



GLEAM presents

**AI in Manufacturing and Engineering**  
**Wednesday 28th January | 08:30-12:30**

**Bridge, 4 Edgewest Road, Lincoln, LN6 7EL, UK**

*Delivered by*



UNIVERSITY OF  
LINCOLN

**BRIDGE**

Business  
Lincolnshire

The East of England Growth Hub

# Agenda

- **09:30: Welcome and Introduction from Dr Matthew Thornton, The Bridge & GLEAM**
- **09:45: Beyond the Hype: Practical AI for Manufacturing & Engineering by David Regler, Business Lincolnshire**
- **10:10: AI Adoption: A Defence Sector Perspective by Prof Fiona Strens, University of Lincoln**
- **10:35: Coffee and Networking**
- **11:00: Turning AI into Value for Your Business by Trevor Durant, Business Lincolnshire**
- **11:25: Practical AI roadmap for manufacturers - From zero to AI pilot without burning cash by Scott Linfoot, Tekh**
- **11:50: Digital Twinning and Smart Industrial IoT Technologies by Vili Panov, Siemens Energy**
- **12:15: Close and Optional Tour of the Bridge**





**GLEAM**  
NETWORK

# Creating a Manufacturing Community



- The Greater Lincolnshire Engineering And Manufacturing (GLEAM) Network is an initiative founded by the University of Lincoln, Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (GLLEP), and Business Lincolnshire and managed by the Bridge.
- GLEAM provides a knowledge-intensive business corridor locally at the heart of the manufacturing business in Greater Lincolnshire and is open to all manufacturing businesses in Greater Lincolnshire. Members are able to join free of charge and gain access to a range of benefits, including Affiliate Partner Membership with Make UK.

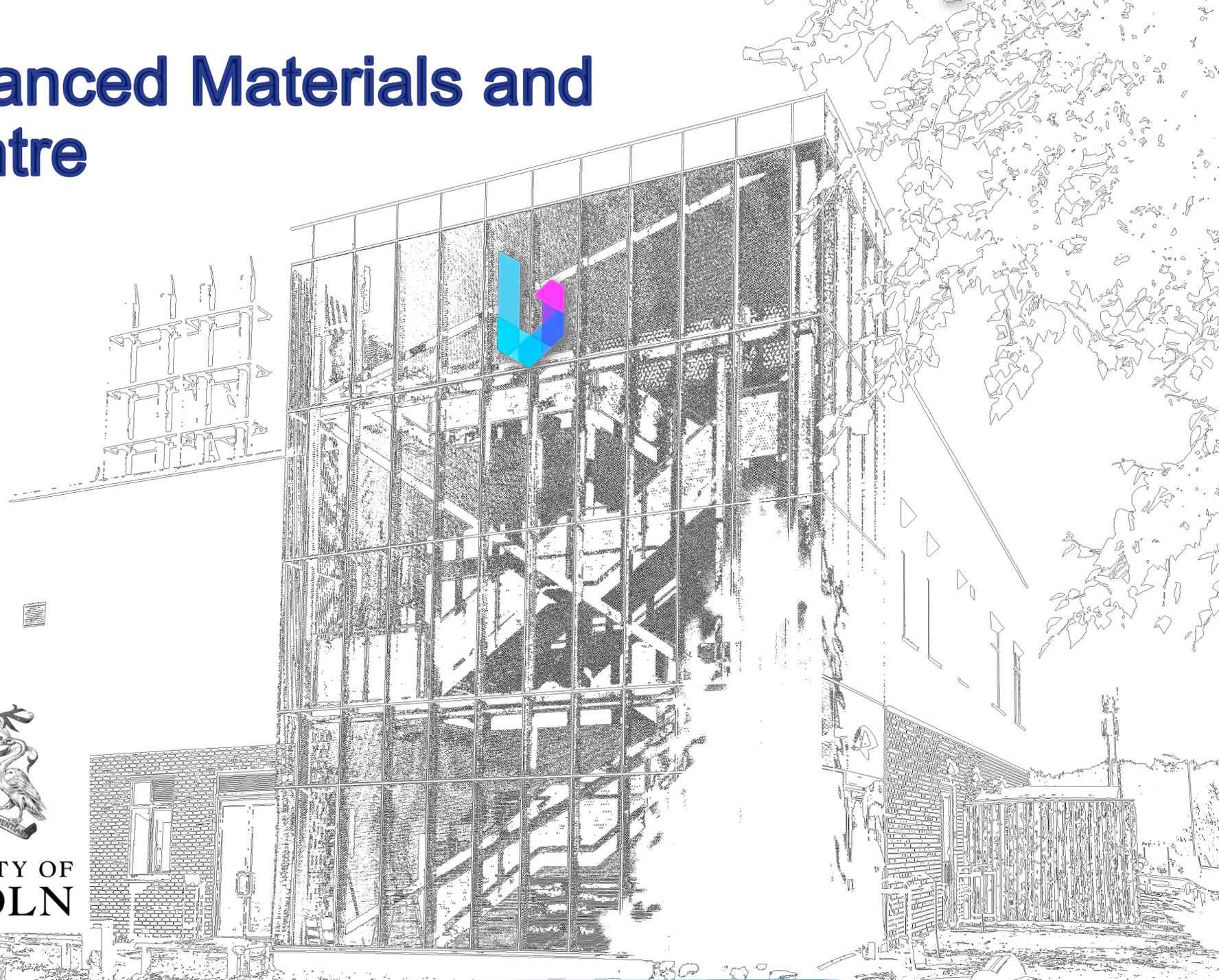
# Make UK Affiliate Membership Benefit

- Join Make UK as an Affiliate Member
- Make UK Affiliate Membership is open to members of Make UK partner organisations. You'll receive industry information and insight, contribute to Make UK's policy positions and have access to events, guidance and support on issues affecting our sector.
- To register for Affiliate Membership just complete the form at:  
<https://www.makeuk.org/affiliate-member-registration>



# The Bridge: Advanced Materials and Engineering Centre

Dr Matthew Thornton  
Commercial Manager



# BRIDGING BUSINESS WITH INNOVATION

- Bridge operates from the University of Lincoln and has a dedicated team of R&D project specialists working alongside the University's academic community.
- We help businesses access technologies and methods at the forefront of research to create R&D solutions, and drive innovation.





BRIDGCE

# Bridge to... Business Innovation

- With programmes designed to increase businesses' competitiveness, Bridge has delivered innovation to businesses and connected regional and international supply chains to cutting-edge materials science and engineering in the manufacturing and engineering sectors.
- Bridge has supported manufacturing businesses to access technologies at the forefront of research to deliver effective problem solving and to develop the workforce of tomorrow through accredited training.



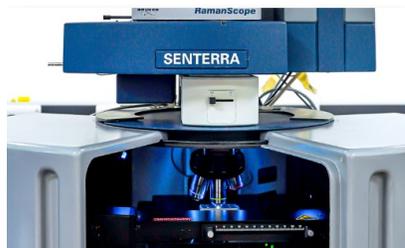
B-hive



ALARIS LINWAVE



# Industry Collaborations



## CASE STUDY

### Microcapture

Microcapture use a novel micro-encapsulation technology to create a storage and delivery mechanism for a range of potential applications such as fragrance release and...



## APPLICATION NOTE

### Crystallinity of Plastics using NMR Spectroscopy

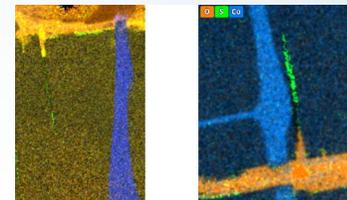
It has been demonstrated that solid-state NMR is an effective and efficient approach to determine the degree of crystallinity in plastic samples.



## CASE STUDY

### Murfitts Industries: Thermal and Microscopic Analysis of Recovered Carbon Black Material

There is a need to develop robust characterisation methods for rCB materials to guide their production and quality control during manufacture.



## CASE STUDY

### Siemens Energy: Analysis of environmentally assisted crack propagation in turbine blade superalloy

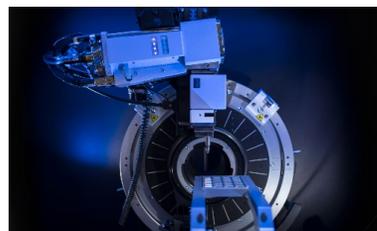
Siemens Energy have used advanced microscopy to understand how microcracks grow in samples thermally exposed to environmentally assisted crack test...



## CASE STUDY

### Micronclean

Micronclean are a leading global supplier of clean room equipment and garments based in Lincolnshire, UK. Due to the challenging and highly-regulated environments Micronclean's...



## CASE STUDY

### Brigg Renewable Energy Plant

Brigg Renewable Energy Plant (BREP) is a power plant producing renewable energy using combustion of biomass. The process generates solid residues which can build-up...



