



NRIC

National Reactor  
Innovation Center

# Digital Engineering

## 2024 NRIC Program Review

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04/24/2024





# Agenda

- Digital Engineering Overview
- FY24 NRIC Digital Engineering Review
- Other NRIC Digital Engineering Updates at INL
- Funding and FY25 Look Ahead







# Digital Engineering Overview





# Why Digital Engineering

- 48% of large projects finish on budget
- 8.5% of large projects finish on budget and on schedule
- 0.5% finish on budget and schedule, while delivering the expected benefits/promises
- Nuclear related infrastructure is one of the worst offenders

## How Big Projects Performed

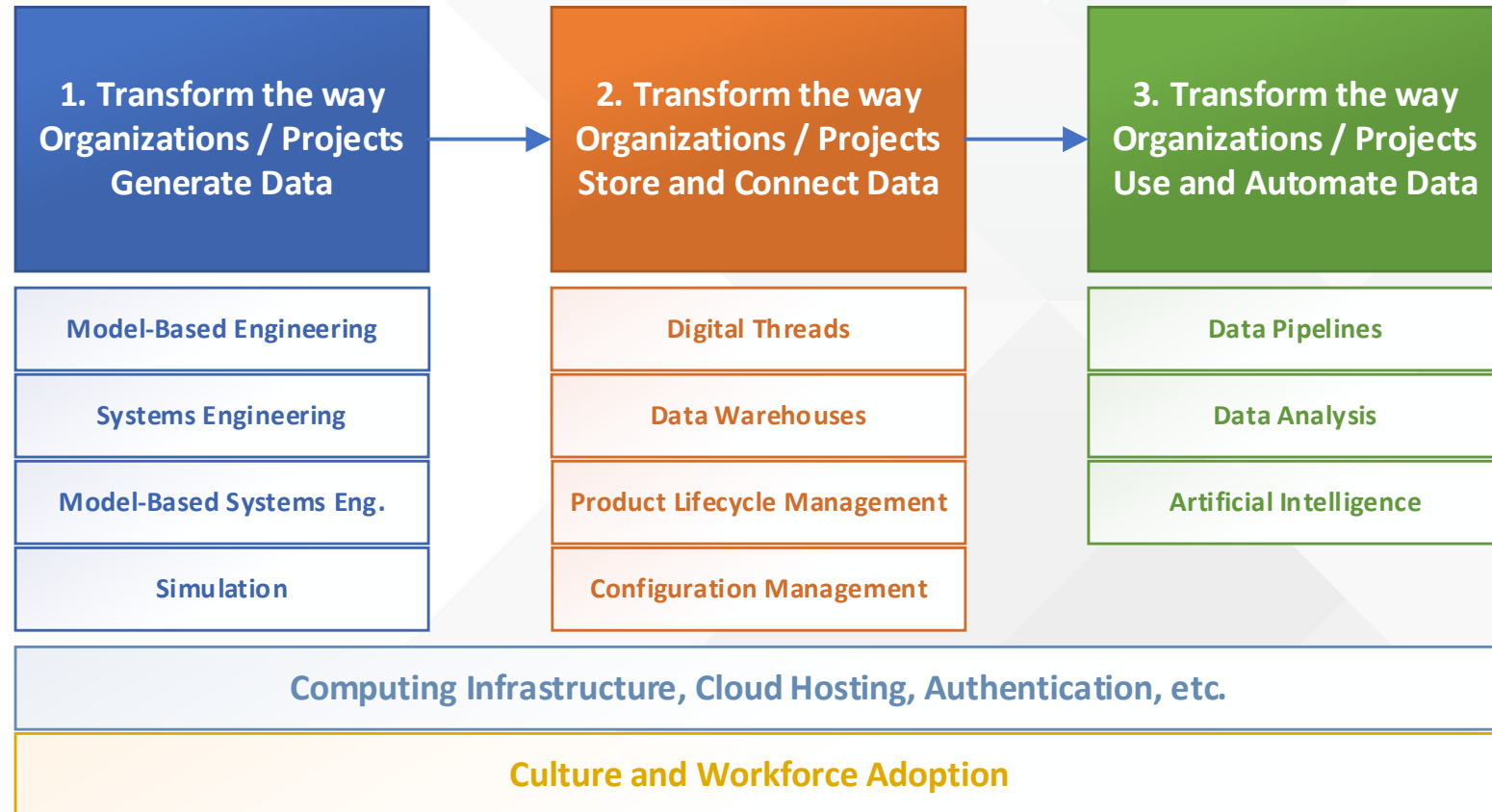
Source: Flyvbjerg Database

Project type	Mean cost overrun (%)	Projects (A) with ≥50% overruns (%)	Mean overruns of A projects (%)
Nuclear storage	238	48	427
Olympic Games	157	76	200
Nuclear power	120	55	204
Hydroelectric dams	75	37	186
IT	73	18	447
Nonhydroelectric dams	71	33	202
Buildings	62	39	206
Aerospace	60	42	119
Defence	53	21	253
Bus rapid transit	40	43	69
Rail	39	28	116
Airports	39	43	88
Tunnels	37	28	103
Oil and gas	34	19	121
Ports	32	17	183
Hospitals, health	29	13	167
Mining	27	17	129
Bridges	26	21	107
Water	20	13	124
Fossil thermal power	16	14	109
Roads	16	11	102



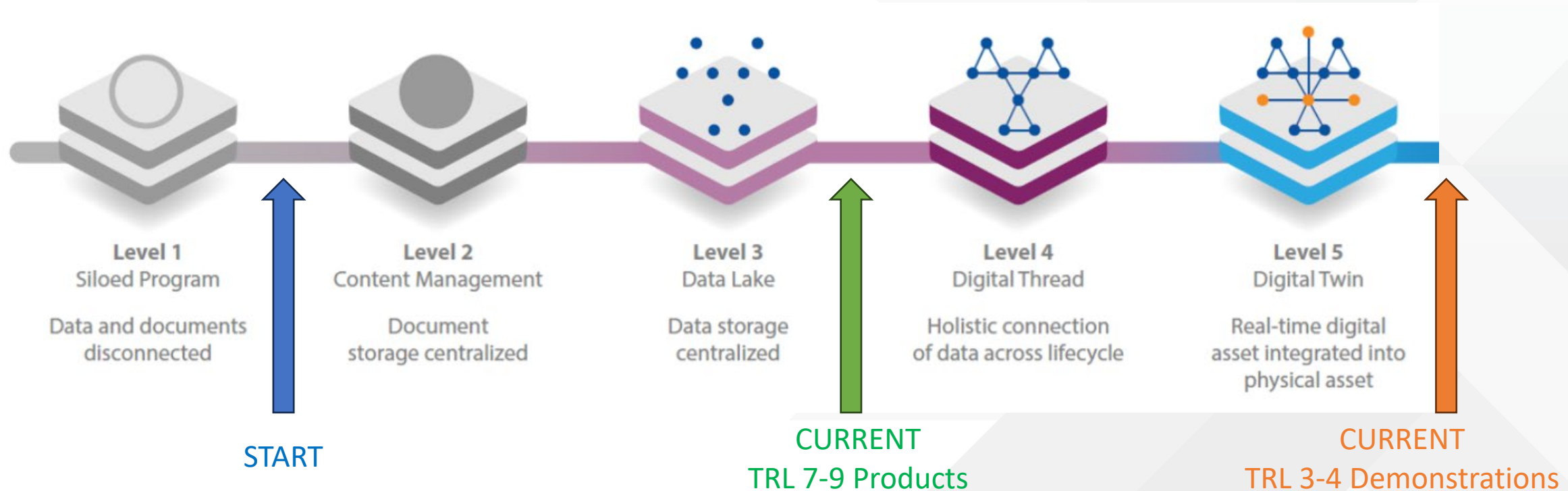
# Digital Engineering Overview

- Digital engineering provides for the most secure, highest quality, most accessible, fastest execution of large scale and complex projects
- NRIC expects to “Do it right” every time and provide the most advanced look at reactor and testbed integration and designs





