Questions

# References

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12. Sargent, R. G. (1979). Validation of simulation models. *Proceedings - Winter Simulation Conference*, 2, 497–503. <https://doi.org/10.1109/WSC.2004.1371298>

## Images:

1. F-16: <https://media.defense.gov/2021/Sep/29/2002864183/-1/-1/0/200317-F-AI558-9202.JPG>
2. B-52: <https://www.af.mil/About-Us/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/104465/b-52h-stratofortress/>
3. JDAM: <https://media.defense.gov/2021/Oct/03/2002866609/-1/-1/0/180222-F-MQ799-9078.JPG>
4. T-7: <https://www.boeing.com/defense/t-7a/index.page>
5. NGAD: <https://www.defensenews.com/air/2022/06/01/the-air-forces-next-gen-fighter-has-moved-into-a-critical-new-phase/>
6. GBSD: <https://www.janes.com/defence-news/news-detail/boeing-believes-gbsd-team-with-northrop-grumman-could-beat-pentagon-cost-estimate>
7. Digital: <https://media.defense.gov/2019/Dec/19/2002228693/-1/-1/0/191219-F-F3456-1001.JPG>
8. Digital Twin: <https://www.raytheonintelligenceandspace.com/news/2021/01/11/fast-tracking-innovation>