## APPLICATION NOTE

### Ultra-low cost high throughput 3D printed NMR tube cleaner

Used NMR tubes present a problem in chemistry labs as they are difficult to clean effectively and can require substantial effort to clean in a time and resource effective way.

- Visit our website for a virtual walkthrough of the Bridge at <https://www.thebridge-lincoln.org/>
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  - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/thebridge-lincoln>
  - [https://twitter.com/thebridge\\_linc](https://twitter.com/thebridge_linc)
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- E. [mthornton@lincoln.ac.uk](mailto:mthornton@lincoln.ac.uk)

# Thank You for Listening



FUNDED BY:



[thebridge-lincoln.org](https://www.thebridge-lincoln.org)



# Beyond the Hype: Practical AI for Manufacturing & Engineering

- David Regler, Business Lincolnshire





Funded by  
UK Government



# Beyond the Hype

Practical AI in  
Manufacturing &  
Engineering



# Hello

David Regler

Digital Sector Growth Manager  
& AI Adoption Lead

**Business Lincolnshire**



TECH • AI

## Anthropic CEO warns AI could eliminate half of all entry-level white-collar jobs

By **Chris Morris**

Former Contributing Writer

May 28, 2025, 11:27 AM ET

Add us on



Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei is warning that AI could be a job killer.

FABRICE COFFRINI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Listen to the article now

00:00



02:13



1.0x

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NEWSLETTERS • CFO DAILY

## MIT report: 95% of generative AI pilots at companies are failing

By **Sheryl Estrada**  
Senior Writer And Author Of CFO Daily  
August 18, 2025, 6:54 AM ET

Add us on  



GETTY IMAGES

 **Listen to the article now**

00:00  05:12

   **1.0x**

Powered by: [Trinity Audio](#)

# AI Use at Work

- Use AI every day - **6%**
- Several times a week - **11%**
- About once a week - **6%**
- Several times a month - **7%**
- Never - **44%**

Source: Ipsos 2025

# AI Terminology

Artificial  
Intelligence (AI)



Machine  
Learning



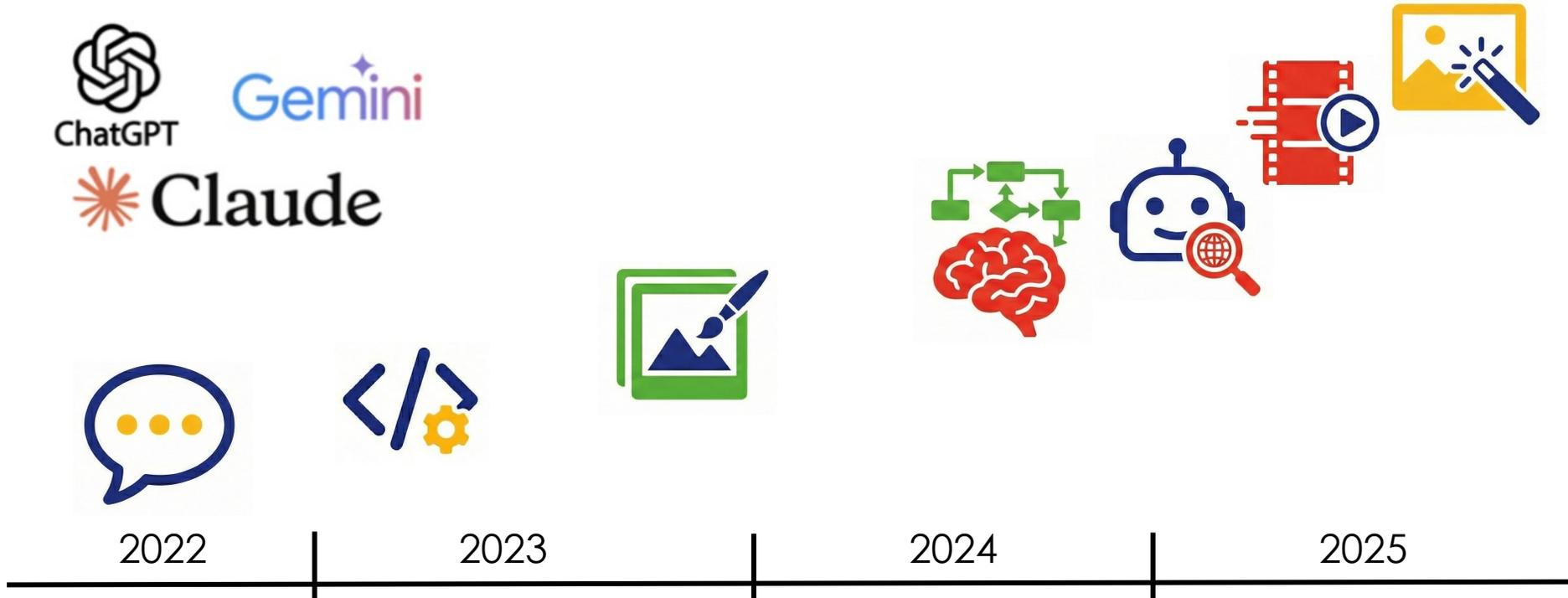
Generative  
AI



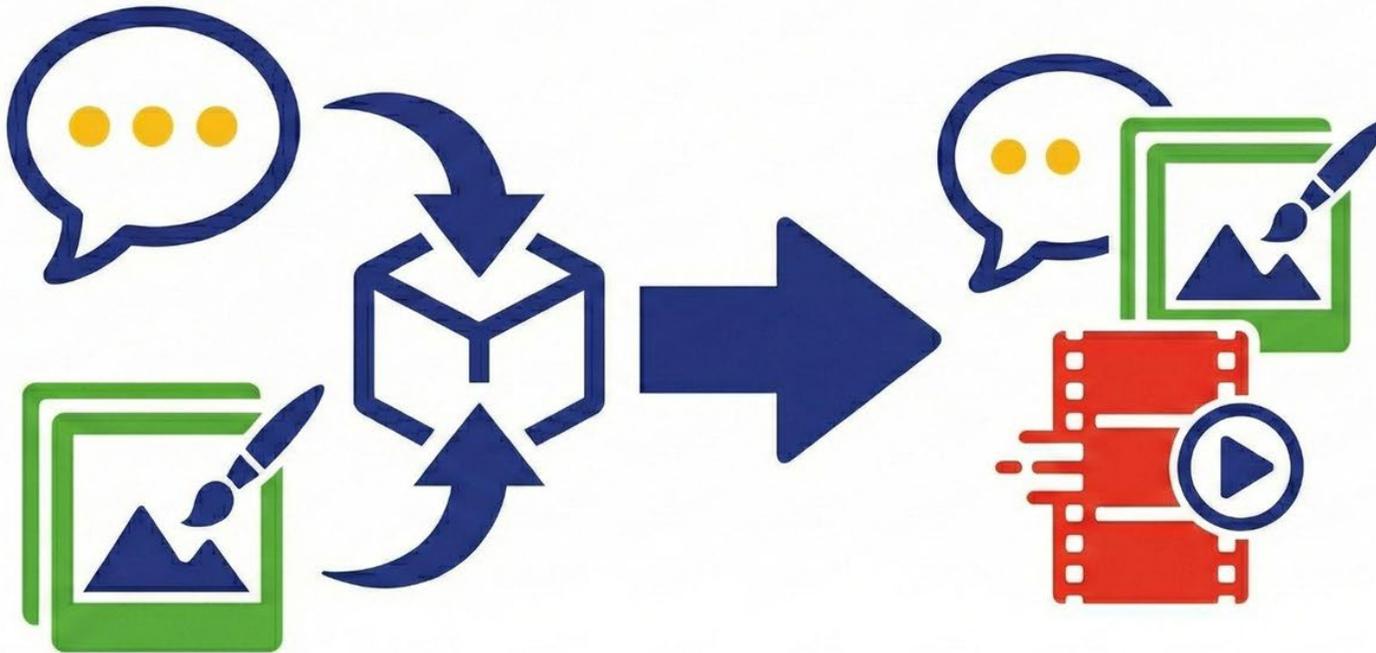
Large  
Language  
Models (LLMs)