# INL Digital Engineering Program Progress







# FY24 Digital Engineering Review





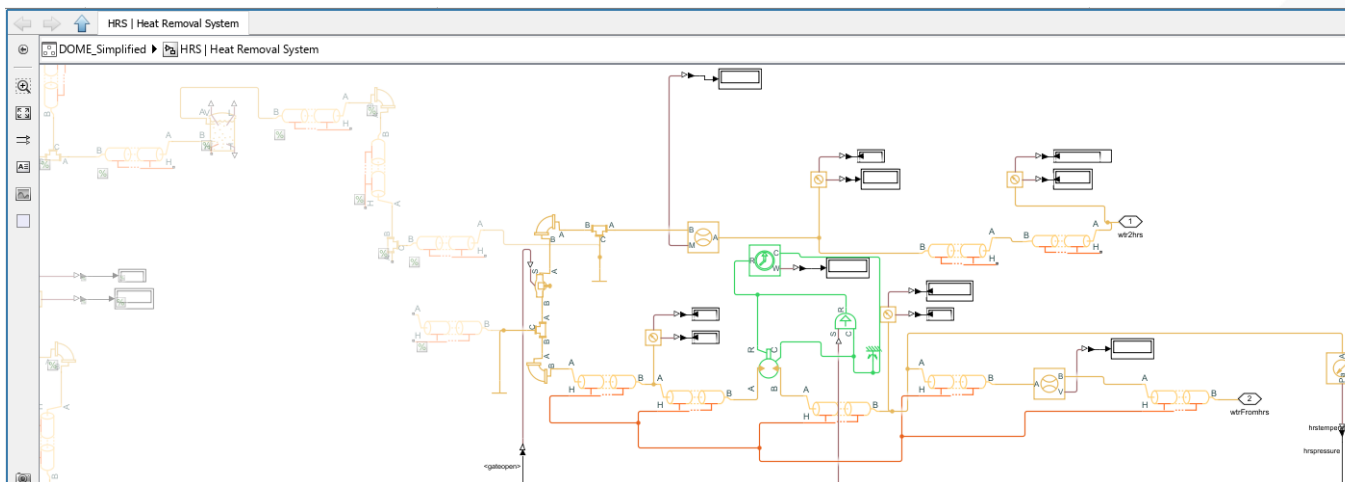
# DOME Facility-Level Modeling

## Why?

- Operational digital twins need some concept of how a facility or system is “supposed to work”
- Our INL engineering practices suffer from not incorporating system-level modeling

## What?

- Use Matlab/Simulink tool suite to replace drawings with models and demonstrate how DOME is designed to work
- Systems are complete to model the high-level function of the physical assets and control logic associated with facility thermal management.
- Will be able to transfer this model to operations and leverage for the predictive side of the facility digital twin





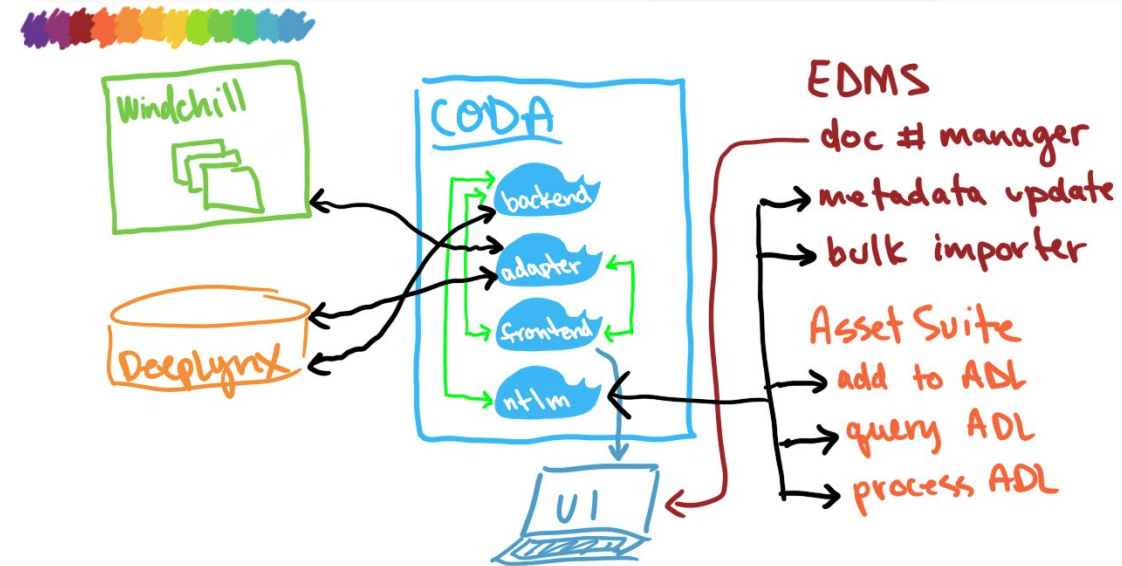
# Windchill and Document Automation

## Why?

- INL does not have a product lifecycle management (PLM) tool
- At the end of the design phase, engineers manually copy documents from multiple sources into our legacy systems

## What?

- Deploy Windchill as an INL production system
- Automatically transfer completed engineering outputs from Windchill to INL Legacy Systems and Record Repositories





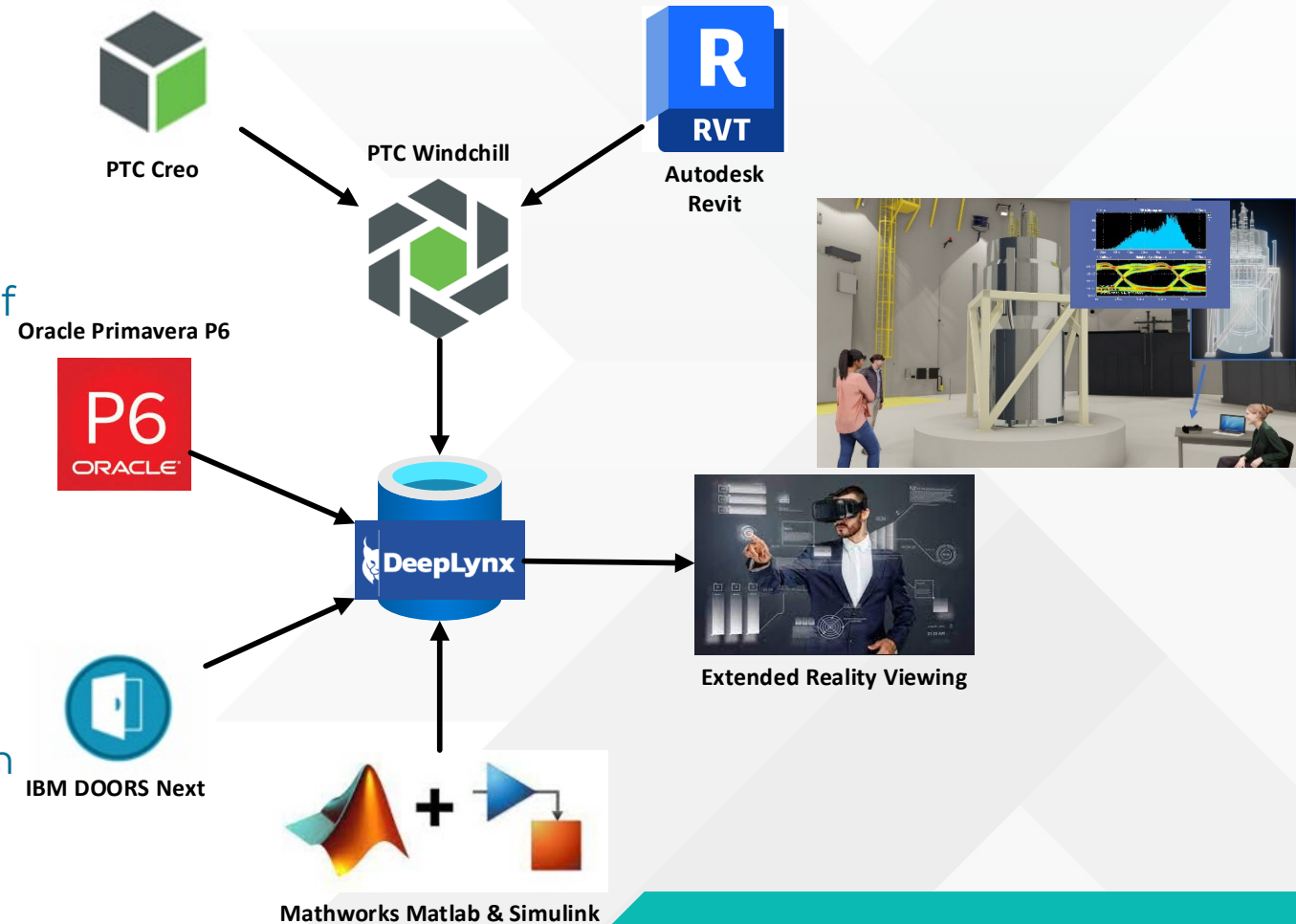
# DOME Informational Digital Twin

## Why?

- Digital Threads (connected data) is incredibly useful, but the mechanism by which we review it is outdated
- Review of a design is always “static” and never real-time from the source of truth

