



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

# Next Generation MBPLE with SysML v2: Feature Modeling, Variability Modeling and API Potentials

Presenter: Tim Weilkiens – oose

Presenter: Marco Forlingieri – PTC Inc.

Co-Author: Vince Molnár – Budapest University  
of Technology and Economics





# TIM WEILKIENS

---

Tim is a consultant and executive board member of oose. He has more than 20 years experience in the field of MBSE. He is one of the core developers of SysML v1 and SysML v2. Tim published many books about modeling and he is author of the MBSE methodology SYSMOD. With VAMOS he published a tool-independent approach for modeling variants with SysML. He is author of the book MBPLE: The Feature-Based Path to Product Lines Success, published by Wiley.

**oose.**

# MARCO FORLINGIERI

Marco senior director for Product Line Engineering (PLE) at PTC, leads the biggest PLE expert's pool in the world. He has several years of experience in the field of MBSE and PLE mainly within aerospace, defense, automotive and railway industries in Europe, China and North America. He chairs the INCOSE PLE Working Group and is the leading author of the book MBPLE: The Feature-Based Path to Product Lines Success, published by Wiley.



# Introduction





Riproduci (k)



MBPLE and SysMLv1 =



MBPLE and SysMLv2 =

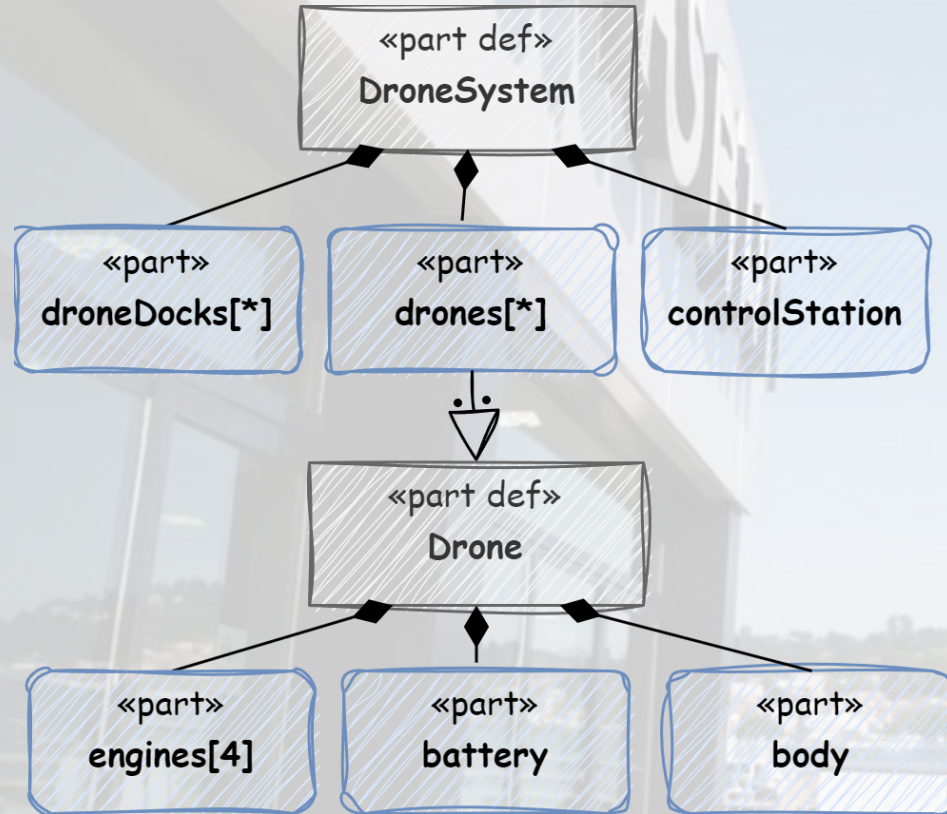


# Variability Modeling with SysML v2





# First version of the DroneSystem





Sure, no problem! We can provide drones with different capabilities.

We need to be able to transport small and large things.

ONE WITH SIX ENGINES  
FOUR WITH SIX ENGINES  
ONE WITH SIX ENGINES  
ONE WITH SIX ENGINES

- ✓ Different number of engines
- ✓ Different kinds of batteries
- ✓ Different payload attachments
- ✓ ...



# Variant Modeling Methods

INCOSE International Symposium



Session Track 4: Product Line Engineering

## Two Variant Modeling Methods for MBPLE at Airbus

Marco Forlingieri  Tim Weikiens 

First published: 26 September 2022 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/iis2.12984> | Citations: 10

[Read the full text >](#)



PDF



TOOLS



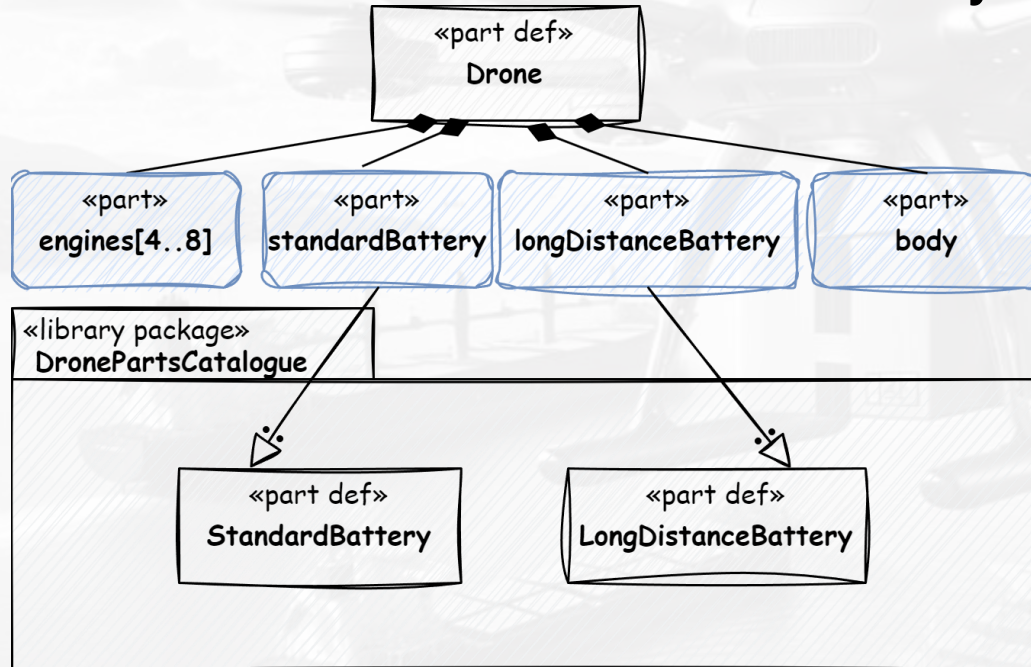
SHARE

### Abstract

Product Line Engineering (PLE) is a fundamental component of systems engineering. As postulated in INCOSE's Vision 2025, Model-Based Systems Engineering (MBSE) is becoming the norm for systems engineering. Thus, we need to integrate PLE into MBSE. An important aspect of this integration is the definition of model-based methods. This paper defines two possible approaches for variant modeling with SysML applied at Airbus and provides insights into their application in practice.