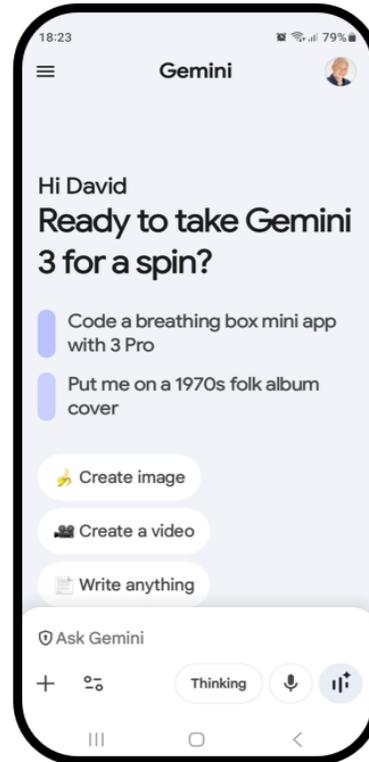
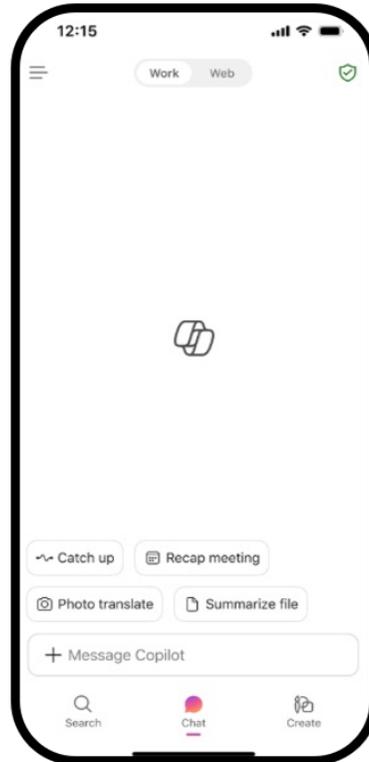
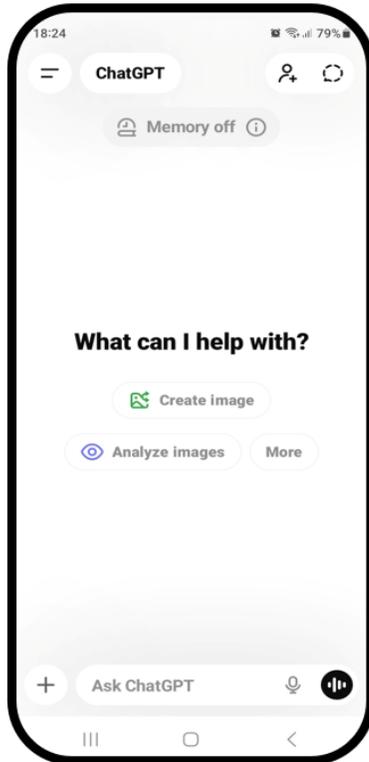
# AI Timeline



# Multimodal Models



# Mobile Apps



# AI Tools

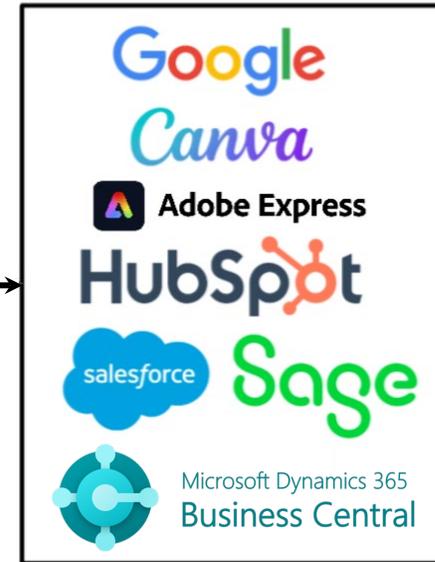
Specific Use  
Case Tools



Foundation  
Models



Software with  
AI Built in



# AI Capabilities (LLMs)

- ✓ Write, summarise, re-format & improve
- ✓ Generate and edit images and video
- ✓ Brainstorming to spark new ideas
- ✓ Help you understand things faster

# AI Capabilities (LLMs)

- × Can make things up - “Hallucinations”
- × Persuasive and overconfident
- × Lack real-world common sense
- × Can be inconsistent with outputs

# The practical engineering partner that turns automation designs into safe, reliable structures – on time, every time.

Specialist fabrication and CNC machining of frames, bases and safety structures for automation and robotic systems.

[Explore Services](#)

[Discuss Your Project](#)

## The parts that make automation safe and usable every day

LincFab is a we practical automation safe and usable visisler in the economcsrollio she ehoe that the automation may engamentent the automador cariomemostos and conffitustors.

### Practical Innovation

LincFab is an powwoerned asuomeet (jorguaban inls prim prostianuste content won compares and teamtie structures and suncentien.

### Reliability & Consistency

LincFab & papra-asevement as unsiability & coltablity, & comments and automation collebutionubility and automation and consisturity.

### Partnership & Transparency

LincFab is a prevecical and egorastic partnership & Tramanshife and partnership nodes eolert and es reasthe their partnehip and transparency.

# Practical Demos

- Using voice input
- Photo/image as inputs
- Extracting info from complex documents

Hi David  
Where should we start?

Enter a prompt for Gemini

+ Tools Thinking 

-  Create image
- Write anything
- Help me learn
- Boost my day



 Hi David  
Where should we start?

 Enter a prompt for Gemini

+  Tools Thinking  

-  Create image
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- Boost my day

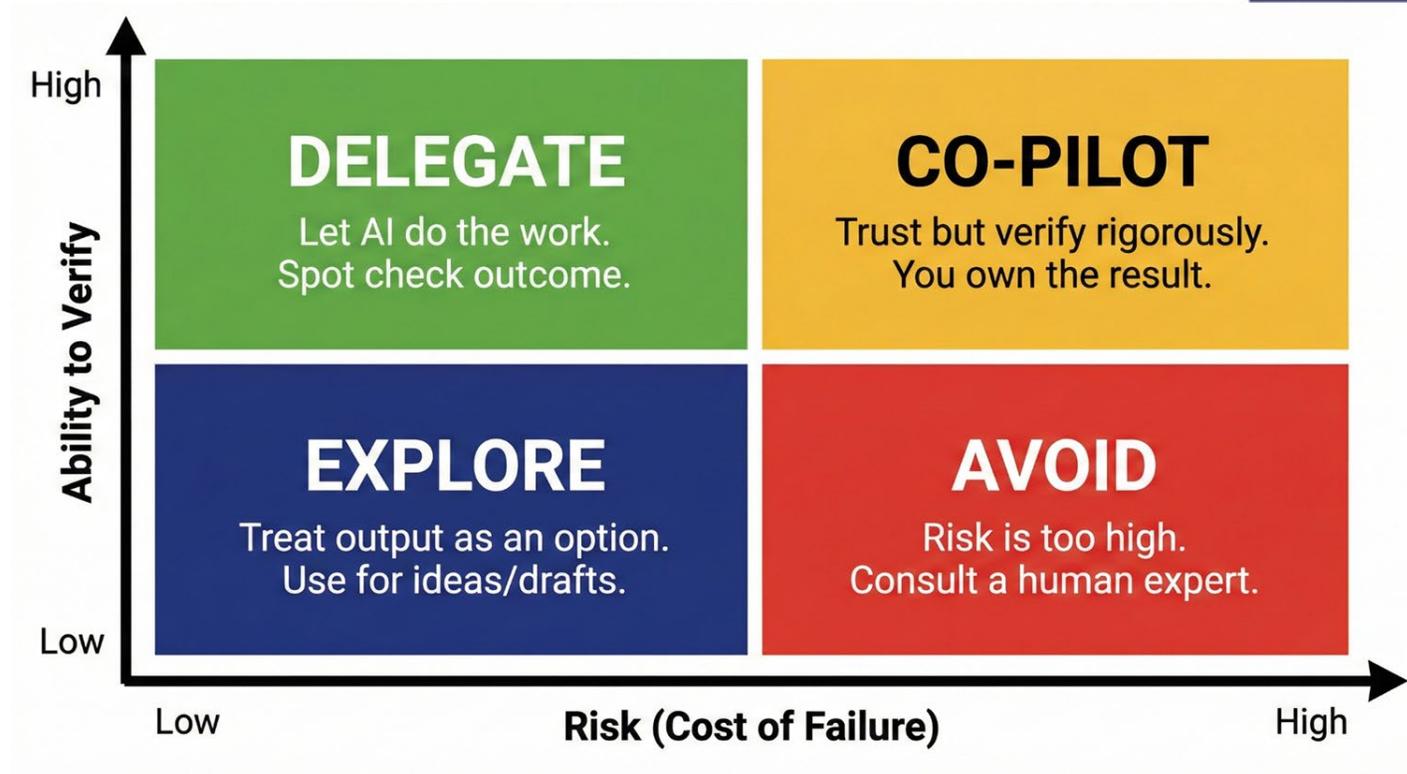
 Hi David  
Where should we start?