## What?

- Connect requirements, P6 Schedule, Creo models, simulation results into a single “Viewing” platform that is real-time and leverages Deep Lynx
- Users will be able to inspect the model, move objects, traverse through the design using their computer or holographic glasses





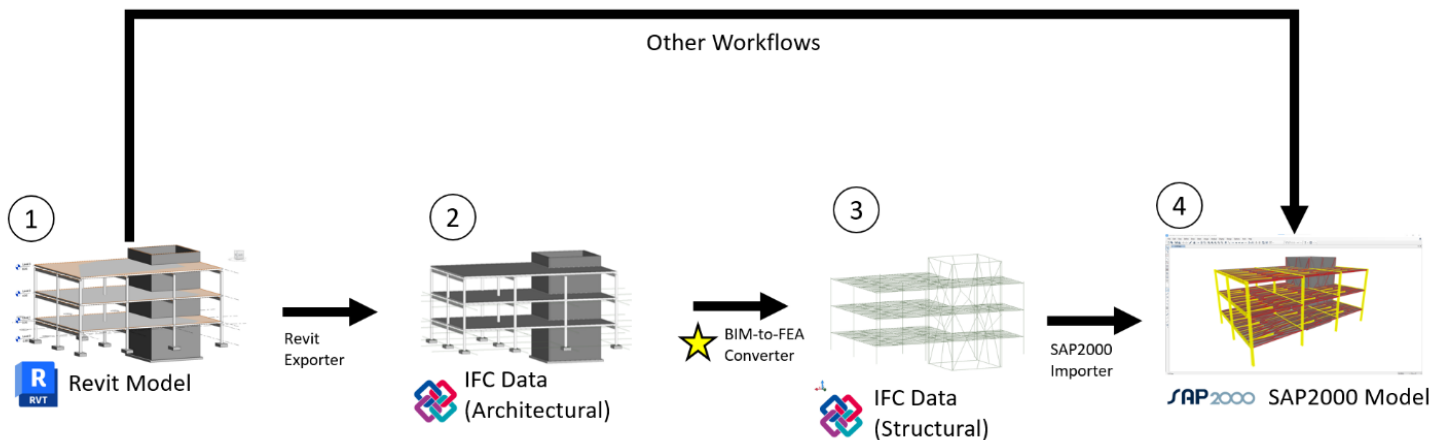
# BIM to FEA Data Conversion

## Why?

- Engineering design and analysis are historically siloed domains in nuclear
- One engineer spends time creating a model in Building Information Modeling (BIM) software and then another engineer recreates the exact same model in a structural analysis tool like SAP-2000

## What?

- Automatically convert engineering design models (BIM) into compliant analysis models (FEA)
- Eliminate ~50% of the time it takes to generate a model for seismic analysis
- Currently working with several industry partners







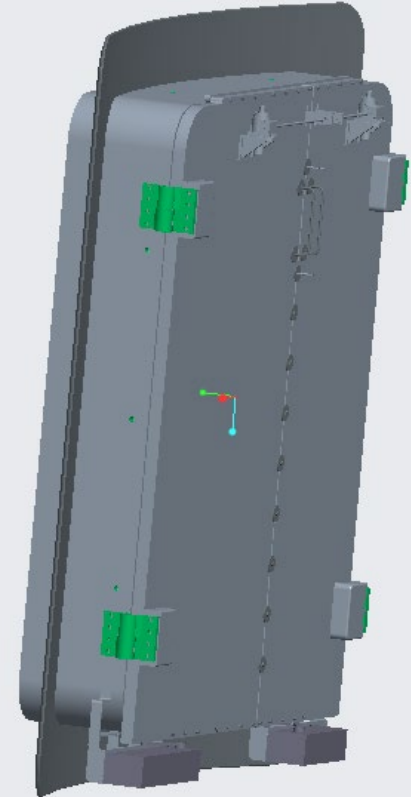
# Other NRIC Digital Engineering Updates





# Model-Based Definition (MBD)

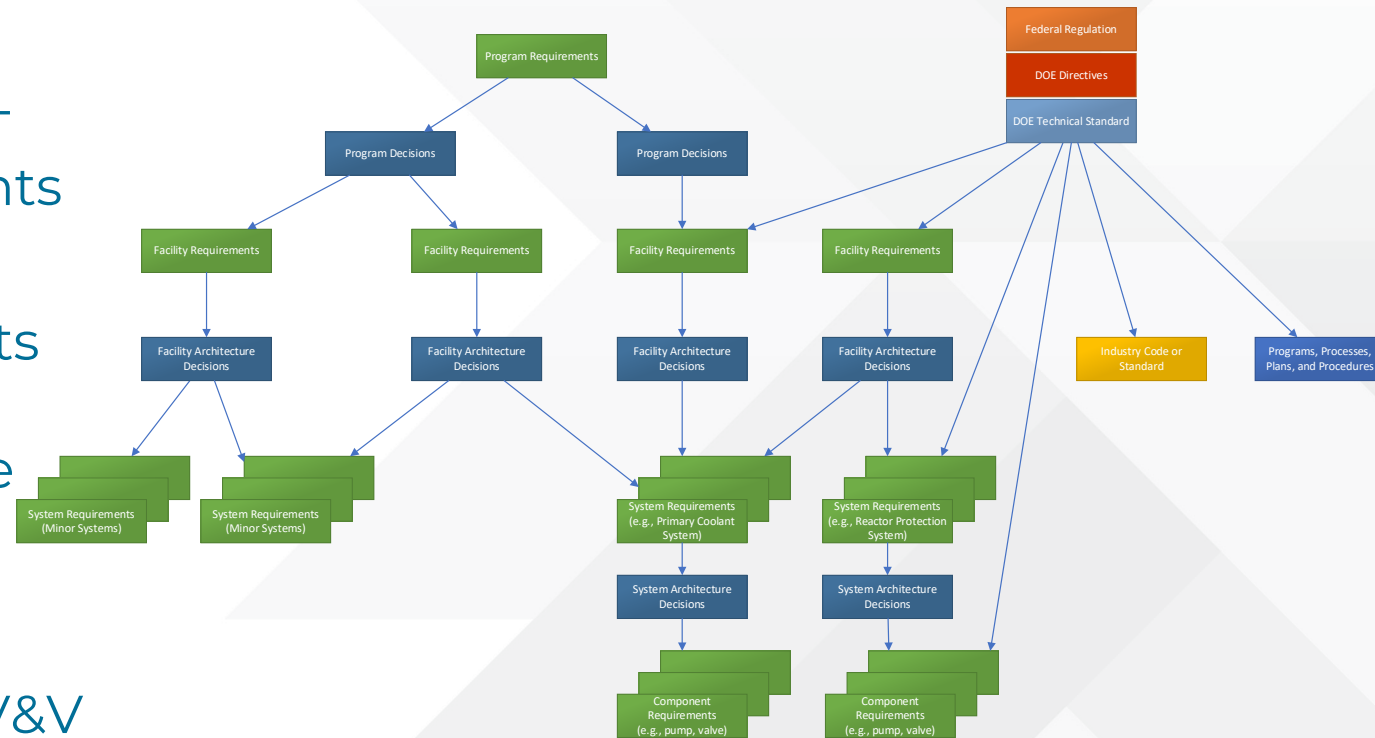
- Reworked DOME models to implement rigorous MBD and integrate with Windchill
- Mapping parameters embedded in the model to Windchill so that all bill of material (BOM) data is available to the user without access to CAD
- Instituting best practices with regard to identification (numbering), parameters, vendor/supplier collaboration, redlining, RFIs, etc.





