



# **Advancing Digital Model-Centric Engineering: Digital System Model/Digital Thread**

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**Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for**  
**Systems Engineering (ODASD(SE))**  
**NDIA M&S Committee**  
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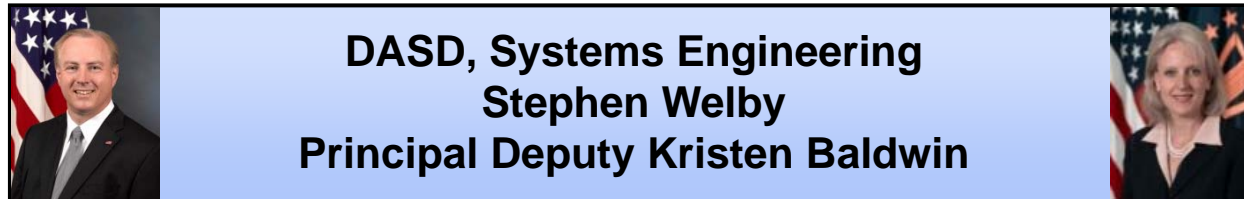
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- **Overview & Foundation for Advancing Digital Model-Centric Engineering**
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# DASD, Systems Engineering



**Major Program Support**  
**James Thompson**

*Supporting USD(AT&L) Decisions with  
Independent Engineering Expertise*

- Engineering Assessment / Mentoring of Major Defense Programs
- Program Support Assessments
- Overarching Integrated Product Team and Defense Acquisition Board Support
- Systems Engineering Plans
- Systemic Root Cause Analysis
- Development Planning/Early SE
- Program Protection



**Engineering Enterprise**  
**Robert Gold**

*Leading Systems Engineering Practice  
in DoD and Industry*

- Systems Engineering Policy and Guidance
- Technical Workforce Development
- Specialty Engineering (System Safety, Reliability and Maintainability, Quality, Manufacturing, Producibility, Human Systems Integration)
- Security, Anti-Tamper, Counterfeit Prevention
- Standardization
- Engineering Tools and Environments



**Providing technical support and systems engineering leadership and oversight to  
USD(AT&L) in support of planned and ongoing acquisition programs**



# Engineering Tools and Environments

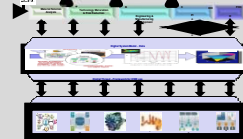
## ETE

### Promote the Following:

- Digitally shareable information
- Collaborative design and decision support
- Dynamic ecosystem of competition and cooperation
- Reuse of historical and current data
- Sensible business practices

### Digital Engineering Design

- Digital System Model/Digital Thread
- Education
- Policy & Guidance
- Data Rights



### Engineered Resilient Systems

- Trade Space Analysis
- SERC
- CREATE/HPCMO



### Modular Open Systems Architecture

- BBP 3.0
- Technical Standards
- Curriculum Development



**Outreach: NASA, FAA, VA, DHS, INCOSE, NDIA, MBE Summit, DoD Components**

**Engineering processes, tools and techniques incorporating the latest digital practices for making informed decisions throughout the acquisition lifecycle.**