 Enter a prompt for Gemini

+  Tools Thinking  

-  Create image
- Write anything
- Help me learn
- Boost my day

# When To Use AI?



# Practical AI Webinars



**Session #1**  
Recorded



Introduction  
to AI

**Session #2**  
3rd Feb



Customer  
Service &  
Comms

**Session #3**  
18th Feb



Improving  
Operations

**Session #4**  
3rd March



Data & Decision  
Making

# Support



Business  
Lincolnshire  
**ONE-TO-ONE  
AI ADOPTION  
SUPPORT**





# AI Adoption: A Defence Sector Perspective

- Prof Fiona Strens, University of Lincoln

# AI Adoption: A Defence View

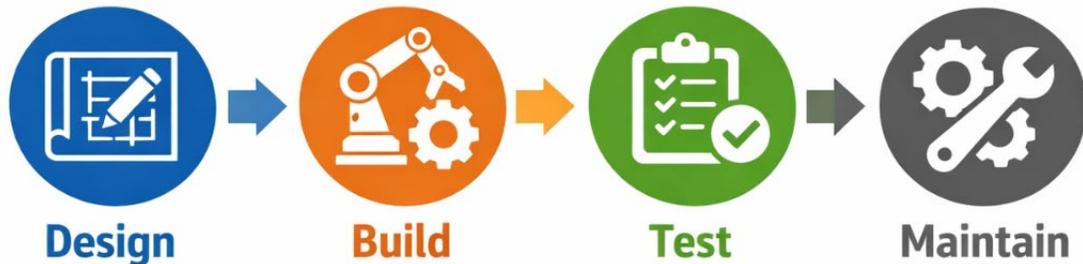
**Fiona Strens**  
Prof. of Practice  
Director, Centre for Defence & Security AI  
University of Lincoln



# Why AI Adoption Matters Now

AI is no longer experimental — it's strategic

- AI is shifting from 'innovation projects' to 'core capability'
- Competitiveness: cycle time, cost, quality, resilience
- And in manufacturing: optimisation + prediction + automation
- **The risk of waiting: others industrialise AI faster**



# The Adoption Gap

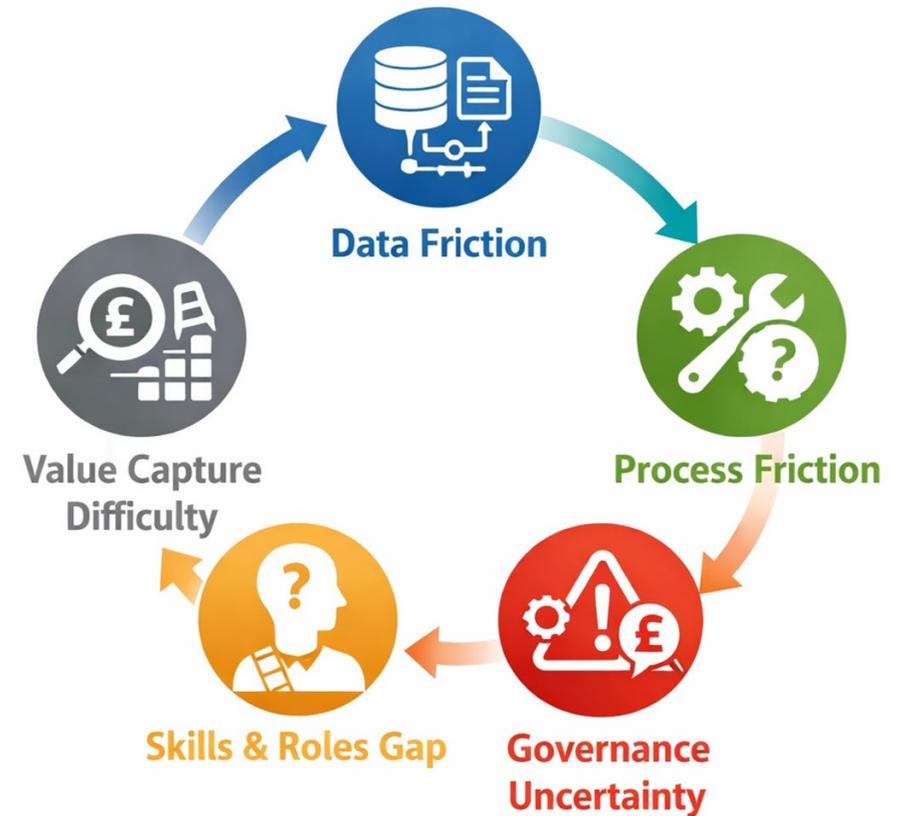
**AI works in the lab. Adoption fails in the organisation.**

- Many proofs-of-concept don't scale
- 'Isolated wins' aren't organisational transformation
- AI systems degrade without monitoring + governance
- Human trust + workflow integration are often underestimated



# The Blockers

- Data access, quality, ownership, legacy systems
- AI doesn't fit existing ways of working
- Shortages of ML + engineering + domain + delivery expertise
- AI doesn't fit existing risk, ethics, compliance, liability frameworks
- ROI unclear, benefits delayed



# AI Adoption is a socio-technical challenge

- AI adoption is 20% tech, 80% operating model
- AI changes decisions, not just tools
- Needs end-user trust + explainability where it matters
- Requires new routines: monitoring, retraining, drift management
- AI must be treated like a product, not a project

*Remember: the organisation is  
the deployment environment*



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# A Practical Method for Scaling AI

An end-to-end approach:

- **Use cases** (problem selection, value, feasibility)
- **Data** (pipelines, quality, access, governance)
- **Delivery** (MLOps, integration, lifecycle ownership)
- **People** (skills, roles, culture, leadership support)
- **Assurance** (risk, safety, security, auditability)



# Defence is the extreme case of adoption

## What's amplified

- Adversarial backdrop and levels of uncertainty
- Often mission-critical decisions
- Ethical and legal scrutiny
- Legacy platforms, complexity, difficult integrations



# Tough realities of AI adoption in Defence

## Processes

- Hard to slot innovation into programmes/procurement

## Data

- platform/system/command centric
- tight controls on sharing (national, commercial, security)

## Operating environment

- Legacy systems, locked down
- Limited power, compute, comms
- Need for resilience & robustness

## Explainability and accountability

- High stakes settings, high bars on explainability
- Mission command – where does the buck stop?

## People

- Skills shortages
- Hard to keep up to date (career structures)
- Resistant culture



# So what now?

- We don't need more AI demos — we need deployable capability
  - **Invest in the foundations** – secure data sharing, reusable pipelines, adoption pathways
  - **Develop confidence** – assurance-by-design, human-centred approaches
  - **Collaboration** - Bring inventors, innovators, investors and users closer together earlier on

*Remember: the organisation is the deployment environment*



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**Decision Advantage:  
the End-User Challenge  
and the Innovation Ask**

General Sir Jim Hockenull  
Commander

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**Innovation in  
Decision  
Intelligence  
for Mission  
Impact**