# Model-Based Requirements Engineering (MBRE)

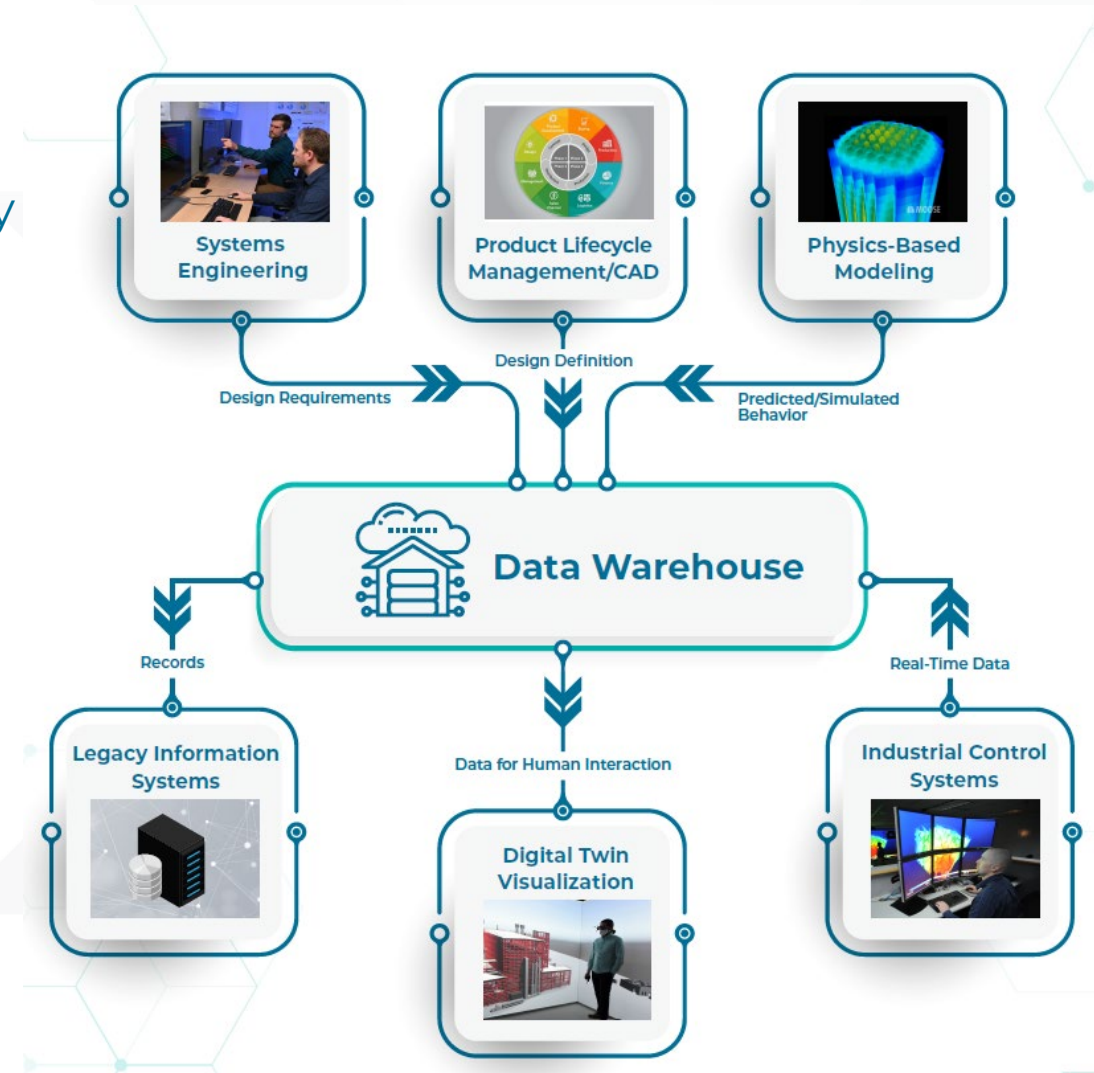
- Continued adoption of IBM Engineering Lifecycle Management (ELM) [a.k.a. DOORS Next] for requirements management at INL
- Templatized a generic requirements structure
- Able to generate Word/PDF reports and documents conforming to almost any formatting or template
- 20+ NRIC projects using for Action Tracking
- Piloted use for field/construction V&V





# Deep Lynx

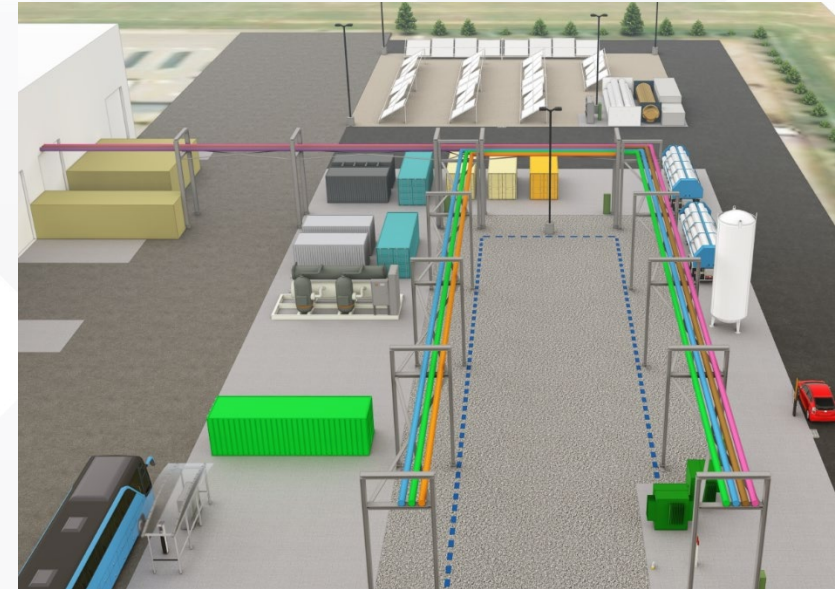
- INL is investing more in Digital Thread technology and the Deep Lynx data warehouse
- INL has R&D mission, meaning that software typically gets funded to TRL 6 without a path towards TRL 9
- Working with stakeholders and partners to stabilize the product and progress to TRL 9 and the standards expected of a commercial product
- Starting taking an internal SE approach to the M&O of the platform, established roles and responsibilities, enhanced documentation
- Some industry support and engagement





# Artificial Intelligence

- Submitted two Digital Engineering-led LDRDs to Nuclear Call
  - AI for Regulatory Process Transformation
  - AI for Microreactor Operations
- AI Chat Deployed on the INL HPC and Ready for Use Cases:  
<https://chat.hpc.inl.gov/>
- Prototype MBSE -> CAD Generator (Auto Plant Design)







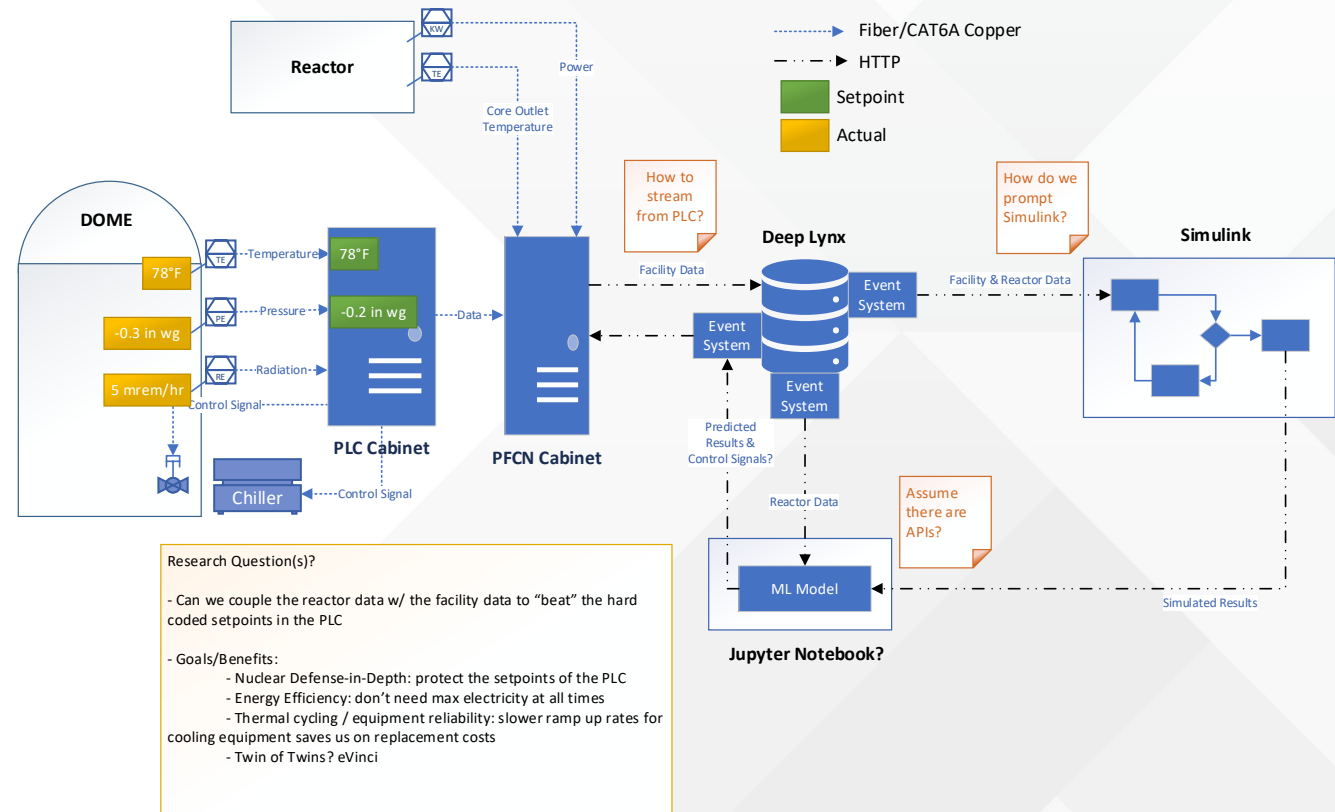
# Funding and FY25 Look Ahead



# FY25

FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24
\$600K	\$989K	\$742K	\$500K	\$1.1M

- Release Beta Version of Auto Plant Design Application using AI
- Continued Development of DOME Digital Twin, incorporating hardware feedback
- Release Deep Lynx 2.0 at TRL 9 Level





Questions?