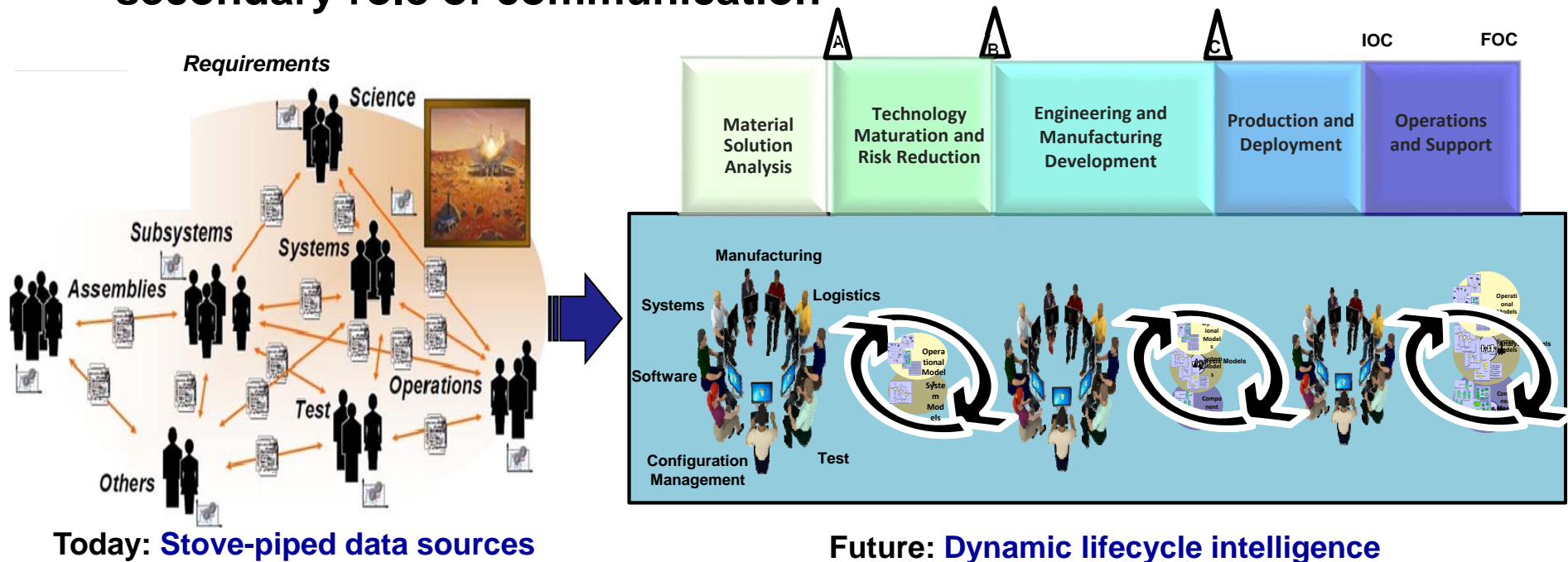


# Overview of Digital Model-Centric Engineering



Shifting away from a linear, document-centric acquisition process towards a dynamic digital model-centric ecosystem

- Low fidelity, implicit representations shift to high fidelity, explicit models serving as the “single source of truth”
- Documents shift from the primary role of specification to the secondary role of communication



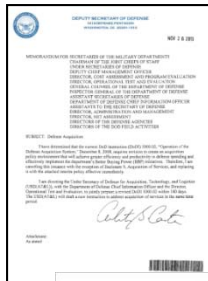




# Foundation for Advancing Digital Model-Centric Engineering within DoD



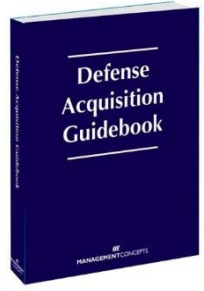
## Language in Policy and Guidance



DoDI 5000.02,  
Enclosure 3, Section 9:  
Modeling and  
Simulation



DoD Systems  
Engineering  
Fundamental



Defense Acquisition  
Guidebook Chapter 4



Digital System  
Model and Digital  
Thread Definitions

## Other Initiatives



NDIA: Essential Elements  
of the System Model



NASA: Sounding Rocket  
Program

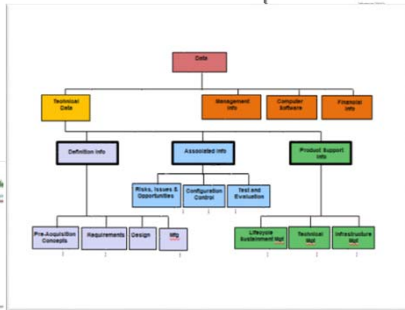
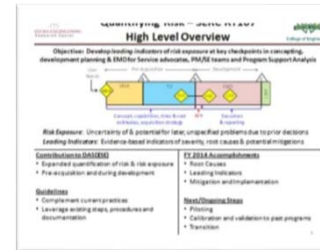
## DoD Initiatives