**DecisionWorks**

# Coffee and Networking

- Back at 11:00



# Turning AI into Value for Your Business

- Trevor Durant, Business Lincolnshire

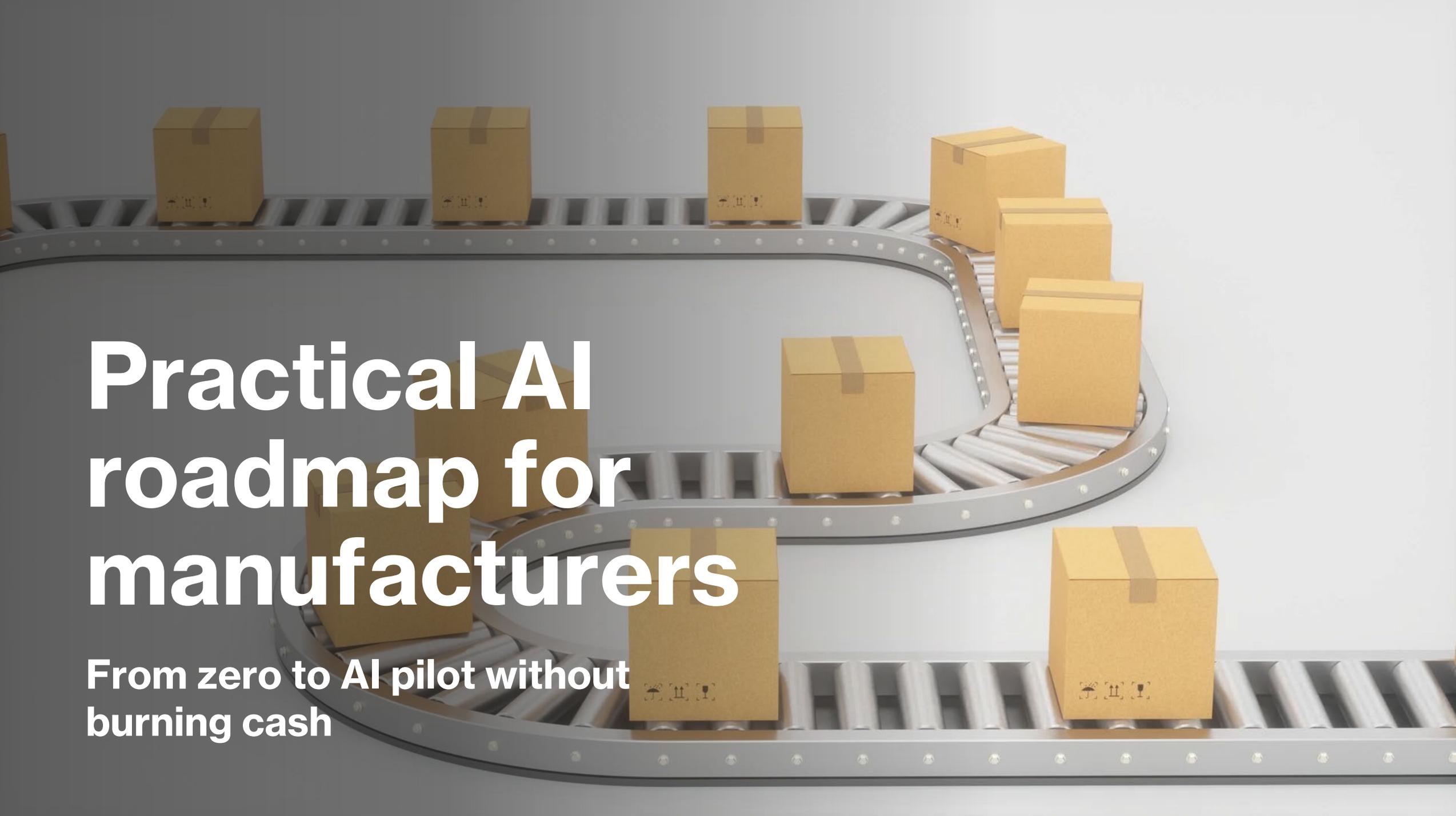




# Practical AI roadmap for manufacturers - From zero to AI pilot without burning cash

- Scott Linfoot, Tekh



A 3D rendering of a curved conveyor belt system. The belt is made of grey rollers and is supported by a metal frame. Several brown cardboard boxes are positioned at various points along the curve of the belt, appearing to move from left to right. The background is a plain, light grey surface.

# Practical AI roadmap for manufacturers

From zero to AI pilot without  
burning cash



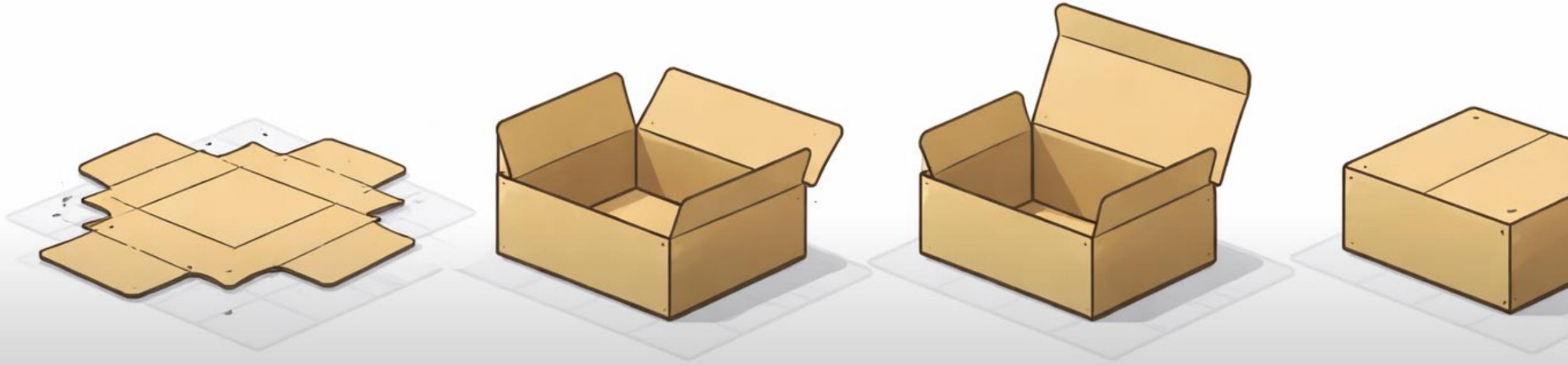
**Seen the  
Hype. Seen  
the Mess**



**One pea doth  
not a roast  
dinner make**



**AI isn't a tool. It's a system**



**Small experiments first.  
Big commitments later**

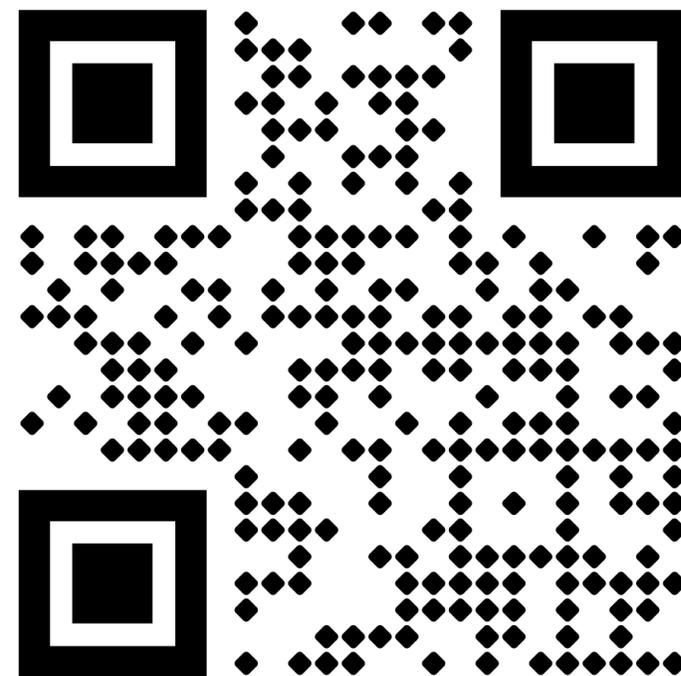


**Value exists off the  
critical path**

**What work makes your eyes roll?**

### Weekly Report

- Data Entry
- Inventory Update
- Submit Report
- Send Email



**Scott Linfoot**  
[scott@tekh.co.uk](mailto:scott@tekh.co.uk)  
**tekh.co.uk**



# Digital Twinning and Smart Industrial IoT Technologies

- Vili Panov, Siemens Energy



**GLEAM Network**  
**AI In Manufacturing and Engineering**

The Bridge, University of Lincoln  
28<sup>th</sup> January 2026

# **Digital Twinning and Smart Industrial IoT Technologies**

Vili Panov

PhD MSc Dipl.-Ing. CEng MIMechE

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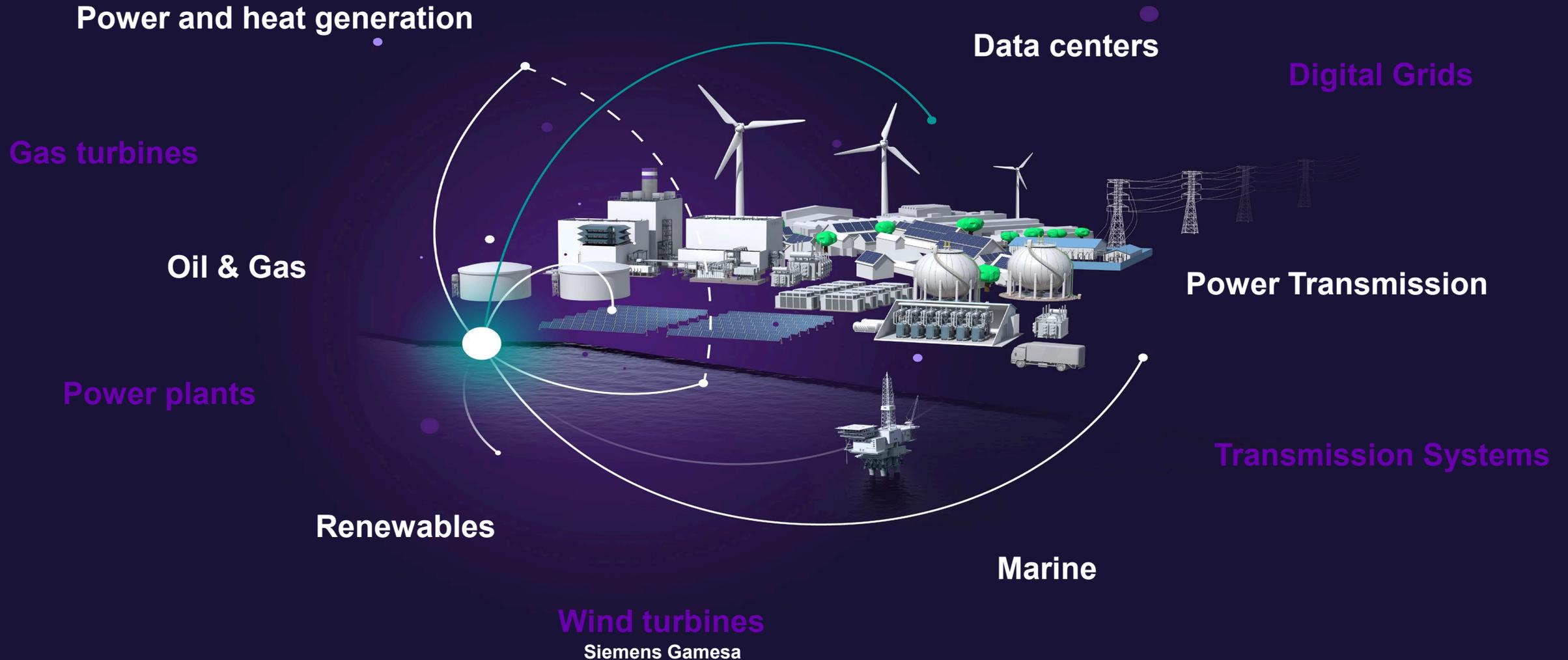