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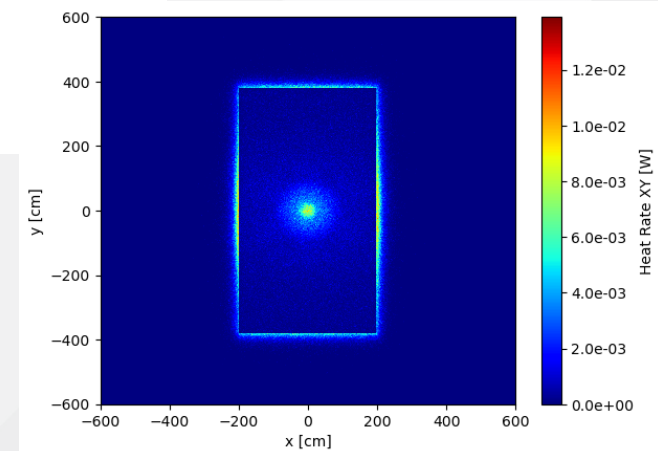
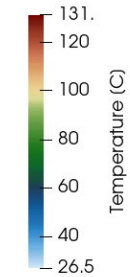
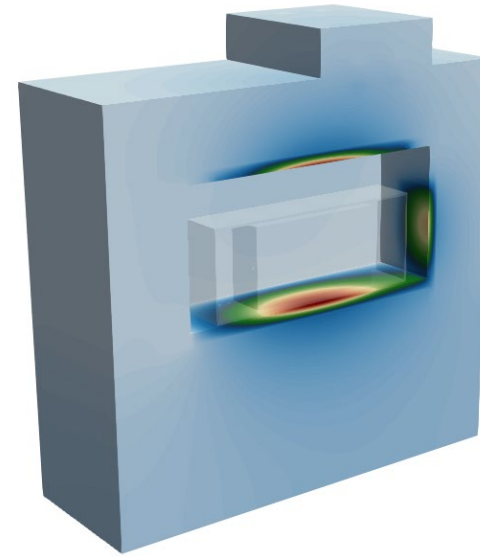
# NRIC Virtual Test Bed (VTB)

## NRIC FY24 Program Review

Lise Charlot (INL), Abdalla Abou-Jaoude (INL), Emily Shemon (ANL)

4/29/202

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# Mission Statement

**NRIC:** Deliver successful demonstration and deployment of advanced nuclear energy

- **EBR-II Test Bed (DOME)**
- **ZPPR Test Bed (LOTUS)**
- **Virtual Test Bed (VTB):** Accelerate deployment of advanced reactors by leveraging state-of-the-art ModSim tools to evaluate performance and safety

## Ok, but what is it?

- **Library of Reference Model:** database of advanced multiphysics advanced reactor models that users can download, edit, and re-run
- **Continuous Software QA:** linking repository to software development to avoid legacy issues while enabling rapid code development
- **Virtual models of the test bed:** developing demonstration-relevant models (e.g., candidates for DOME/LOTUS) to accelerate safety evaluations

## Reactor Demonstrations

Accelerate  
Licensing  
Evaluation  
(NRC)

Accelerate  
Authoriza-  
tion  
Evaluation  
(DOE)

Accelerate  
Design  
Maturation  
(industry)

Targeted  
Model  
Generation

Library of  
Reference  
Models

Testing for  
Agile  
Software  
QA

NRIC Mission

VTB Mission

VTB Scope



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# VTB Team

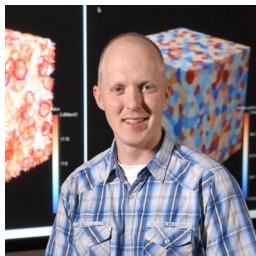
## INL Team



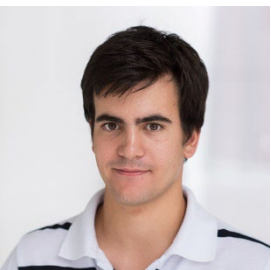
**Abdalla Abou-Jaoude**  
Former VTB Workpackage  
Manager; PI salt irradiation  
LDRD; SA&I Techno-  
economics Lead



**Lise Charlot**  
New VTB Work Package  
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Computational scientist



**Cody Permann**  
VTB department  
support; Computational  
Framework Dep.  
Manager



**Guillaume Giudicelli**  
VTB Infrastructure  
Lead; MOOSE  
Developer



**Mustafa Jaradat**  
VTB DOME model  
developer;  
Computational scientist



**Samuel Walker**  
VTB External Model  
Lead; Pronghorn  
Developer

## ANL Team



**Emily Shemon**  
VTB Work Package  
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Multiphysics Applications  
Technical Area Lead



**Jun Fang**  
VTB Model Developer;  
ANL Nek+SAM analyst

**Shikhar Kumar**  
VTB DOME model  
developer  
Griffin developer

**Joffrey Dorville**  
VTB DOME model  
developer  
OpenMC Developer

### Additional Contributors:

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# The VTB Repository

[https://mooseframework.inl.gov/virtual\\_test\\_bed](https://mooseframework.inl.gov/virtual_test_bed)

## 1. Documentation

*Detailed explanation of models*

The screenshot shows the 'Virtual Test Bed' documentation page. It includes a welcome message, a description of the repository's purpose (facilitating the use of advanced modeling & simulation tools), and a list of information about the VTB, such as 'How to use the Virtual Test Bed', 'How to run a Virtual Test Bed example with the NEAMS Workbench on Sawtooth', 'How to cite a model on the Virtual Test Bed', 'How to contribute to the Virtual Test Bed', 'Multiphysics reactor modeling using the MultiApps system', and 'Frequently Asked Questions and Discussion Forum'. It also features a 'Models documentation' section with links to 'Models automated indexing' and 'Models manual indexing'.

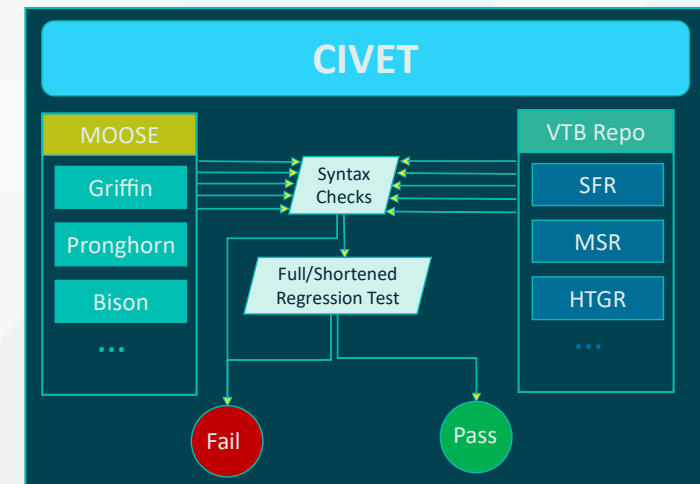
## 2. GitHub Repo

*Ability to clone and contribute to models*

The screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for 'virtual\_test\_bed'. It displays the repository's name, owner (GludGlud), and statistics (1,333 Commits, 44 stars, 62 forks). The repository is public and has 8 branches and 0 tags. A list of files and folders is shown, including .github, apps, doc, htgr, lfr/heterogeneous\_single\_assemb..., microreactors, msr, pbfr, scripts, sfr, .gitattributes, .gitignore, .gitmodules, COPYRIGHT, LICENSE, and README.md. The repository is described as 'The National Reactor Innovation Center's (NRIC) Virtual Test Bed Repository'.