DoD Digital Engineering  
Working Group

Digital Engineering  
Working Group

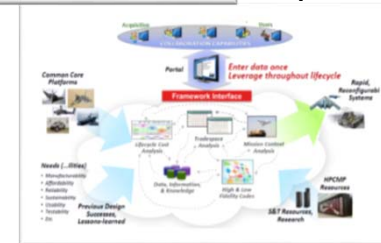


SERC: Model Centric  
Collaborative Environment

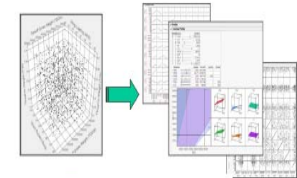


DSM Taxonomy: Foundation for  
defining categories of data across  
acquisition

IAWG



ERS: Adapting to changing  
requirements

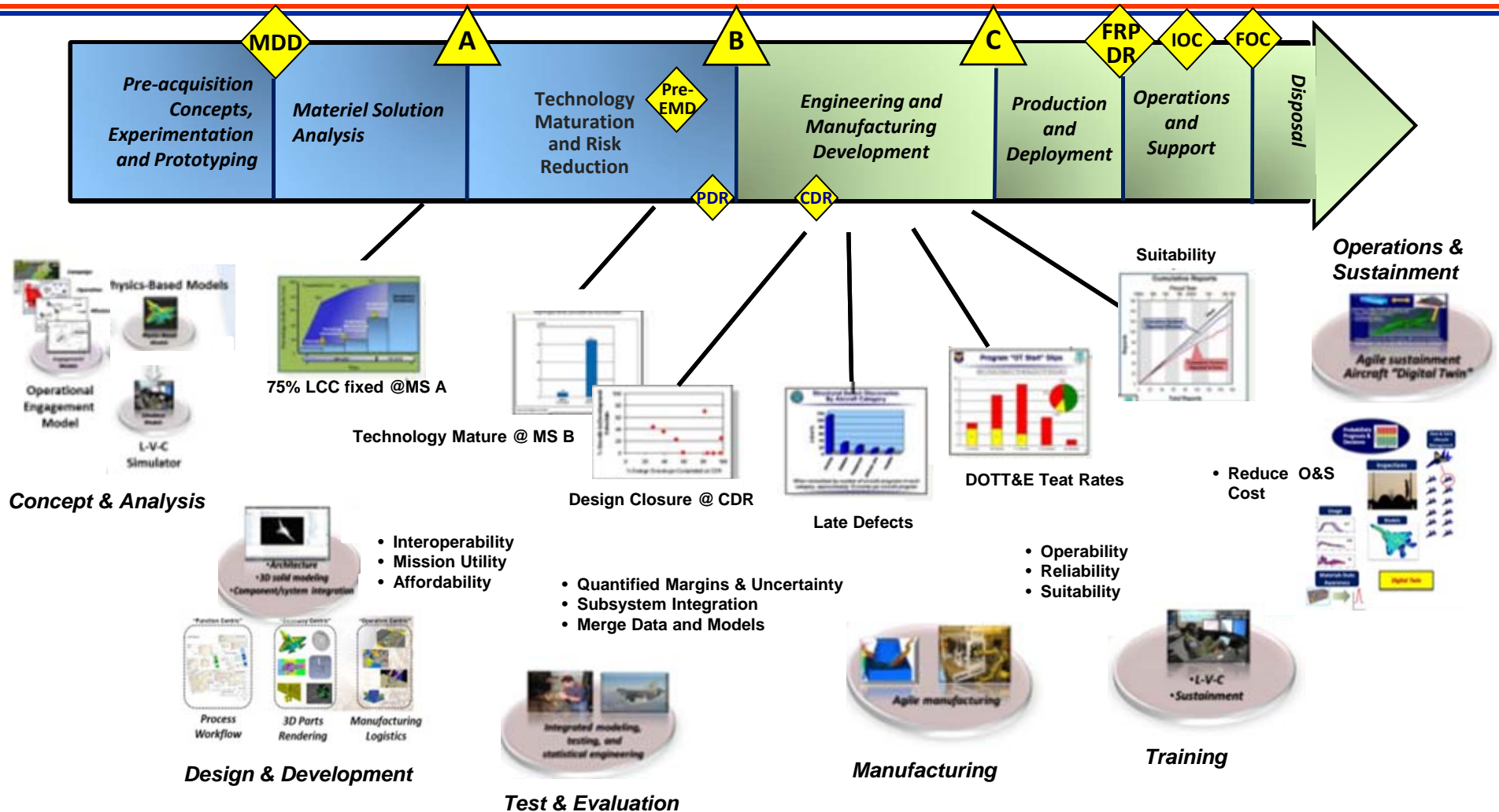


HPCMP CREATE:  
Physics Based  
Modeling

Advancing the future state of Digital Engineering within DoD



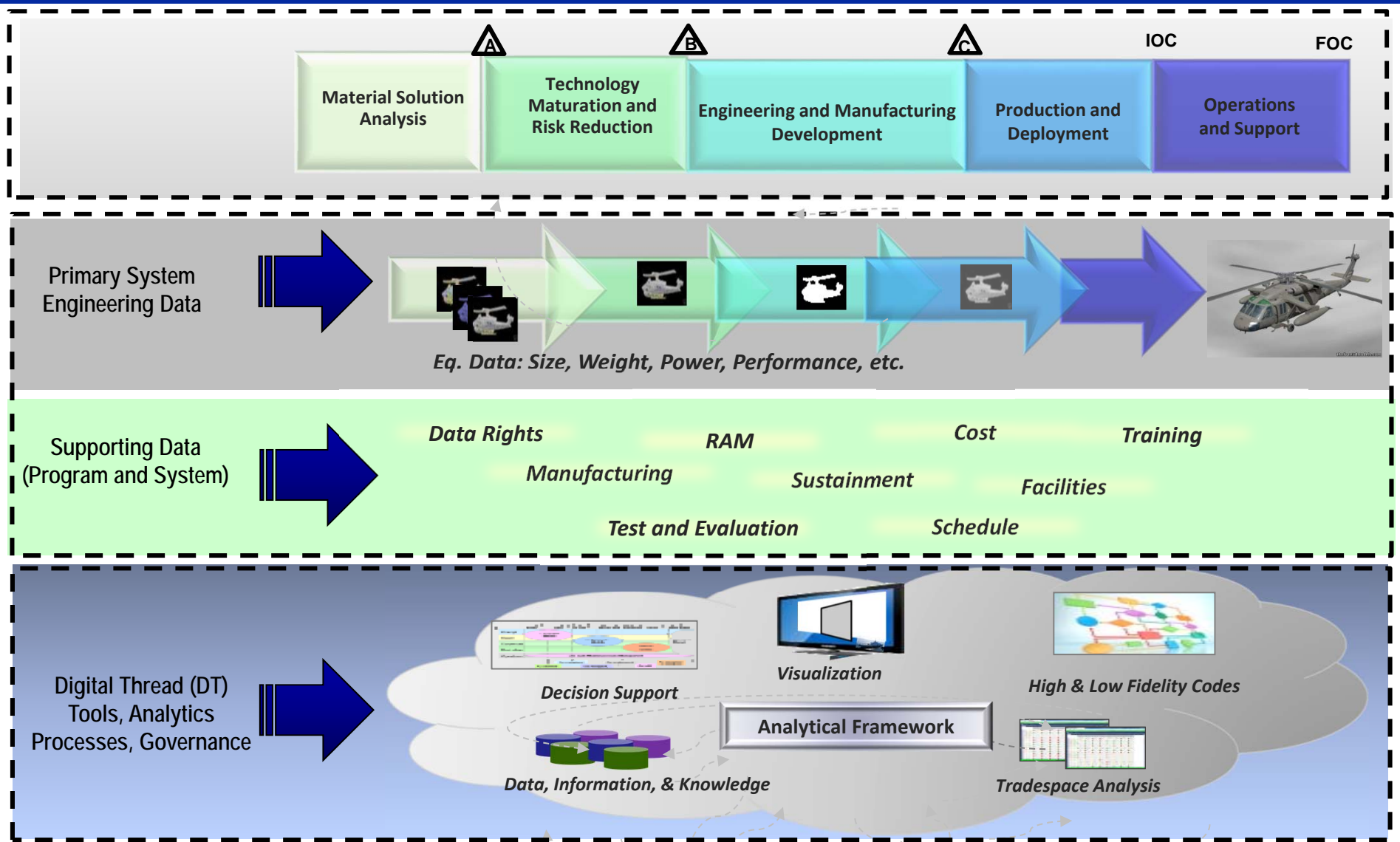
# Involving Digital Models Engineering Across the Lifecycle



