



**International Council on Systems Engineering**  
*A better world through a systems approach*

# Foundations of MBSE and DE

## Why DE is not a 101 class

Stephanie Sharo Chiesi

SERC Doctoral Fellow

General Atomics – Electromagnetic Systems

Senior Director of Engineering, ALRE Program



# Today's Agenda

- My Roadmap
- MBSE Foundations
- MBSE Pathway to DE
- A Perspective on Origins of DE: Concurrent Engineering
- Complexities of DE
- Considerations for the future for MBSE and DE



## Stephanie Sharo Chiesi

### Professional experience Roadmap

BS, A/A



State-of-the-Art,  
Advancing the Practice

Senior Director of Engineering, ALRE Program  
General Atomics – Electromagnetic Systems



Innovation and  
Development of  
Expertise



BS, Bio  
MS, A/A

Draper

Paragon

INCOSE  
AIAA

INCOSE  
TLI

Doctoral  
Research

SERC

Applying Skills,  
Identifying  
Knowledge Gaps

Leadership and  
Management  
Experience



Industry Leader,  
Growing People and  
Teams

Subject Matter  
Expert

SAIC

Blue  
Origin

General  
Atomics  
EMS

# MBSE Foundations

## 101

The introductory topics that provide an overview of Model Based Systems Engineering concepts

- Definition
- Pillars: Methodology, Language, Tool
- Education and Training



# What is MBSE?

## Definitions

**INCOSE SE Vision 2020:** The formalized application of modeling to support system requirements, design, analysis, verification and validation activities beginning in the conceptual design phase and continuing throughout development and later life cycle phases.

**SEBoK v 2.12:** Identical reference

**IEEE Tech Committee on MBSE:** Identical reference

**DoD Instruction 5000.97:** The formalized application of modeling to support system requirements, design, analysis, verification, and validation activities beginning in the conceptual design phase and continuing throughout development and later system life-cycle phases

# The Three Pillars of MBSE

Key concepts that need definition, support, continuous learning/training, and governance in an organization for implementation success

## Methodology

- The processes and approach for performing system engineering in your organization to support your customers and programs
- May include published methodologies such as OOSEM or SYSMOD
- May be tailored depending on other program or company characteristics, such as top-down, bottom-up, or middle-out engineering

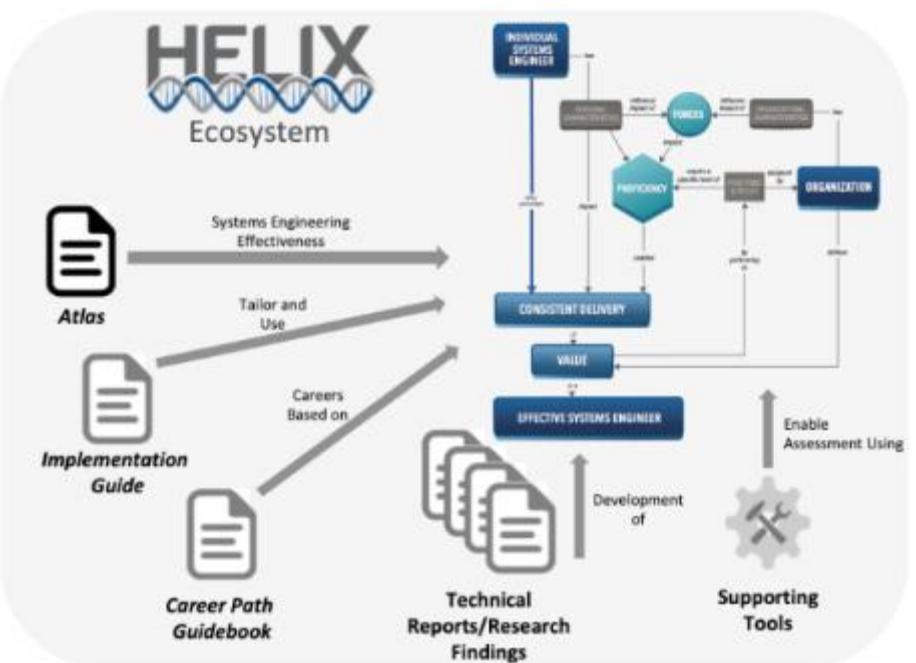
## Language

- A formal language used to express information, knowledge, or data in a structured way
- Provides consistent set of rules for defining the elements and relationships according to the applied methodology
- Examples include SysML, OPM, LML, UML
- May have a style guide that outlines how the language should be used for programs as part of organizational processes