# Direct Approach in a Nutshell

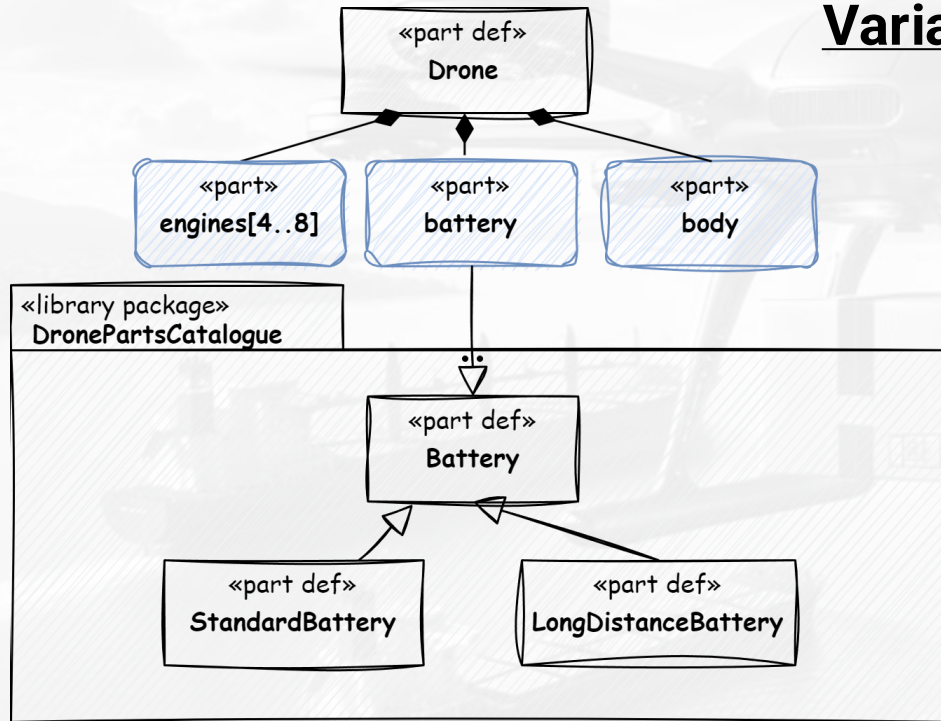
## Variability: Different kinds of batteries



**Just model it!**

A drone can have a standard battery or a long distance battery.

# Clean Approach in a Nutshell



## Variability: Different kinds of batteries

### 1. Identify the commonality!

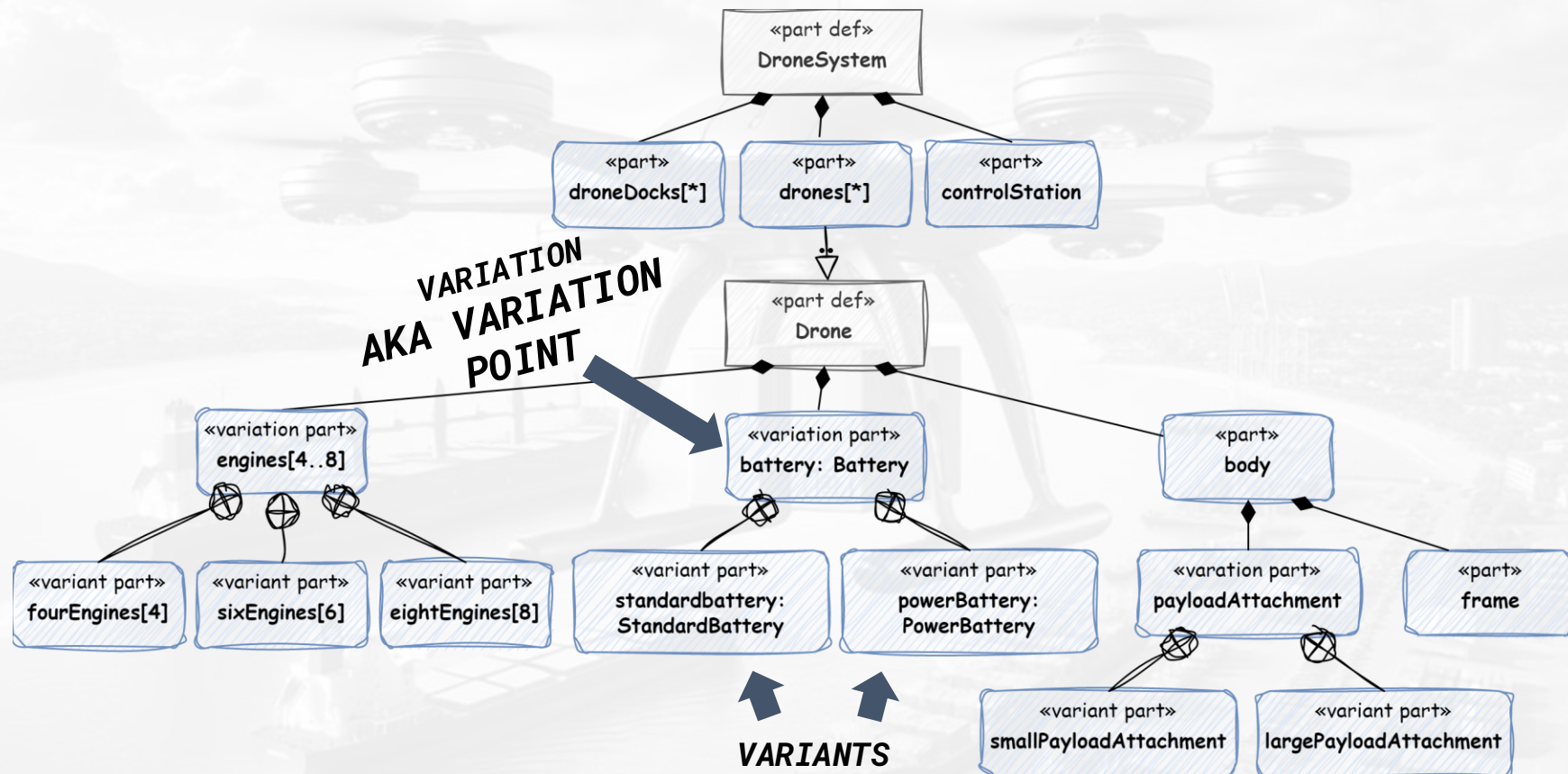
A drone has a battery.