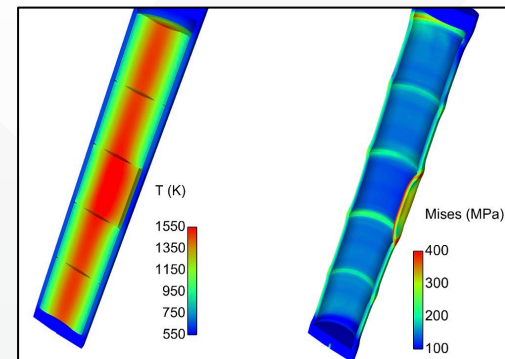
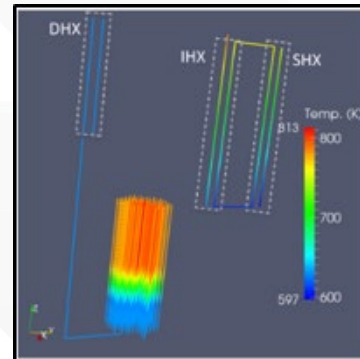
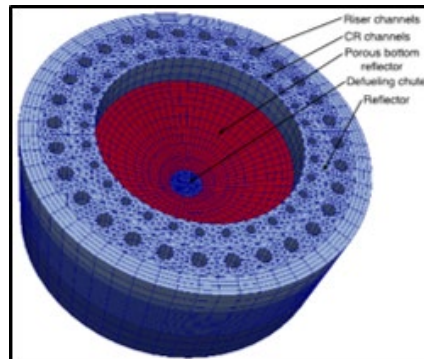
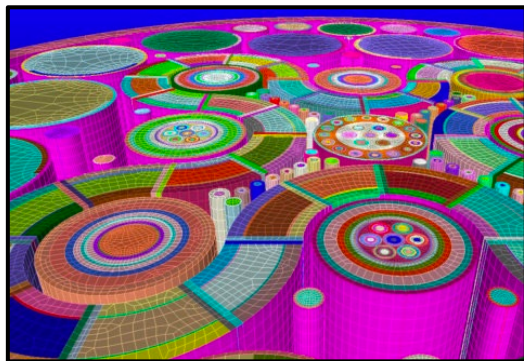
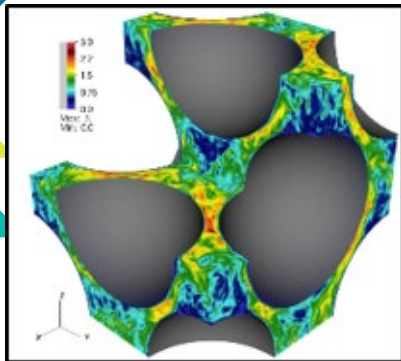
## 3. Integration with Code Development

*Continuous testing of models against codes using CIVET*





# Advanced Reactor ModSim Suite



NEK-5000



GRIFFIN



PRONGHORN



SAM



BISON

High Fidelity

2D/3D Multiphysics Transients

System-level Simulation

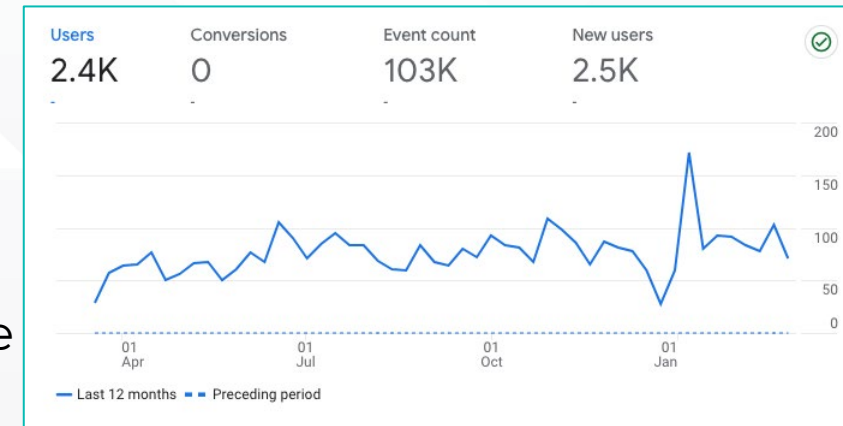
Depletion & Fuel Performance

Fuel Performance/  
Thermochemistry



# VTB Benefits to Stakeholder

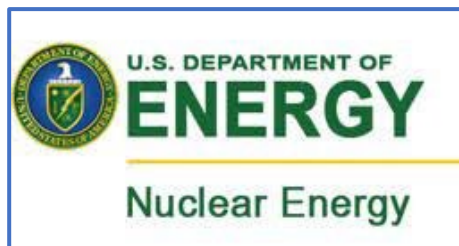
- Maintain models that can be downloaded and repurposed for specific need/designs
- Host open benchmark problems
- Showcase challenge problems
- Enable coordination of teams working on similar reactor type
- Share models and new capabilities developed through DOE programs
- Industry relevant through active collaborations
- Model used for student training



2400+ distinct users with 100,000+ counts over a year

## *Success stories:*

- The MCRE ARD team is using VTB models by building on them for the final proprietary design analysis.
- VTB models are being referenced in an upcoming NRC report on verification and validation of NEAMS tools