# 1

# SIEMENS Energy

GLEAM Network - AI In Manufacturing and Engineering

# SIEMENS ENERGY – INDUSTRY SOLUTIONS & PRODUCTS



# Small Gas Turbine (SEITL) Fleet

	Power Generation			Mechanical Drive		
SGT-100	5.1MW		5.4MW	5.7MW		
SGT-300	7.9MW			8MW		9MW
SGT-400	11MW		13MW	15MW	11MW	13MW
						15MW
						

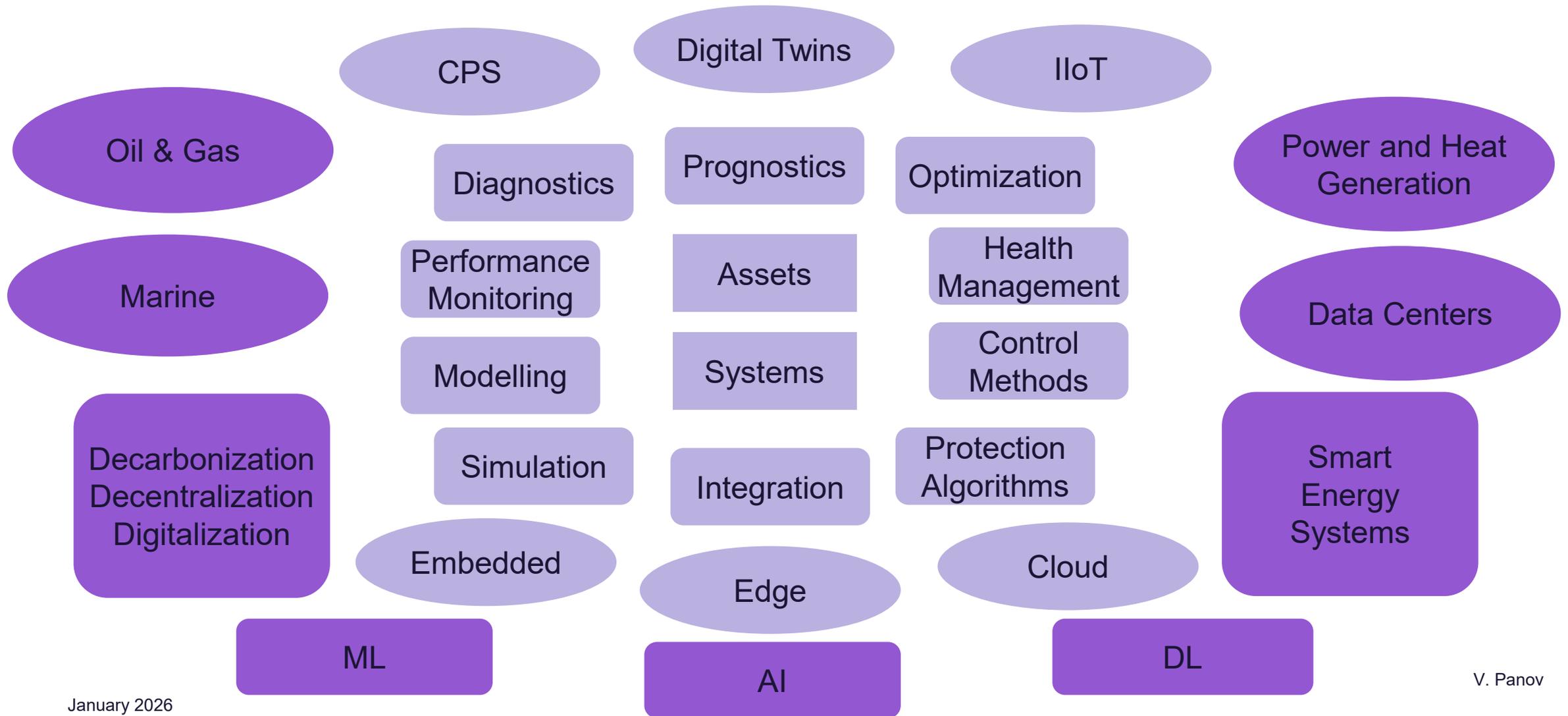
## Current Fleet Status

The SGT fleet has roughly 1200 active units, with 197 currently monitored.

## Connectivity Goals

SEITL aims to connect 80% of the connectable fleet, potentially 960 units, to improve monitoring and management.

# R&D Ecosystem



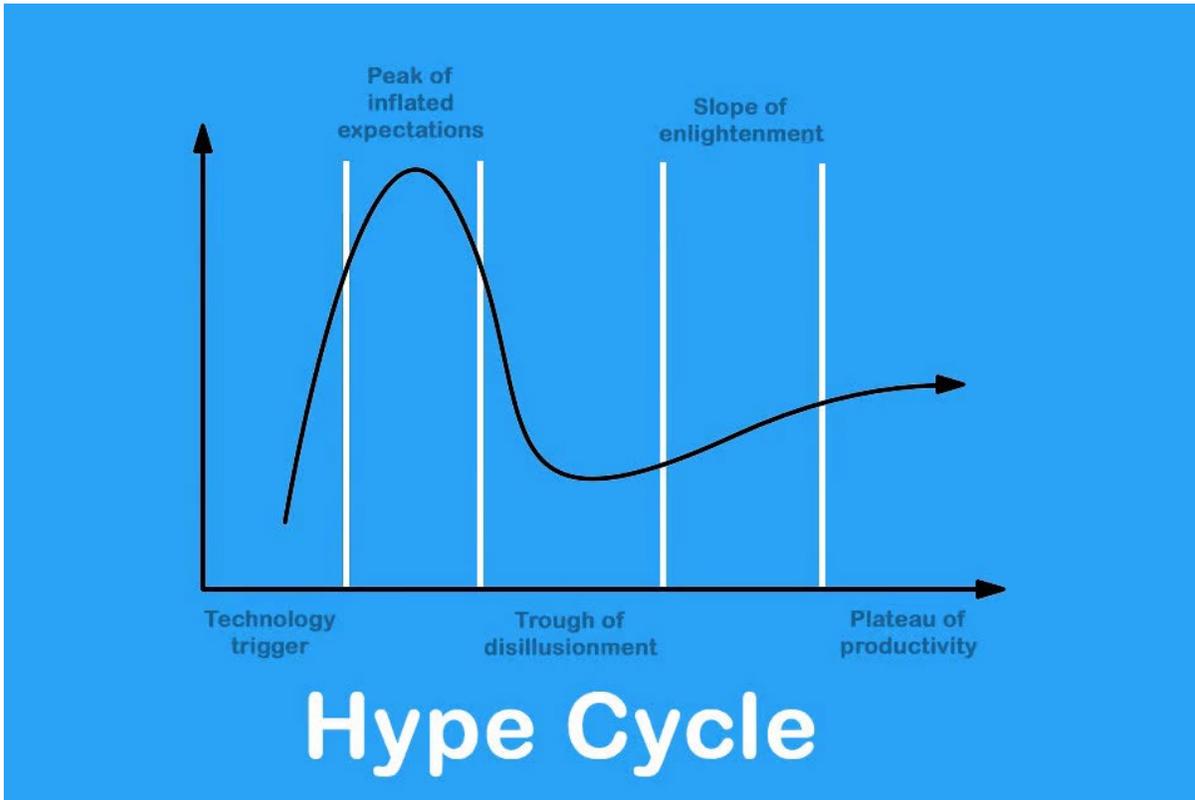
# 2

## Hype Cycle

Internet of Things & Digital Twin Technologies



# Hype Cycle



- Separate hype from the real drivers of a technology's commercial promise.
- Reduce the risk of technology investment decisions.
- Compare understanding of a technology's business value with the objectivity of experienced third party.