### 2. Specialize the variants!

It can be a StandardBattery or a LongDistanceBattery.



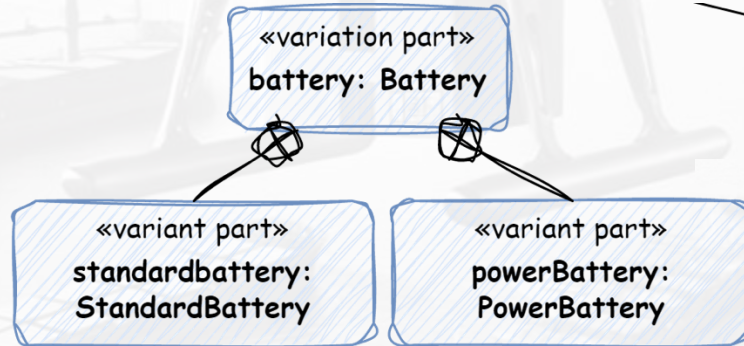
# SysML v2 Variations and Variants



# SysML v2 Variations and Variants

Variants are not individual model elements. In the background, it is a VariantMembership relationship between the variation and a variant.

Being a variation is a Boolean characteristic of a definition/usage element that can be switched on or off.

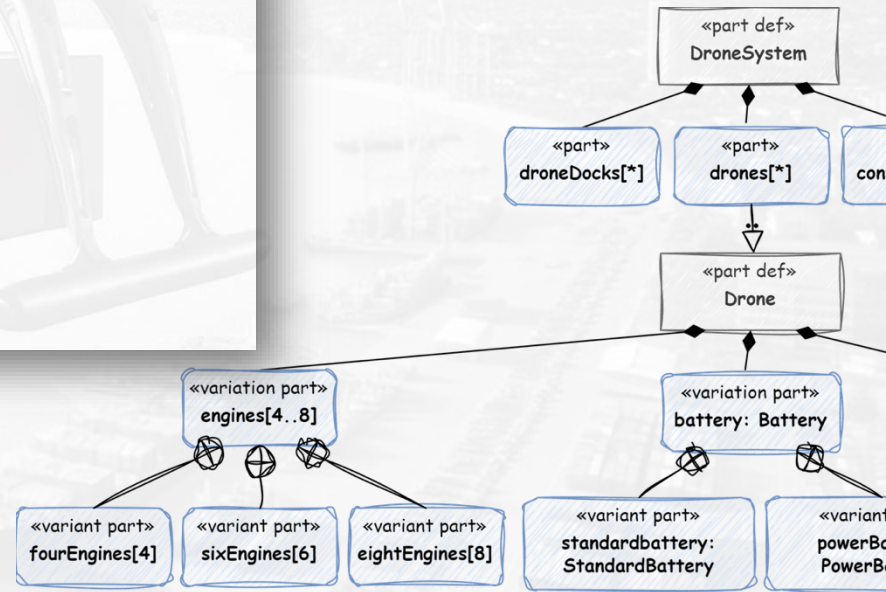


# Variations/Variants - Textual Notation

```

part def Drone {
  variation part battery: Battery {
    variant part standardBattery: StandardBattery;
    variant part powerBattery: PowerBattery;
  }
  variation part engines[4..8] {
    variant part fourEngines[4];
    variant part sixEngines[6];
    variant part eightEngines[8];
  }
  [...]
}

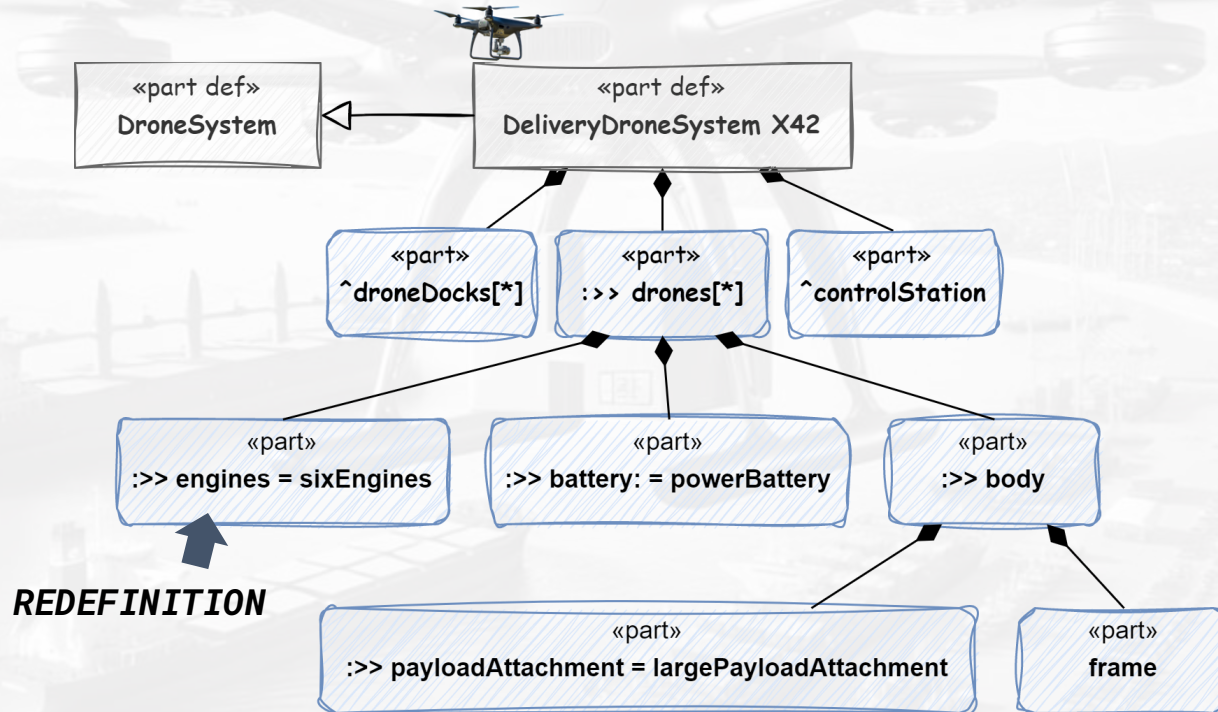
```





# Product Model - Let's derive a product

The **DeliveryDroneSystem X42** has six engines, a power battery, and an attachment for large payloads.