**Enabling rapid development and continuity from concept to disposal**



# Digital System Model/Digital Thread Framework for Communication







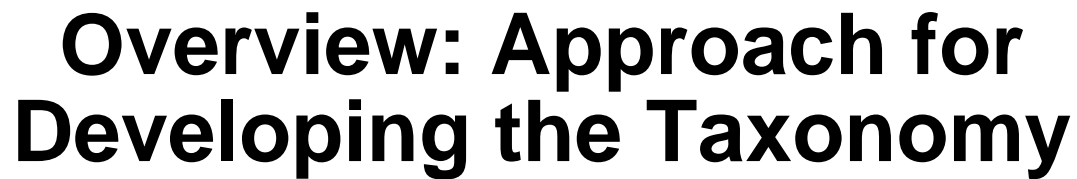
# Digital Thread / Digital Thread Definitions



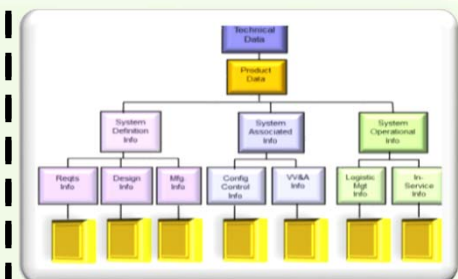
**Digital System Model** – A digital representation of a defense system, generated by all stakeholders, that integrates the authoritative data, information, algorithms, and systems engineering processes which define all aspects of the system for the specific activities throughout the system lifecycle. (M&S Glossary proposed)

**Digital Thread** – An extensible, configurable and component enterprise-level analytical framework that seamlessly expedites the controlled interplay of software, authoritative data, information, and knowledge in the enterprise data-information-knowledge systems, based on the Digital System Model template, to inform decision makers throughout a system's life cycle by providing the capability to access, integrate and transform disparate data into actionable information. (M&S Glossary proposed)

**Technical Data** – means recorded information, regardless of the form or method of the recording, of a scientific or technical nature (including computer software documentations). The term does not include computer software or data incidental to contract administration, such as financial and/or management information. (DFARS 252.227-7103(a)(15))