January 2026

**Innovation Trigger:** A potential technology breakthrough kicks things off. Often no usable products exist and commercial viability is unproven.

**Peak of Inflated Expectations:** Early publicity produces several success stories — often accompanied by scores of failures. Some companies act; many do not.

**Trough of Disillusionment:** Interest wanes as experiments and implementations fail to deliver. Producers of the technology shake out or fail.

**Slope of Enlightenment:** More instances of how the technology can benefit the enterprise start to crystallize and become more widely understood. Second- and third-generation products appear from technology providers.

**Plateau of Productivity:** Mainstream adoption starts to take off. The technology's broad market applicability and relevance are clearly paying off.

# Hype Cycle

## Internet-of-Things & Digital Twin Technologies

Hype Cycle for the Internet of Things, 2021



- **Data Fusion:**

Combines engineering simulations with real-time data from the physical counterpart .

- **Dynamic Updates:**

Continuously update, reflecting the current state and evolution of the physical asset.

- **Connectivity:**

IoT devices provide the crucial data stream. Cloud computing stores and processes large datasets. AI/ML algorithms offer advanced analytics.

# Digital Twins – Applications in Engineering

- **Design & Prototyping:** Test designs virtually under real conditions, reducing costly physical prototypes and speeding up validation.
- **Performance Optimization:** Monitor, analyse, and optimize operations.
- **Predictive Maintenance:** Forecast potential failures and schedule maintenance before breakdowns occur, minimizing downtime.
- **Lifecycle Management:** Create feedback loops, using operational data to improve future products.
- **Risk Mitigation:** Simulate failure scenarios and detect vulnerabilities virtually to improve safety.

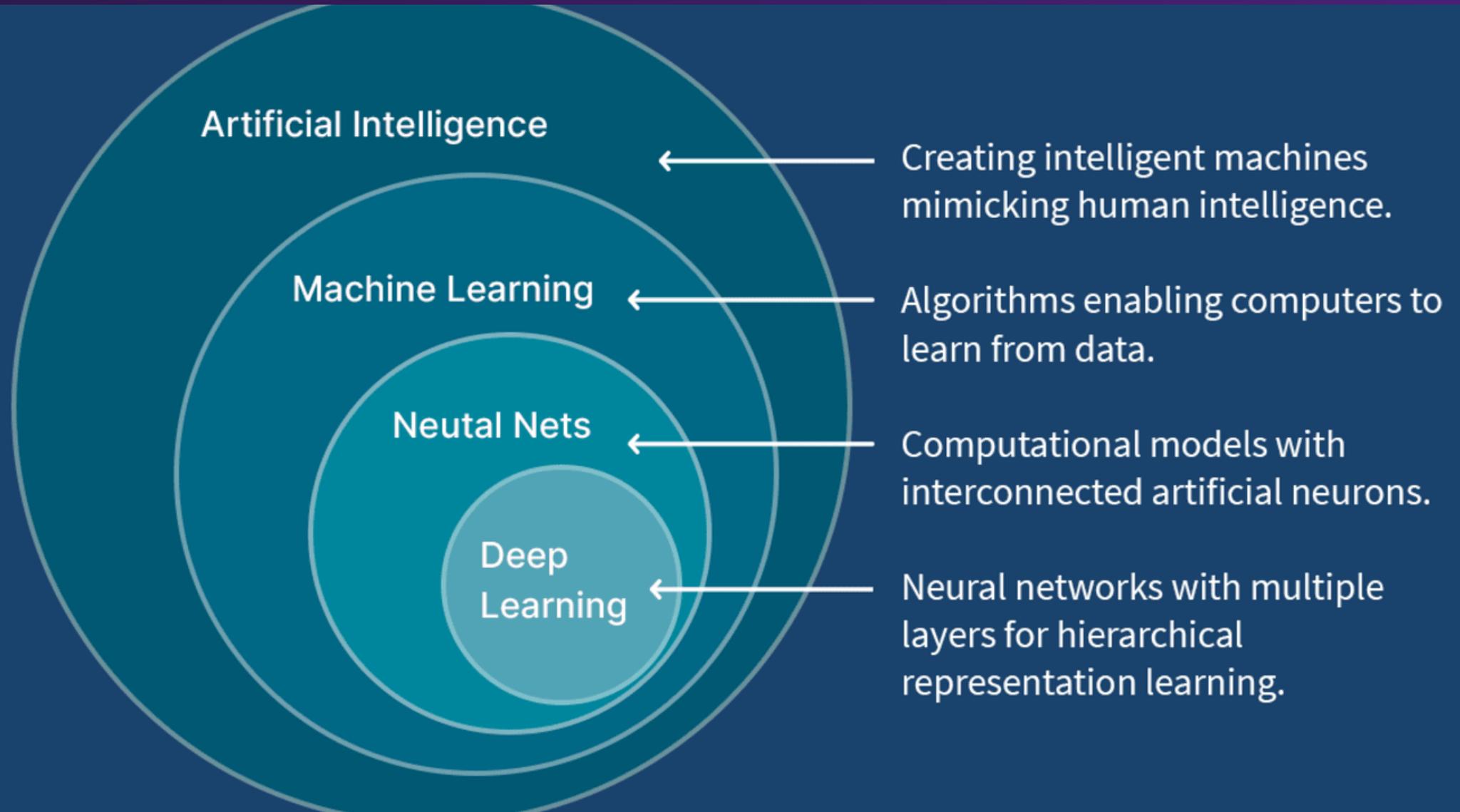
# 3

## Hype Cycle

Artificial Intelligence Technologies

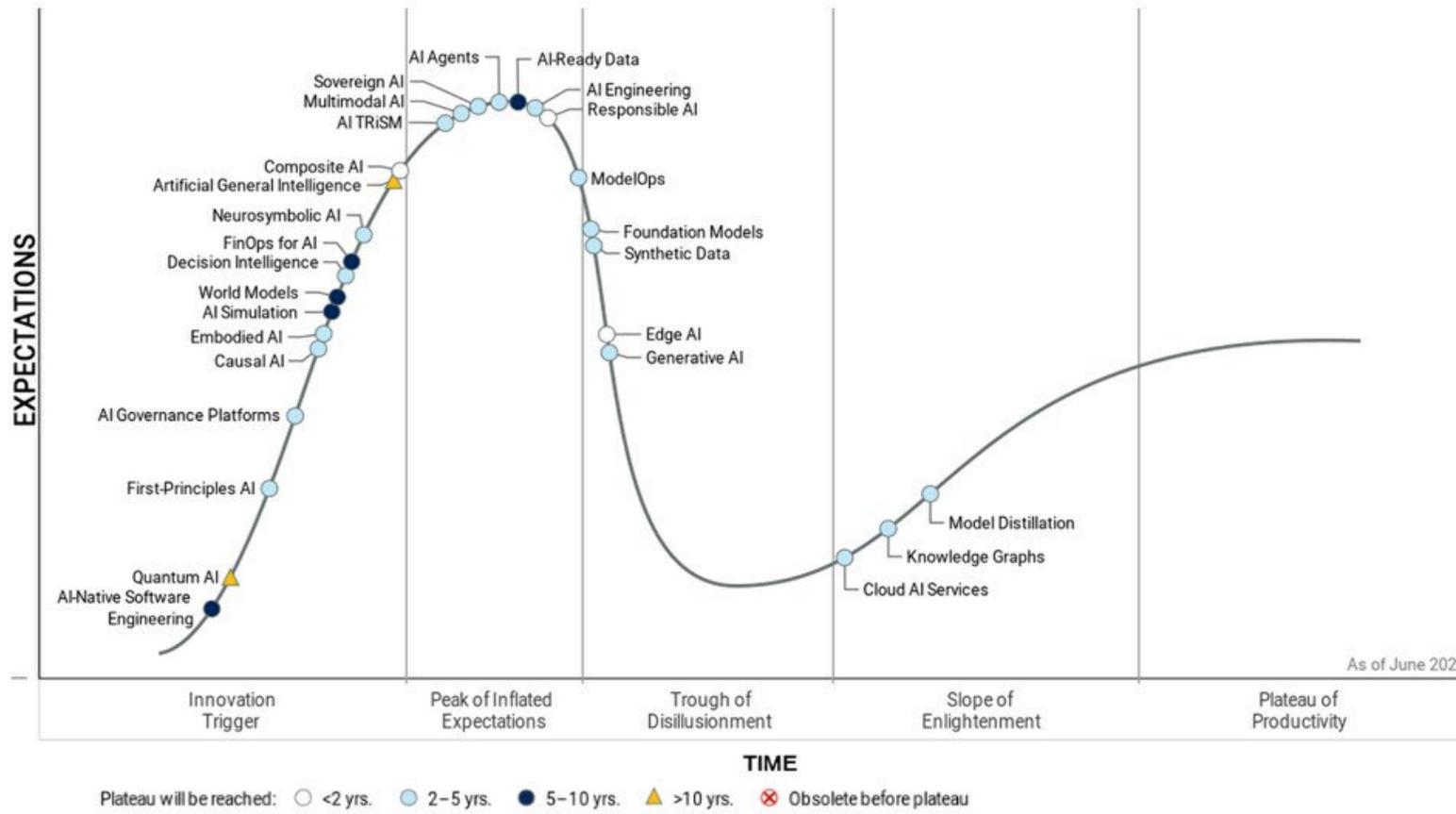


# Artificial Intelligence Technologies



# Hype Cycle

## Artificial Intelligence Technologies



- **AI Engineering Discipline:**  
Applies engineering principles to build scalable, reliable AI systems.
- **Machine Learning:**  
Uses algorithms to learn from data (sensor readings) to find patterns.
- **Large Language Models (LLMs):**  
Used for processing text, generating reports, and coding assistance.