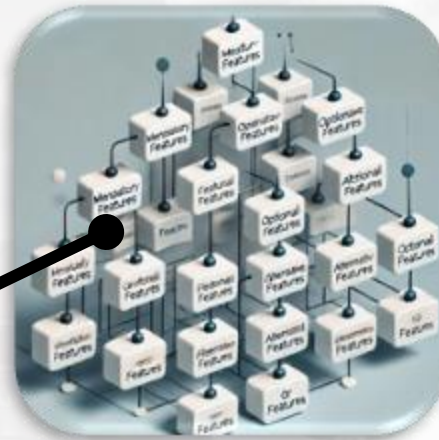




# ISO/IEC 26580



**Shared Assets  
Supersets**



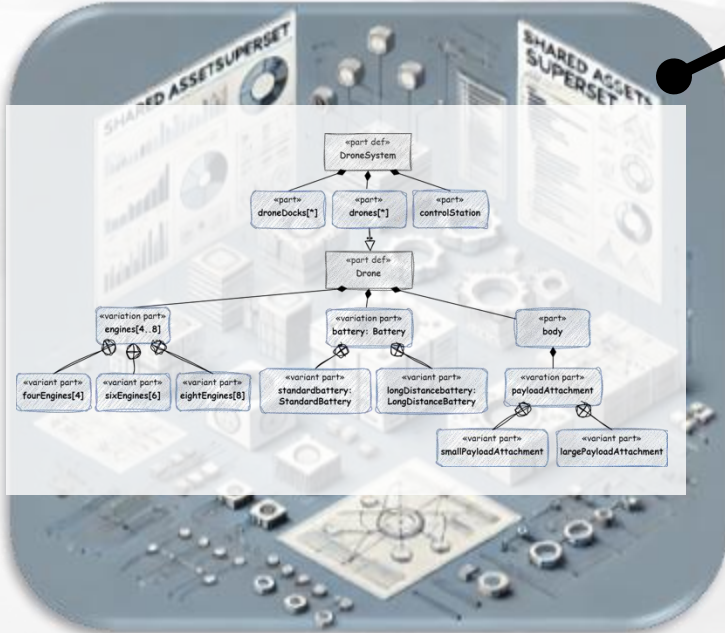
**Feature Model: Feature Tree & Feature  
Configurations**