## (4) Develop

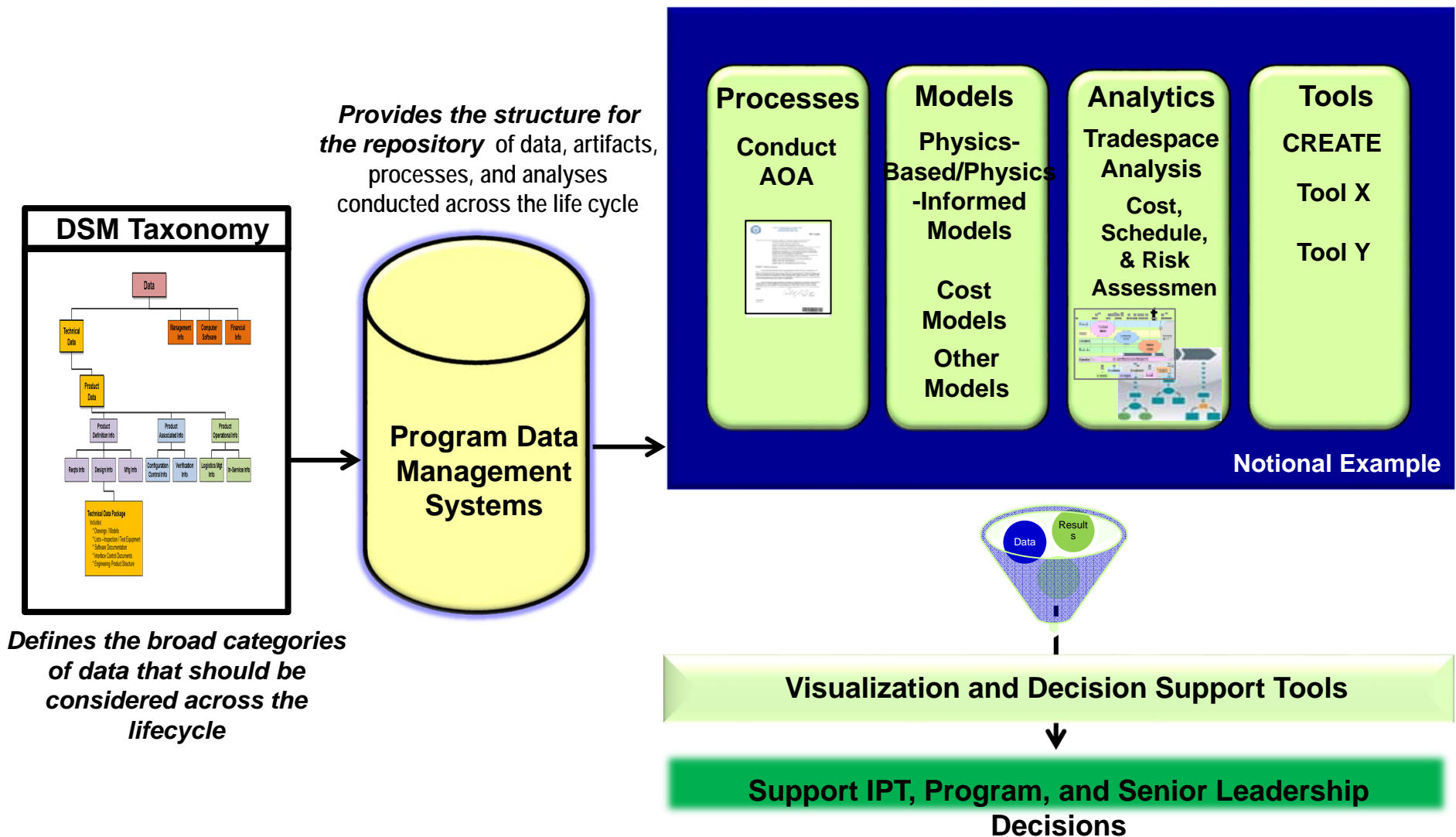


- Develop data taxonomy to support key decision points across the lifecycle

***Developed generic approach to develop taxonomy for DSM weapon system data and supporting data***



# DSM Taxonomy Intended Use

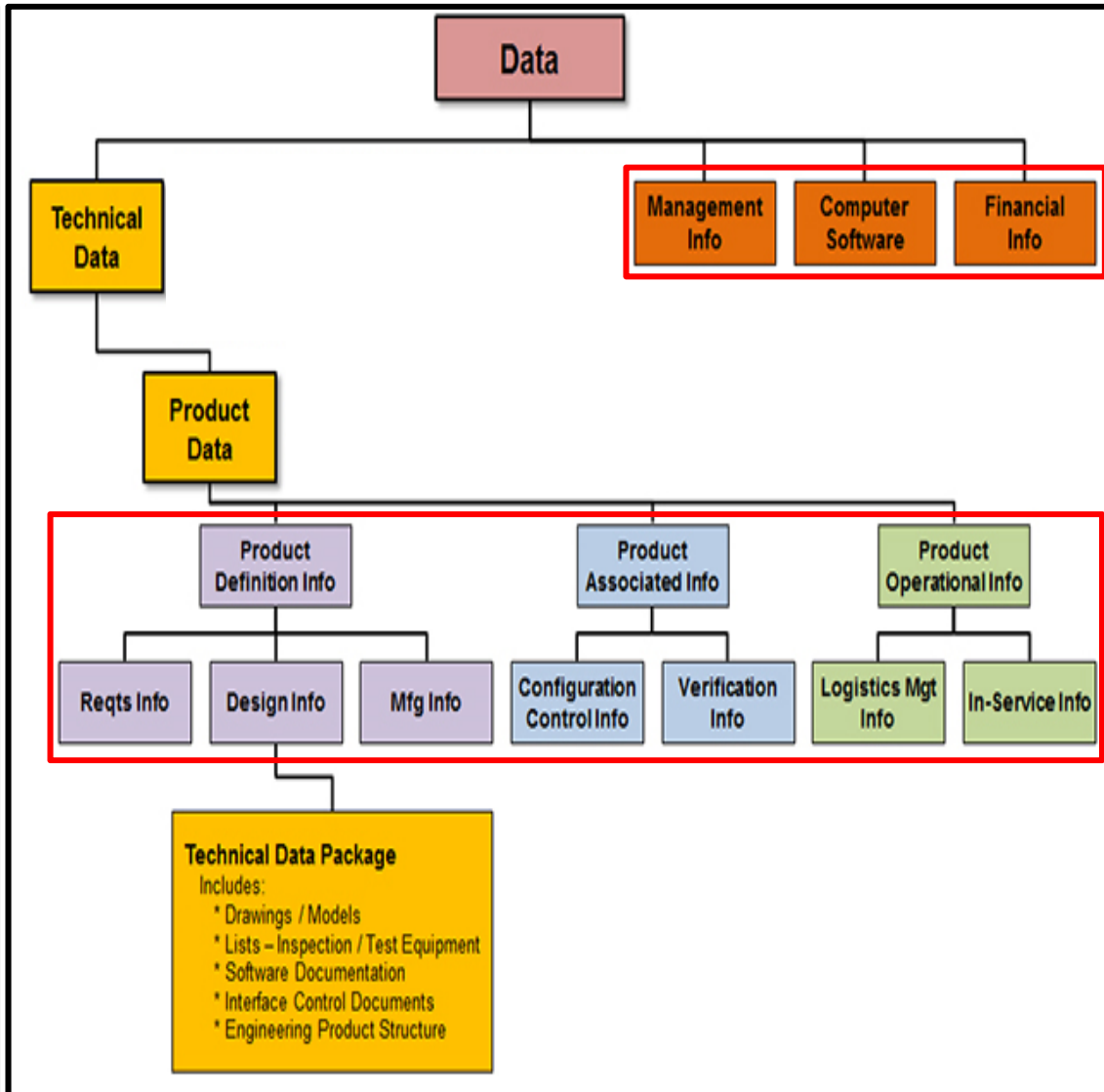




# DSM Taxonomy Development



- **DAG Chapter 4 Data Taxonomy**
- **Technical Data**
  - Product Definition Info Taxonomy
  - Product Associated Info Taxonomy
  - Product Operational Info Taxonomy
- **Management Info**
- **Computer Software**
- **Financial Info**





# Challenges



- **Getting the complete picture of current digital engineering practices for DoD**
- **Identifying insertion points for digital artifacts into the Defense Acquisition System**
- **Early consideration of manufacturability and supportability of design concepts**
- **Objective selection of proper tools for program use**
- **Properly train the workforce in Digital Model-Centric Engineering methods and concepts**
- **Availability of data that will be needed for future use**
- **Cost savings vs. cost avoidance**
- **Do not oversell the methods, processes, and tools**





# Summary



- **Leveraging industry and professional organizations in the shift to digital model-centric engineering**
- **Policy / guidance changes sufficient for shift to digital engineering**
- **Addressing challenges facing systems engineering application of digital artifacts**
- **Digital Models will continue to enable our Systems Engineering workforce and practices**
- **Digital Models provide continuity of the system from concept development through disposal**
- **Many unknowns still exist in use of the digital engineering artifacts**



# Information



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