## Tool

- Supports the creation, analysis, review, and management of system models throughout the product lifecycle
- Provides the user environment to implement a methodology using a modeling language
- Many available options depending on the needs of a given organization

# Education and Training as part of MBSE



Helix Technical Report: <https://sercuarc.org/documents/technical-reports/227/>

## 01 Formal Education

Undergraduate or Graduate degree programs in Systems Engineering include MBSE coursework, including professional degree programs that may be co-sponsored by academia and industry

## 02 Certification and Skill Courses

Instruction that is focused towards achieving certifications (such as OCSMP) or on learning specific elements of MBSE to perform required job tasking including courses developed and taught internal to an organization

## 03 On the Job Training

Task driven training through mentoring, shadowing, and/or other formal or informal approaches focused on specific product delivery including contract deliverables and career advancement artifacts

## 04 Experiential Learning

Beyond tasking in the workspace, experiential learning is interactive with communities of practice, professional organizations, webinars, conferences, symposia, journals and more

# Moving to the next level classes for MBSE

*Framing the strategy for your organization's 201, 301, 401, etc. courses*

- Evaluate the needs of your organization
  - Individual training and continuous learning
  - Technical support
  - Leadership support
- Ensure buy-in across the enterprise
  - Program leadership
  - Customers
  - Supply Chain

# MBSE Pathway to Digital Engineering

As MBSE transforms the discipline of Systems Engineering, implementation of MBSE transforms multidisciplinary engineering.

MBSE captures relational data in describing physical, logical, and behavioral views of the system.

Implementing MBSE draws on connecting the systems engineering discipline to other engineering disciplines that contribute to the system design and development.

Building dependencies and communications paths between disciplines in implementation moves the focus from systems engineering to digital engineering.

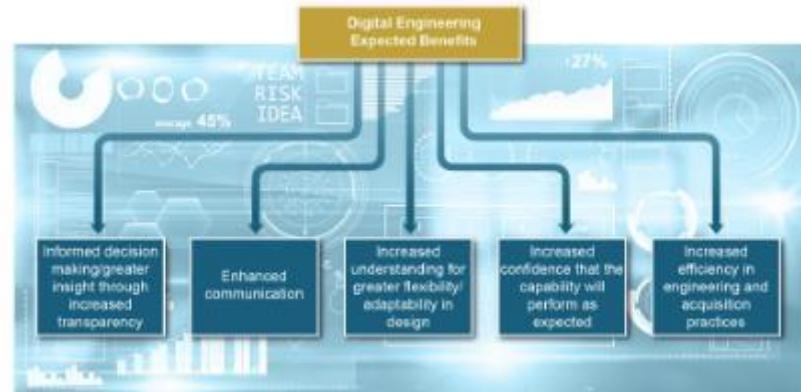


Image credit: DoD Digital Engineering Strategy, June 2018

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# What is Digital Engineering?

## Definitions

**SEBoK v 2.12:** The creation of computer readable models to represent all aspects of the system and to support all the activities for the design, development, manufacture, and operation of the system throughout its lifecycle.

**DEBoK v 3.1.0:** An integrated digital approach that uses authoritative sources of systems' data and models as a continuum across disciplines to support lifecycle activities from concept through disposal.

**DoD Instruction 5000.97:** A means of using and integrating digital models and the underlying data to support the development, test and evaluation, and sustainment of a system.

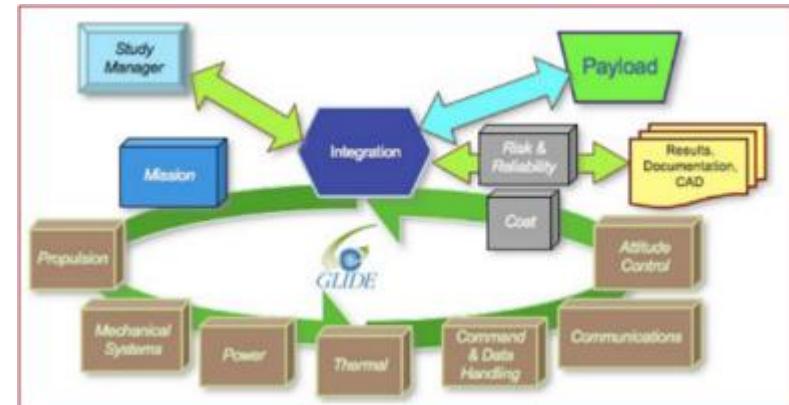
# One Perspective on Origins of Digital Engineering

A brief look back at the principles of  
multidisciplinary and concurrent engineering  
that influenced current DE initiatives