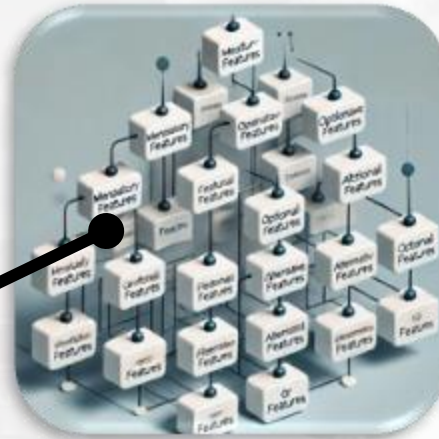
**PLE  
Configurator**



**Product  
Models**



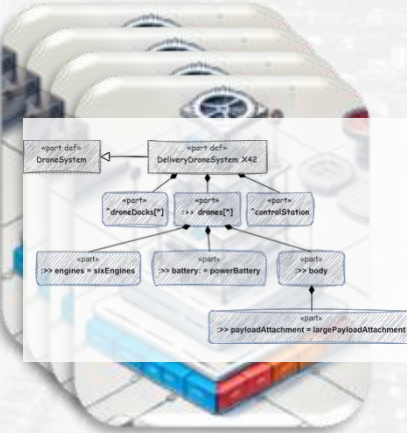
**Shared Assets  
Supersets**



**Feature Model: Feature Tree & Feature  
Configurations**



**PLE  
Configurator**



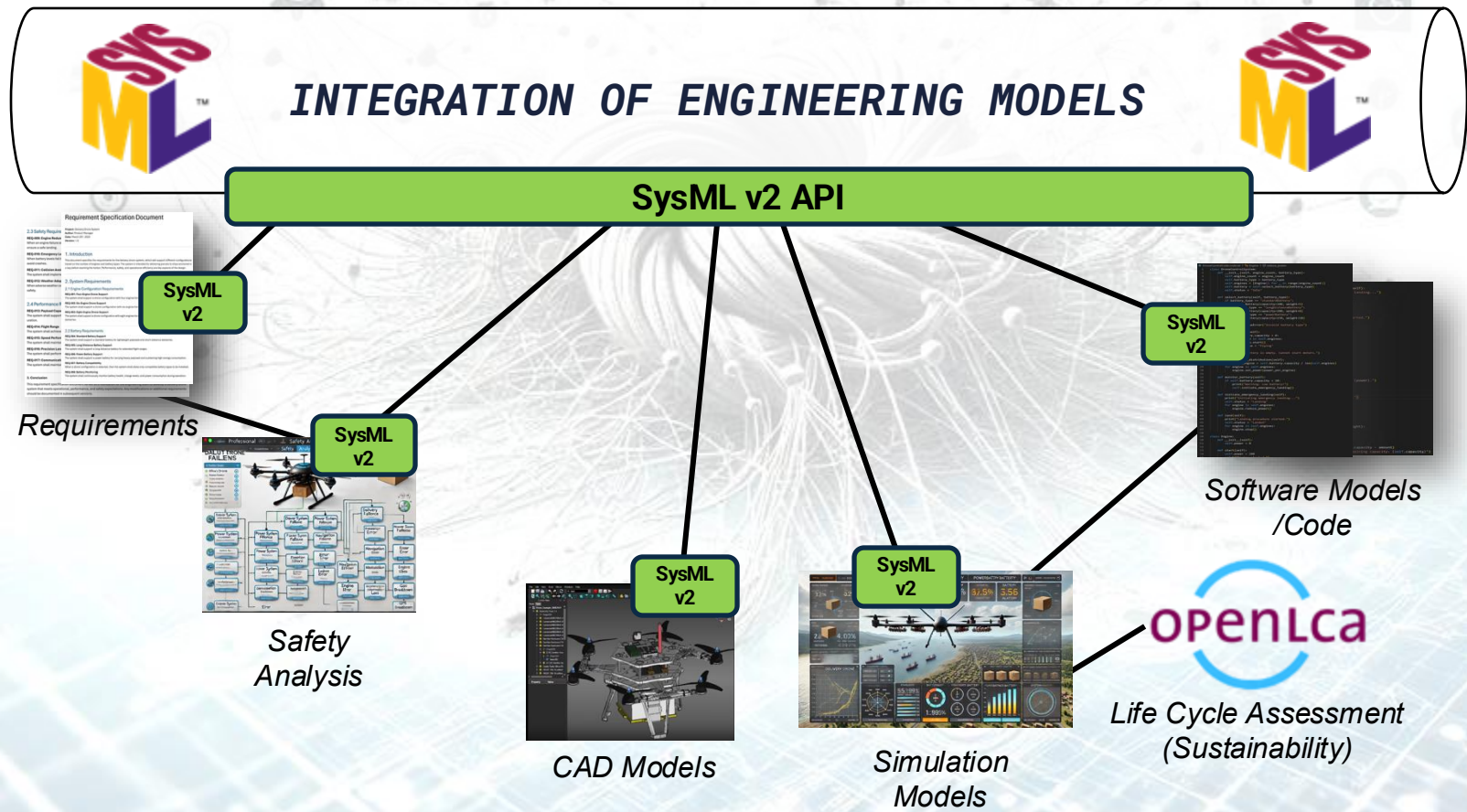
**Product  
Models**