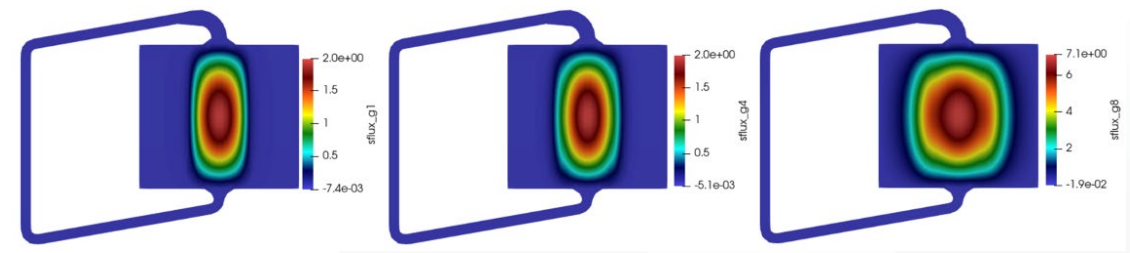




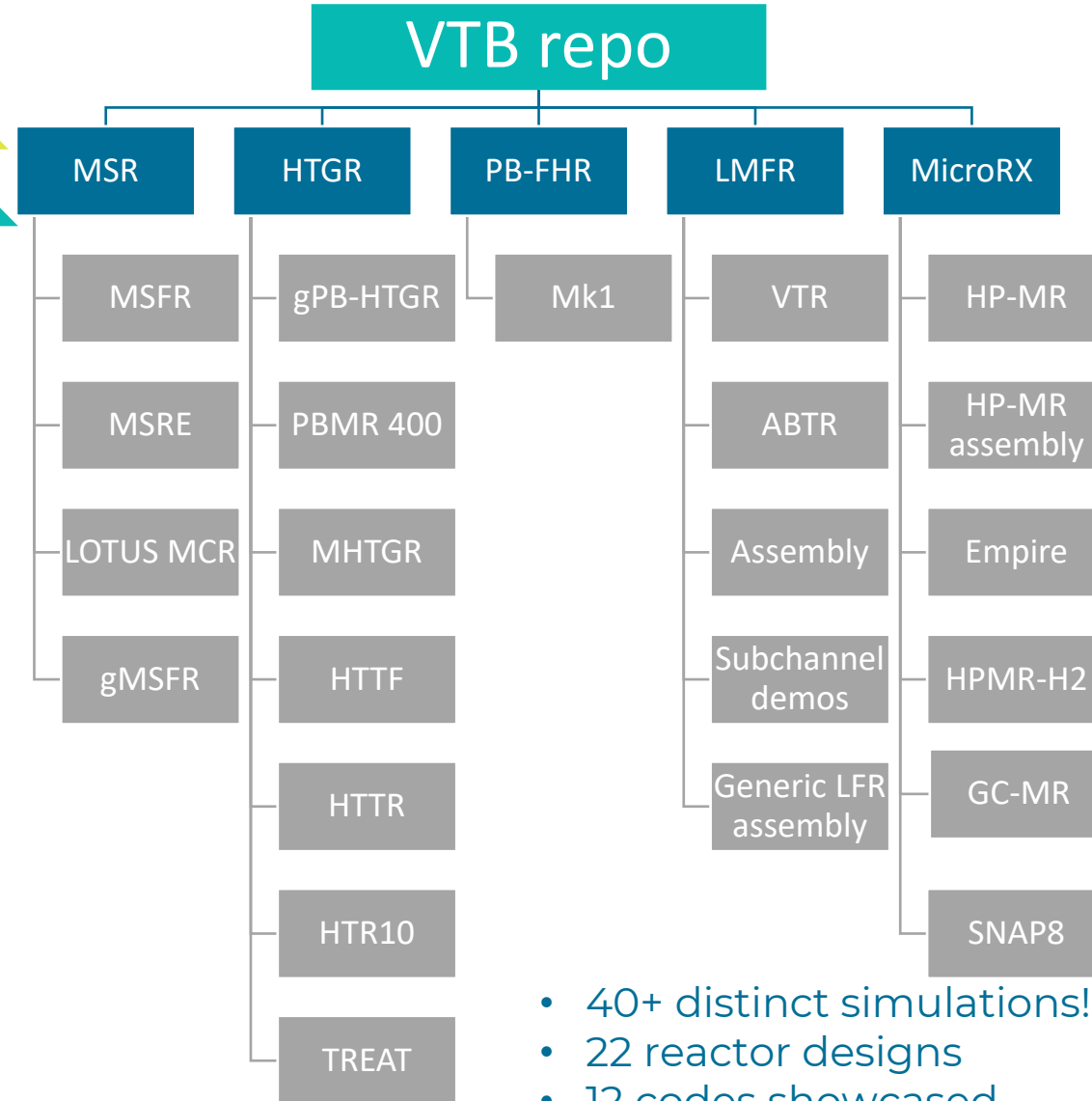




# VTB Model Tree

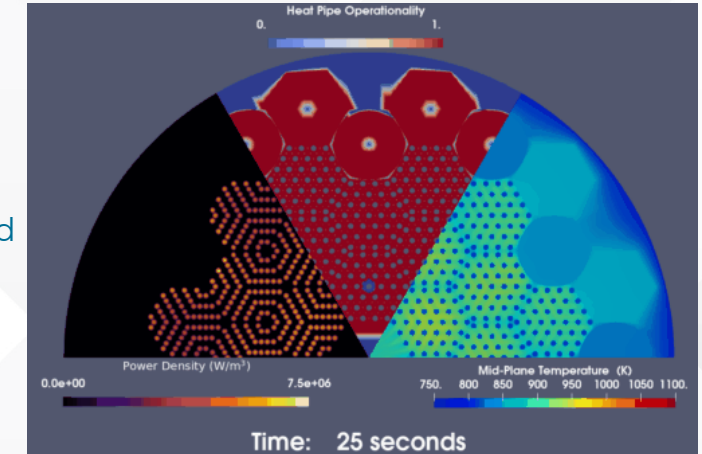


Normalized steady-state neutron fluxes for 3 selected groups in the LOTUS Molten Chloride reactor

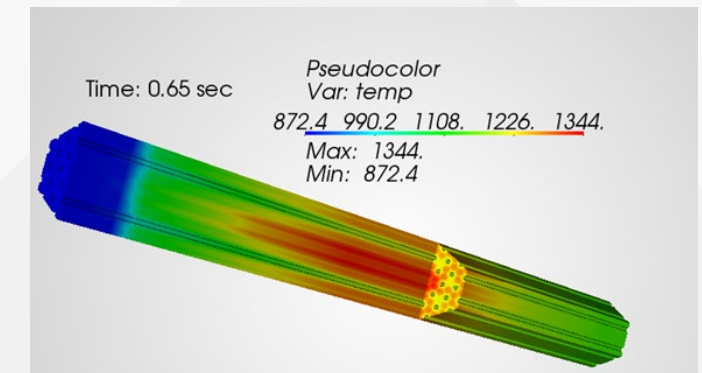


- 40+ distinct simulations!
- 22 reactor designs
- 12 codes showcased

Cascading heat pipe failure in an overpowered heat pipe micro reactor



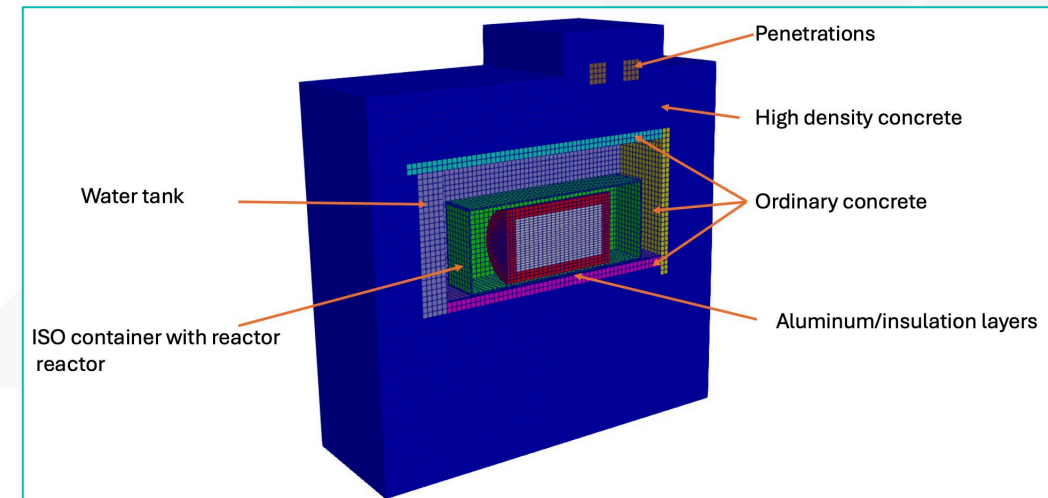
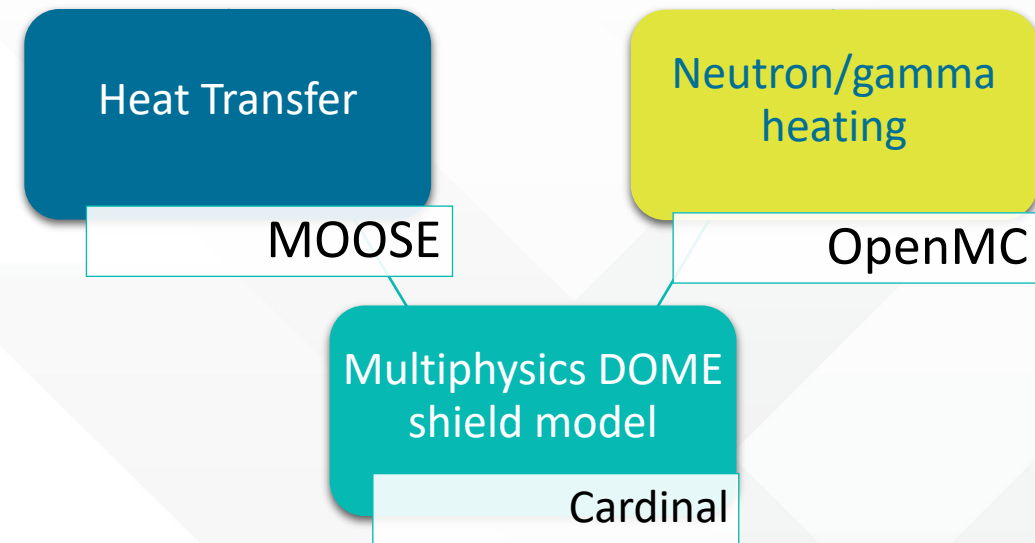
3-D temperature distribution during RIA in a gas-cooled microrx assembly





# DOME shield virtual Model

- Goal: Accelerate confirmatory analysis by providing a model of the DOME shield that can interface with a DOME user reactor model
- Model requirements:
  - Coupling with any reactor design
  - Evaluation of the maximum concrete temperature in the shield for both steady state operation and transient scenarios.
  - Use open-source codes
  - Model should be easy to modify to accommodate shield configuration changes