# DE Foundations in Concurrent Engineering

- Early Work in DE implementation grew from Concurrent Engineering
- Proven processes and environments
- Connected data environments for rapid solution development
- Subject matter experts for each discipline/domain
- Has not scaled to other lifecycle design phases after conceptual design



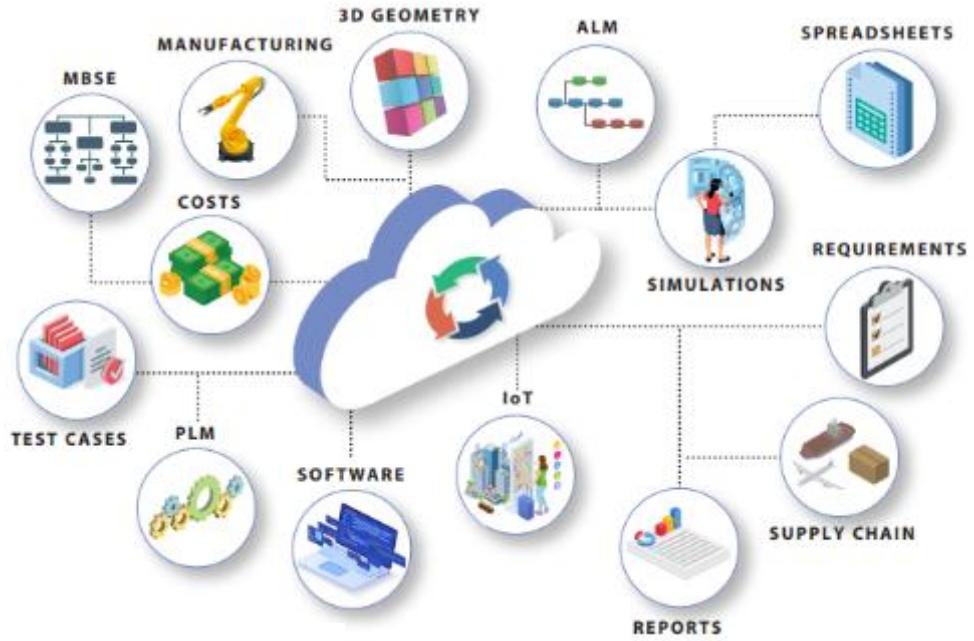
NASA Glenn: <https://ntrs.nasa.gov/api/citations/20120008522/downloads/20120008522.pdf>



JPL Team X: [https://twitter.com/b\\_jour/status/1052400479156633600](https://twitter.com/b_jour/status/1052400479156633600)

# Current DE industry approach builds on CE principles for success

- Automated tasks and data exchange
- Reduce human touch time and human entry errors
- Does not replace human decision-making
- Does change how humans use the data to make decisions



INCOSE Systems Engineering Vision 2035, page 34  
[https://www.incose.org/docs/default-source/se-vision/incose-se-vision-2035.pdf?sfvrsn=e32063c7\\_10](https://www.incose.org/docs/default-source/se-vision/incose-se-vision-2035.pdf?sfvrsn=e32063c7_10)