# Feature Modeling with SysML v2

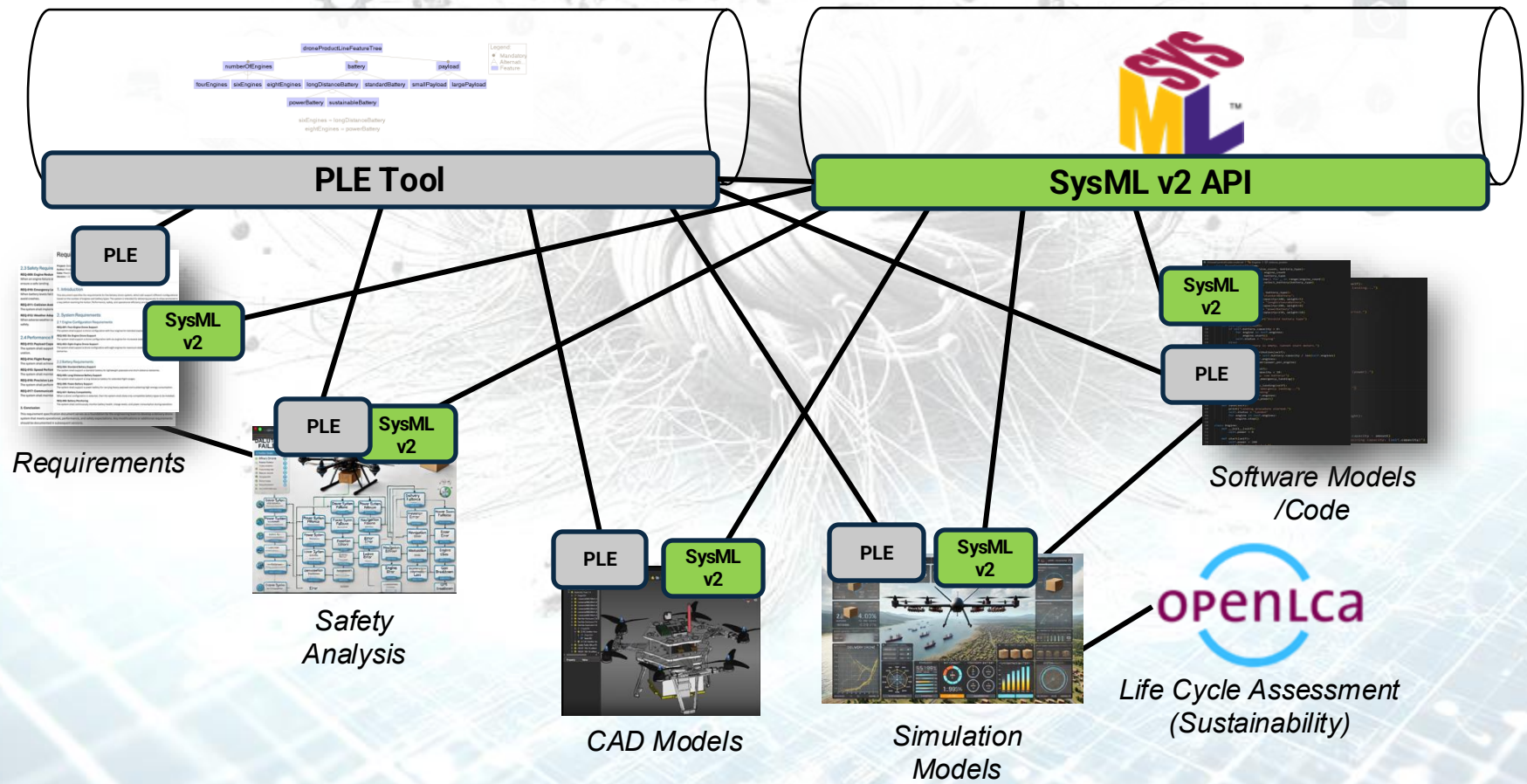


# Feature Tree with FeatureIDE

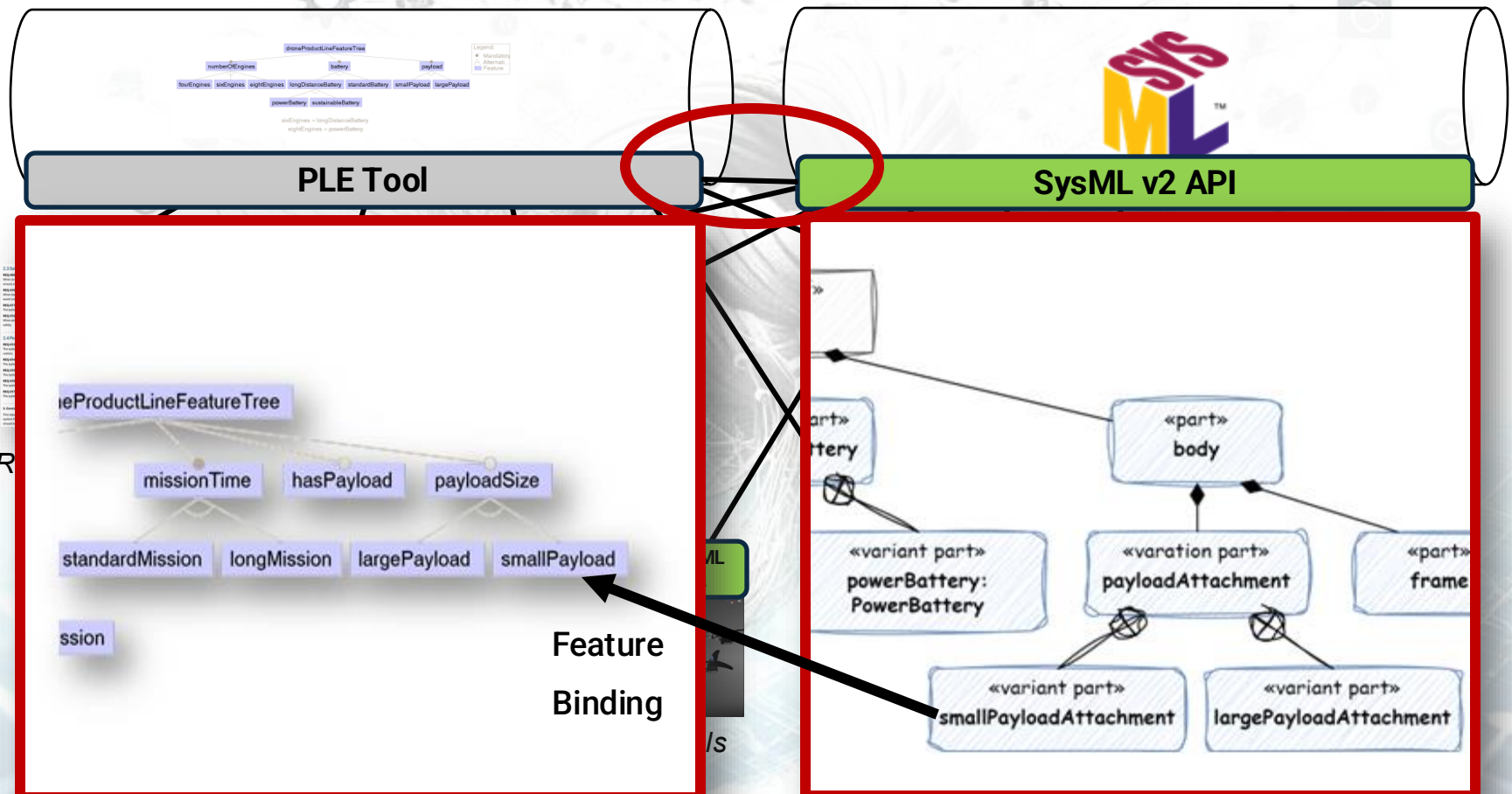




# PLE in the Digital Thread

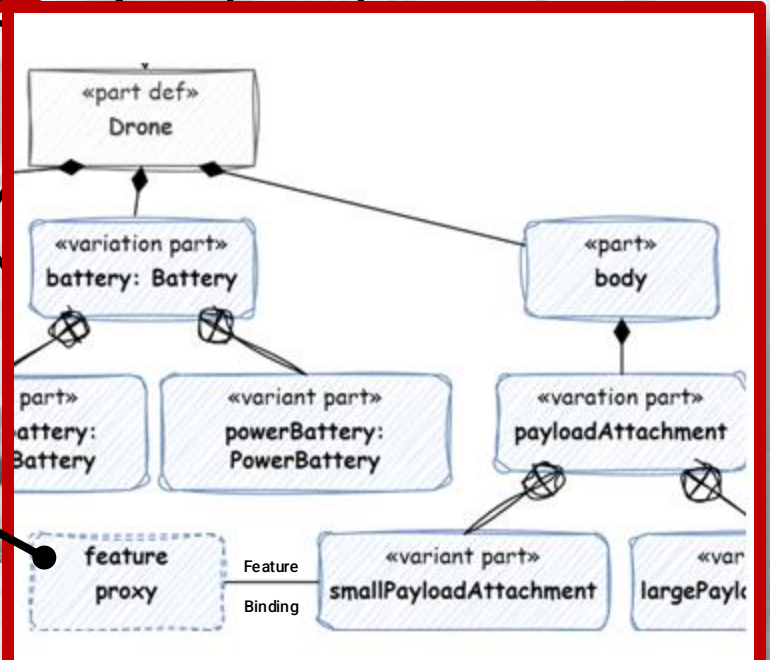
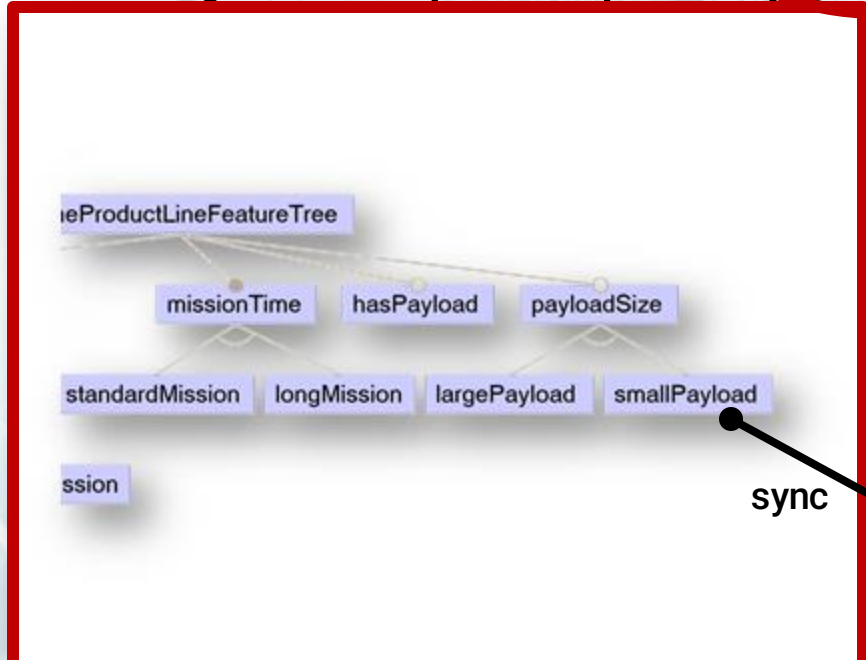
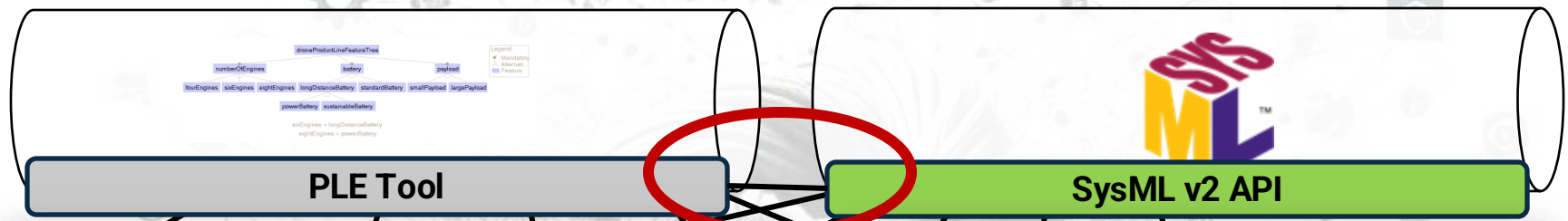