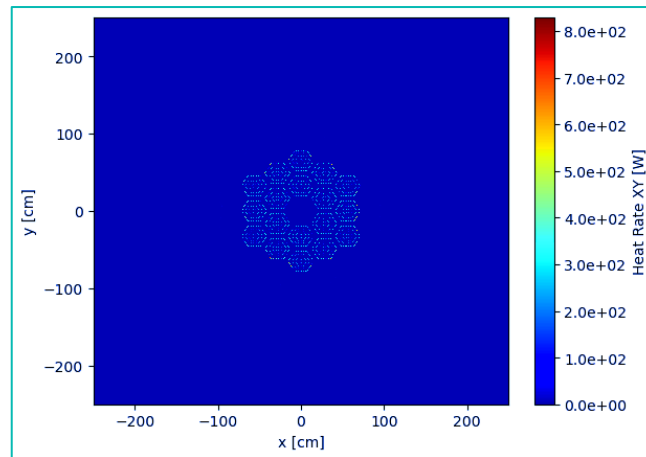
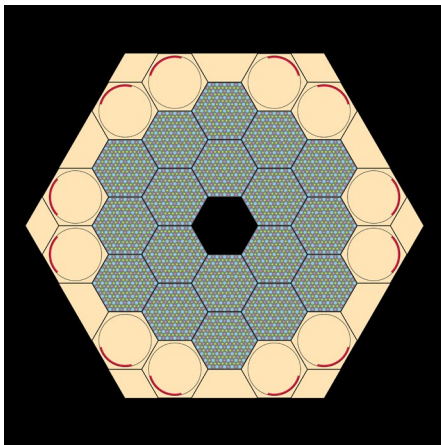


DOME shield model (Conceptual design)

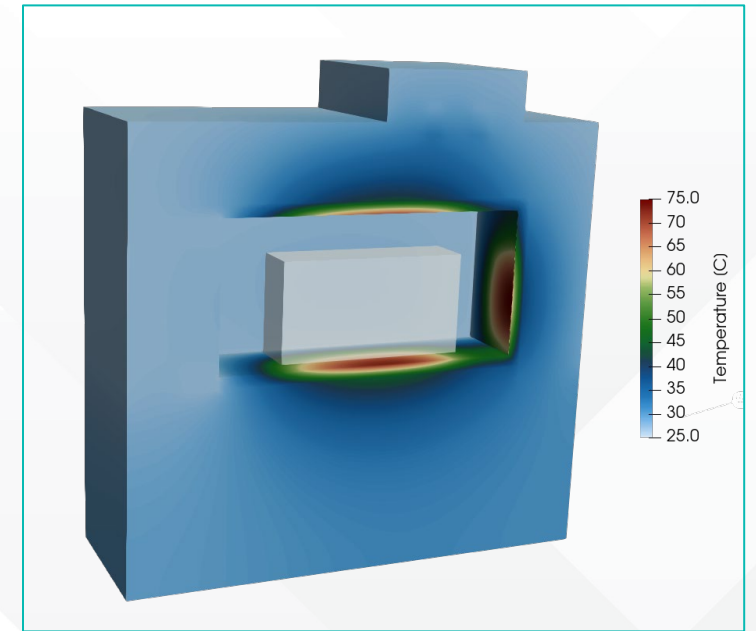


# DOMÉ shield model- accomplishments

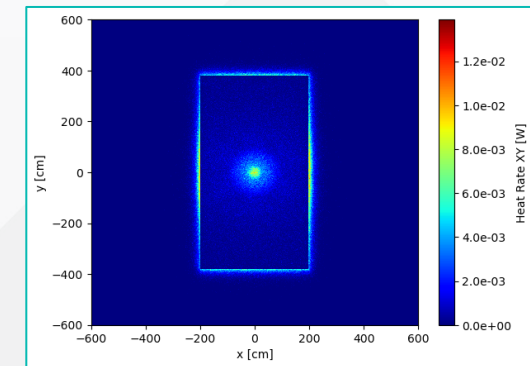
- MOOSE thermal analysis of the DOMÉ shield using FY23 design.
- OpenMC model of a heat pipe reactor to obtain a physical source term
- Model of the shield with a fixed source
- DOMÉ shield models will be released on the VTB repo when the design is finalized



OpenMC model of a heat pipe reactor



Temperature distribution in the shield concrete (FY23 design)

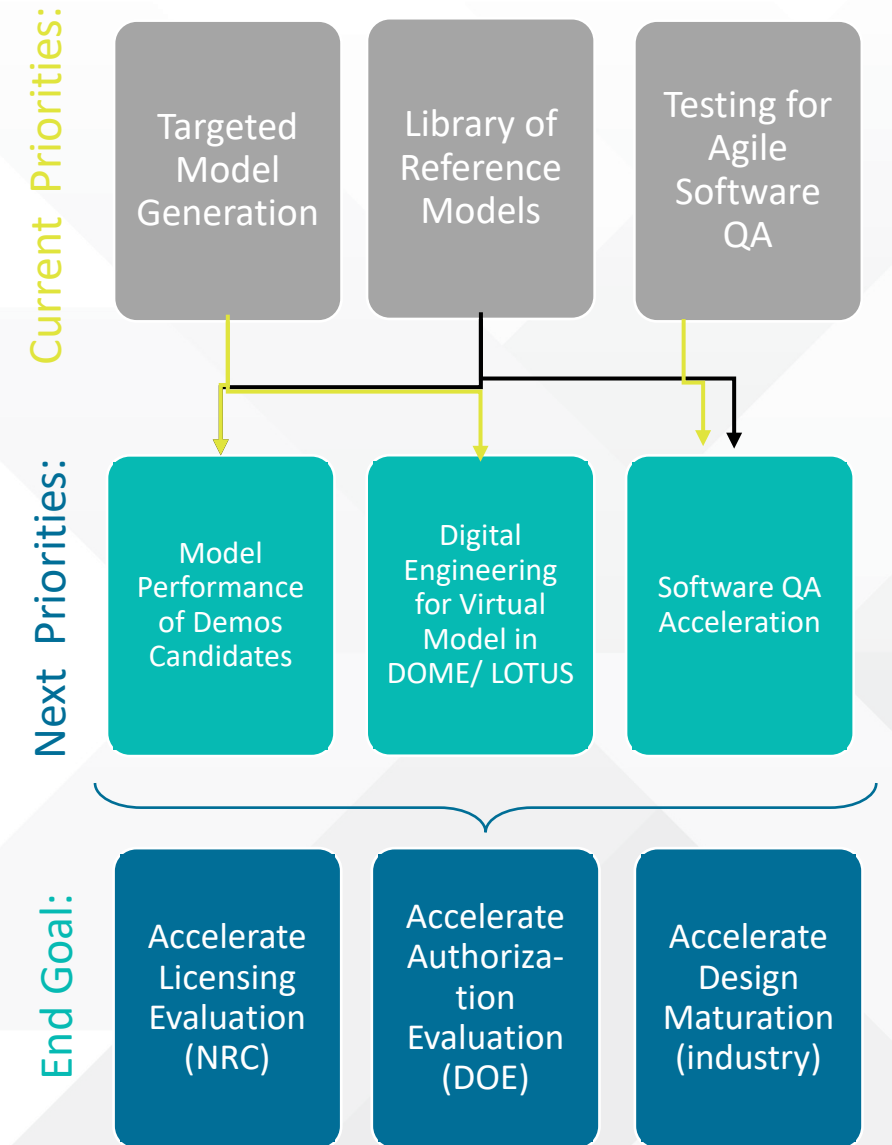


Predicted heat rate in the shield structure using a fixed source



# Future Vision of VTB

- Continue existing efforts with a focus on acceleration of licensing (NRC), authorization evaluation (DOE), and industry design maturation
- Support DOE Authorization at DOME:
  - Virtual model of DOME on the VTB repo
  - Leveraging Digital Engineering for streamlined safety evaluation
- Accelerate Software QA Process:
  - Prioritize V&V problems on VTB
  - Feedback from industry (Westinghouse, USNC, etc.) and NRC
  - Work towards Commercial Grade Dedication of tools
- Once Demos are built: VTB can act as vessel for validation benchmark exercises
- Expand VTB scope to include Fusion ModSim Engagement with ORNL







# Summary

- **VTB Goal:** Support deployment of advanced reactor by building a database of models & simulations integrated with software QA
- **VTB Benefits:** Accelerate timeline for NRC/DOE review of candidate demos, support maturation of industry designs
- **VTB Stakeholder engagements:** Government (DOE, NRC), Industry (Terrapower, Radiant, Natrium, etc.), Academia (MIT, TAMU, UCB, U of Idaho, etc.)
- **FY24 Tasks:** (1) repo improvements, (2) hosting external models, (3) generating models for DOME Shield
- **Future Scopes:** Expand DOME models, Linking with Digital Engineering, Support Commercial Grade Dedication





# Questions?

[https://mooseframework.inl.gov/virtual test bed](https://mooseframework.inl.gov/virtual_test_bed)



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