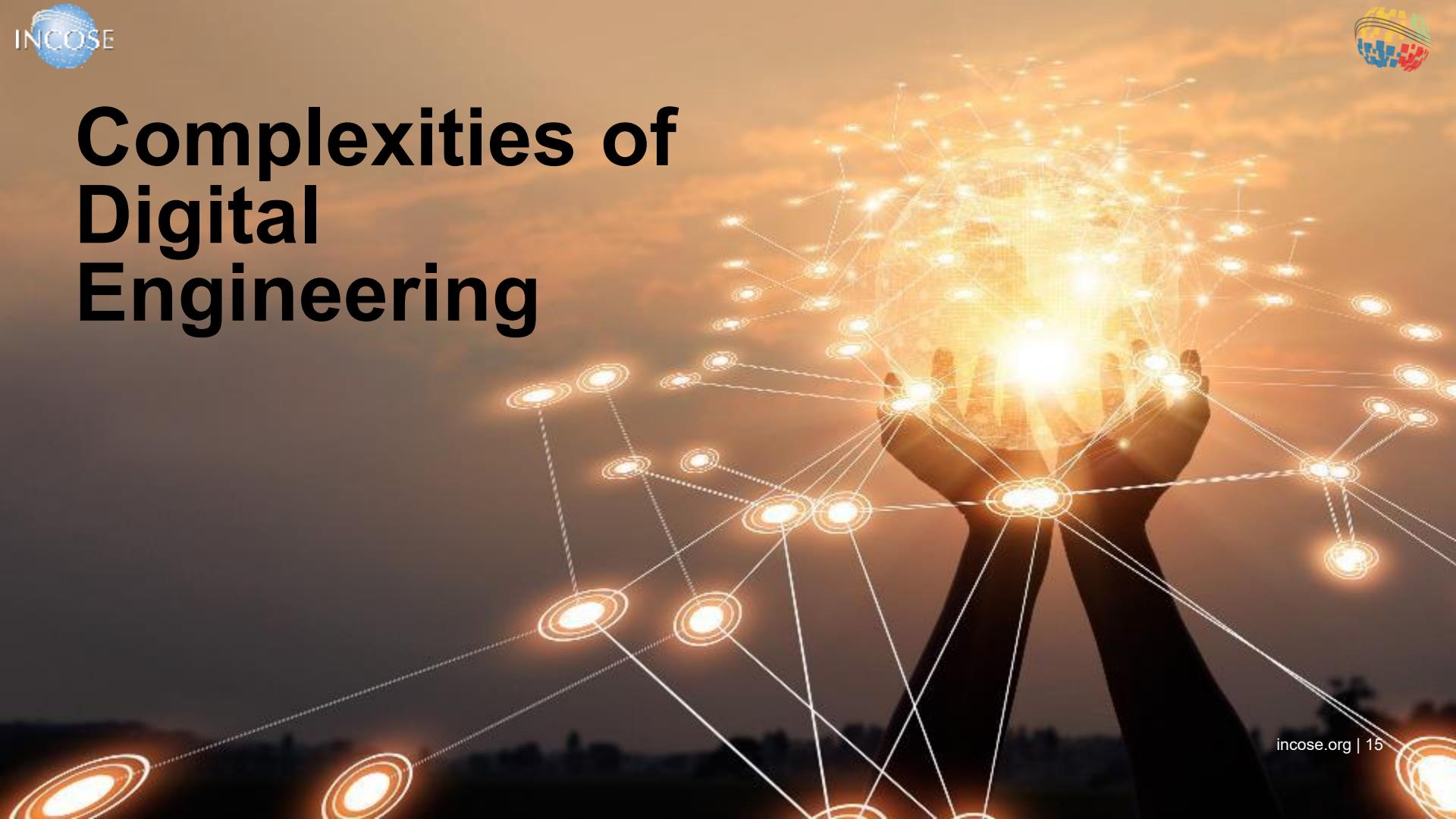


# But is that the only approach to DE?

- Design and development centric
- Engineering centric
- Single discipline crossing silos

# What if DE starts from production? From operation?

# Complexities of Digital Engineering



# Connections

Relating data across domains and throughout the lifecycle

Discovering lack of governance to resolve

## Hard but Known Challenges

Interoperability

Intellectual Property

Culture



## Emergent Unknown Barriers

Traversing Boundaries

Non-Functional Requirement influences on DE

Complexity Stack-Up

# DE is a capstone to implementation

*Difficult to determine an introductory topic when it is dependent on where you are starting*

- Starting point may vary depending on your organization, product, infrastructure
  - Evaluate your starting infrastructure and company goals
  - More implementation may be needed from support functions initially than from technical disciplines
- Create, Evaluate, and Re-Evaluate a DE Roadmap
  - Know your starting point and where you are headed
  - Include those executing and supporting the DE journey

# In closing...

**SE, MBSE, DE  
are different  
but related  
and not equal**

Systems Engineering is foundational

- Model Based Systems Engineering is an approach to performing SE in a digital, model-based context
- Building on that foundation is driven by the industry, application, etc.

Digital Engineering is applicational

- Foundations may be in SE, but could also be from other disciplines and different parts of the lifecycle
- Building on the breadth that contributes to the application is key for success



# 35<sup>th</sup> Annual **INCOSE** international symposium

hybrid event

Ottawa, Canada  
July 26 - 31, 2025

# What keeps me up at night with MBSE and DE?

*As an industry professional and a doctoral candidate*

## Balancing the state-of-the-art

- A 1-year plan for tactical implementation
- A 5-year plan for strategic industry growth
- A 20-year outlook for research impact

## Innovate as we Implement

- Developing and applying at the speed of relevance
- Solving low-hanging fruit
- Keep the roots healthy: be aware of dependencies on future changes or obsolescence as you go

## Impacts on People, Processes, Execution

- We lack a way of studying the impacts of DE on decision-making and process execution in a timeframe that is meaningful to both industry and research
- Do we have a way to measure success of what we implement?
- Will we recognize success?
- Are we willing to accept a dip in performance on the path to improvement?