# PLE in the Digital Thread



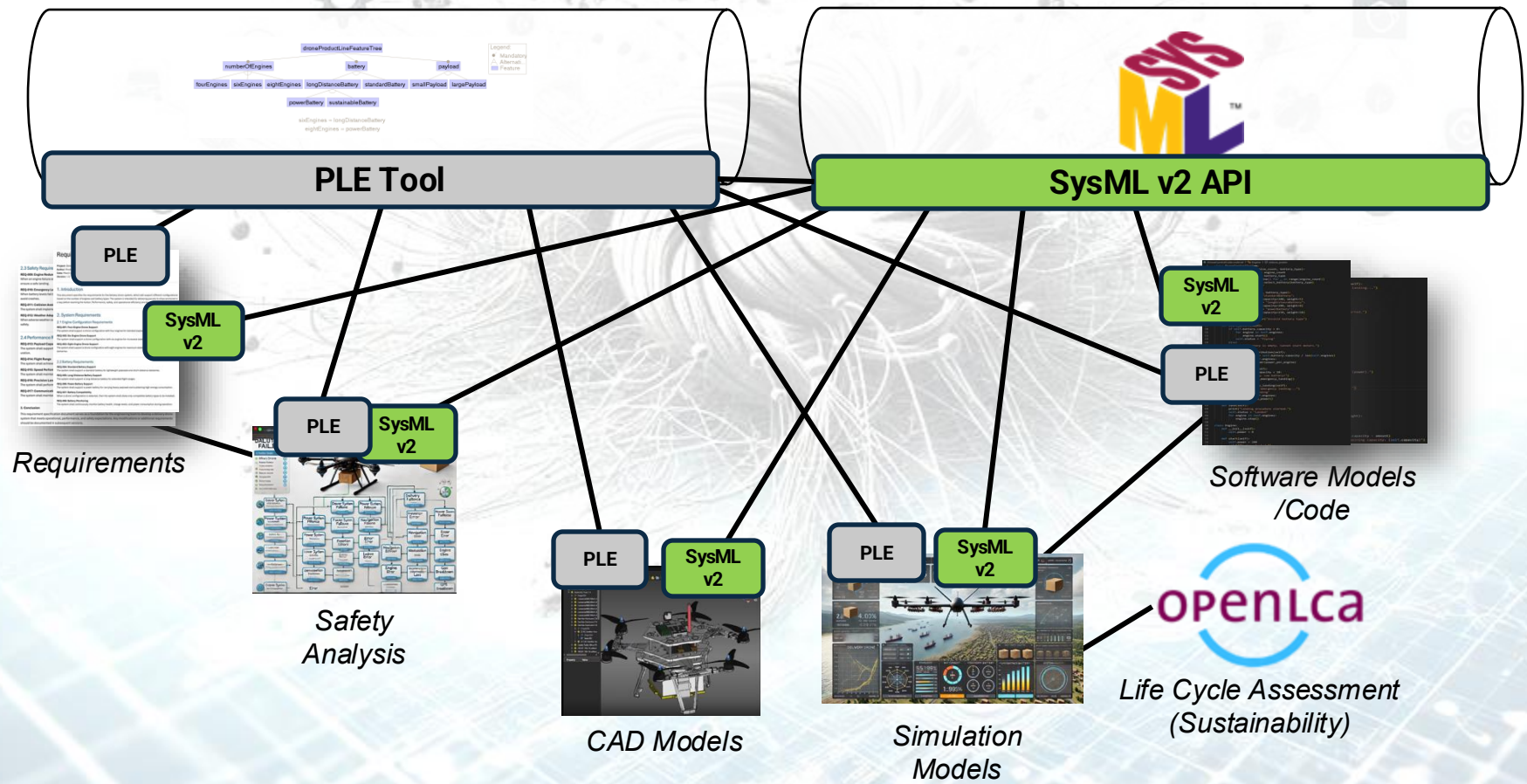


# PLE in the Digital Thread

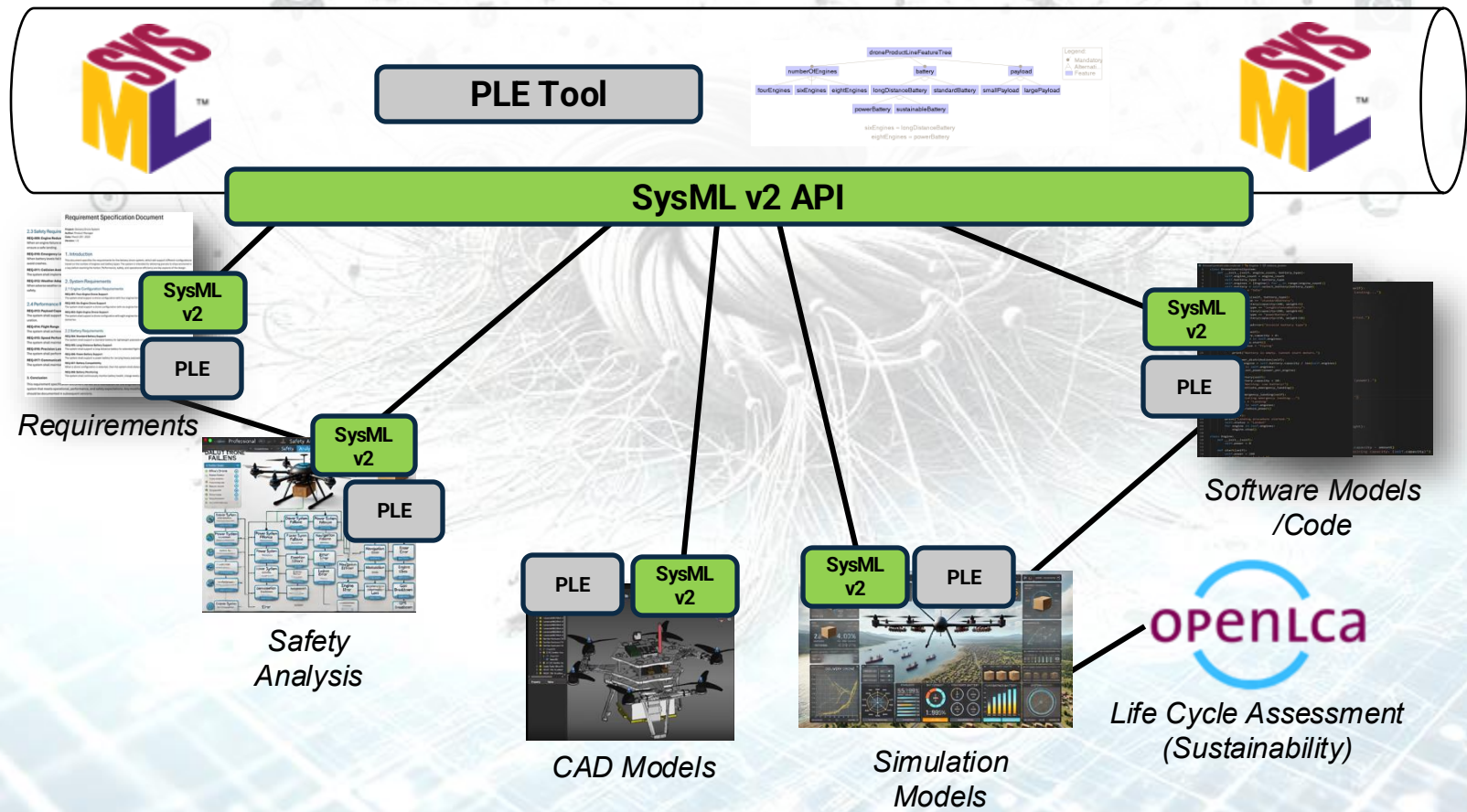


sync

# PLE in the Digital Thread



# PLE in the Digital Thread





A vibrant, stylized illustration of a modern office environment. Several developers are seated at long wooden desks, each with multiple computer monitors displaying code and diagrams. The developers are diverse in appearance, wearing casual attire like beanie hats and plaid shirts. The office has large windows on the right side, showing a city skyline at night. Inside, there are shelves with potted plants, hanging lamps, and a whiteboard in the background with the text "DIFFERING LANGUAGES" and "SLATCHARS LANCHAS". Two orange callout boxes are overlaid on the image, containing text about SysML v2. A dark grey banner at the bottom contains the title "SysML v2 – Language Extension".

1. Foundation for Feature and Feature Binding in SysML v2 as an anchor point for Feature Modeling Tools

2. Feature Modeling with SysML v2

# SysML v2 – Language Extension





# INCOSÉ Laboratory: SysML v2 for Feature Modeling

*In PLE, you typically  
do it that way.*

**MARCO  
FORLINGIERI**

*In SysML v2, I would  
model it this way.*

**TIM  
WEILKIENS**

*It looks nice, but it is  
formally not fully correct.*

**VINCE  
MOLNÁR**

# PLEML Library

```
library package FeatureModeling {
  enum def LifecycleKind :> ScalarValues::Natural {
    doc /* Definition of f
      * The numbers pro
      */
    enum Development = 1;
    enum Production = 2;
    enum Operation = 3;
  }

  occurrence def Feature {
    doc /* A Feature is a
      * product line th
      * in the product line.
      */
    attribute bindingTime : LifecycleKind default LifecycleKind::Development {
      doc /* The binding time of the feature with default Development. */
    }
  }

  constraint def XORConstraint :> FeatureConstraint {
    in occurrence excluded :> constrainedFeatures;
    in occurrence featureConfiguration :>> featureConfiguration;
    if featureConfiguration != null ?
      featureConfiguration.suboccurrences->includes(owningFeature)
      implies (1..size(excluded)-1)->ControlFunctions::forAll {
        in f; not featureConfiguration.suboccurrences->includes(f)
      }
    else
      true
  }
}
```



# Feature Representation - Textual

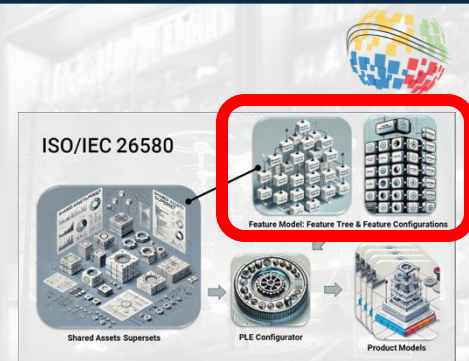
```
package DroneFeatureModel {
  private import FeatureModeling::*;

  #feature def droneProductLineFeatures {
    #feature missionTime {
      attribute :>> bindingTime = LifecycleKind::Production;
    }
    #feature standardMission :> missionTime;
    #feature longMission :> missionTime;
  }
}
```





# Feature Configuration



```
#featureConfiguration deliveryDrone :> droneProductLineFeatures {
    #feature :>> missionKind = (deliveryMission);
    #feature :>> missionTime = (longMission);
    #feature :>> hasPayload;
    #feature :>> payloadSize = largePayload;
}

#featureConfiguration observationDrone :> droneProductLineFeatures {
    #feature :>> missionKind = (forestFireMission);
    #feature :>> missionTime = (longMission);
}

#featureConfiguration consumerDrone :> droneProductLineFeatures {
    #feature :>> missionKind = (securityMission, funMission);
}
```

# Feature Binding

```
// Feature Bindings from Shared Assets to the Features
#featureBinding connect droneSystemRequirements.minimumFlightTime::standard
    to droneFeatureModel.droneProductLineFeatures.standardMission;
#featureBinding connect droneSystemRequirements.minimumFlightTime::extended
    to droneFeatureModel.droneProductLineFeatures.longMission;

#featureBinding connect droneProduct.battery::standardBattery
    to droneFeatureModel.droneProductLineFeatures.standardMission;
#featureBinding connect droneProduct.battery::longDistanceBattery
    to droneFeatureModel.droneProductLineFeatures.longMission;
#featureBinding connect droneProduct.battery::longDistanceBattery::longRange
    to droneFeatureModel.droneProductLineFeatures.deliveryMission;
#featureBinding connect droneProduct.battery::longDistanceBattery::longRange
    to droneFeatureModel.droneProductLineFeatures.forestFireMission;

#featureBinding connect droneProduct.body::bodyWithoutPayload
```



# What's next!

- ❖ Complete the language extension PLEML
- ❖ Variation WG for SysML v2.1
  - ❖ Optional variation
  - ❖ Constraints
  - ❖ ...





# Thank You Question Time!

**Contacts:**

 [mforlingieri@ptc.com](mailto:mforlingieri@ptc.com)

 [tim.weilkiens@oose.de](mailto:tim.weilkiens@oose.de)



# PRODUCT LINE ENGINEERING IN ACTION

Master complexity and  
deliver at scale



Week of October 20<sup>th</sup>



Lockheed Martin Facility, Orlando, FL 8012

Stay tuned for more details  
and registration information.



3834

» Join fellow architects, software, and systems engineers for a PLE User Group to hear expert insights and best practices from industry leaders.

ACTIVE.32

39.871  
57.203

C2

MODEL 0042.A

POSITION AUTO

12104 Mghz

6733

1464

R5\_CORE\_SMP  
1374\_64DRX

SENDING