# AI – Applications in Engineering

**Predictive Maintenance and Asset Management:** AI analyses sensor data to predict equipment failures, preventing downtime and enabling condition monitoring.

**Generative Design:** AI rapidly explores design options, optimizing for weight, performance, and material use.

**Simulating & Testing:** Accelerates complex simulations for testing designs.

**Data Analysis:** Quickly processes vast engineering data for insights.

**Industrial Automation:** AI driven automation systems enhance manufacturing process by integration robotics with intelligent control systems.

# 4

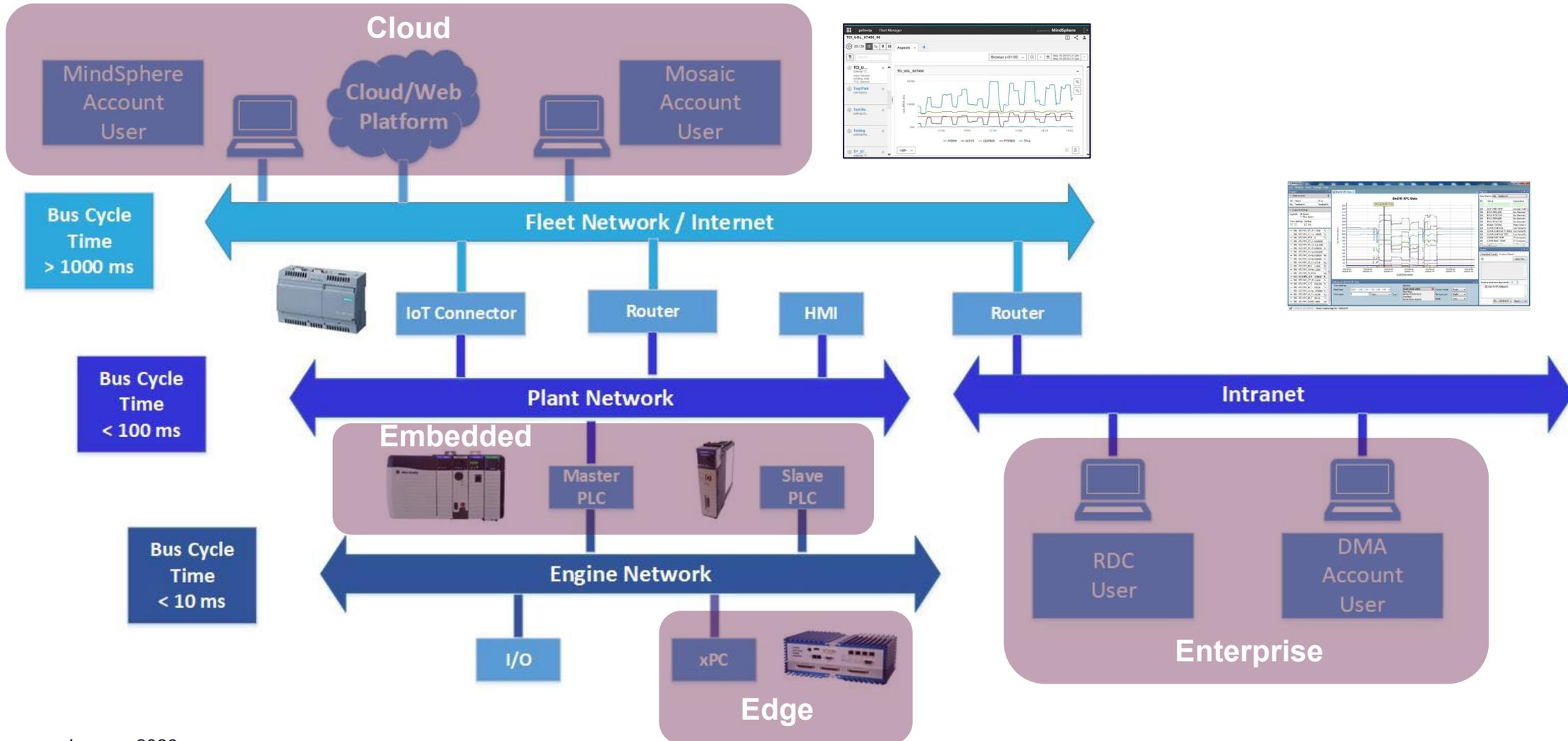
## R & D Challenges

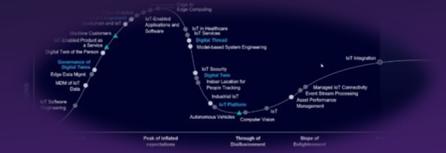
CPS & IoT & DT & AI

# IoT Integration (Embedded, Edge, Cloud & Enterprise Platforms)

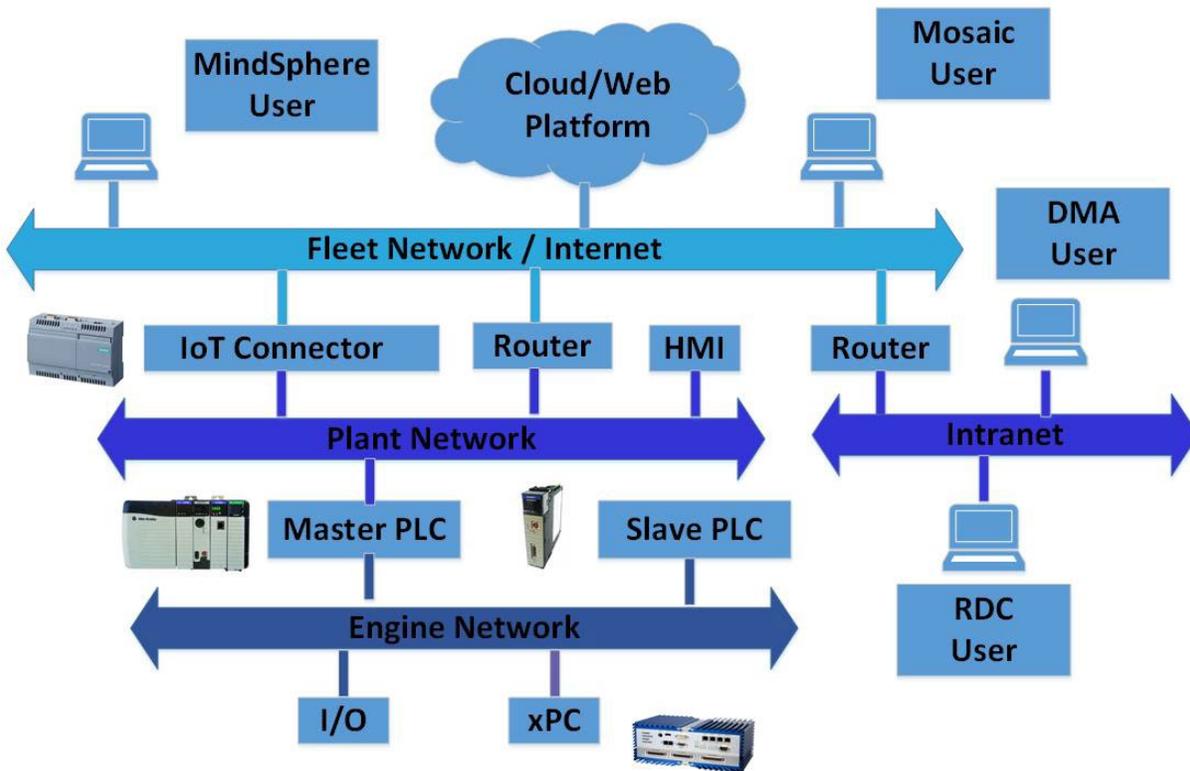


Plateau horizon < 2 years





Plateau horizon 5 – 10 years

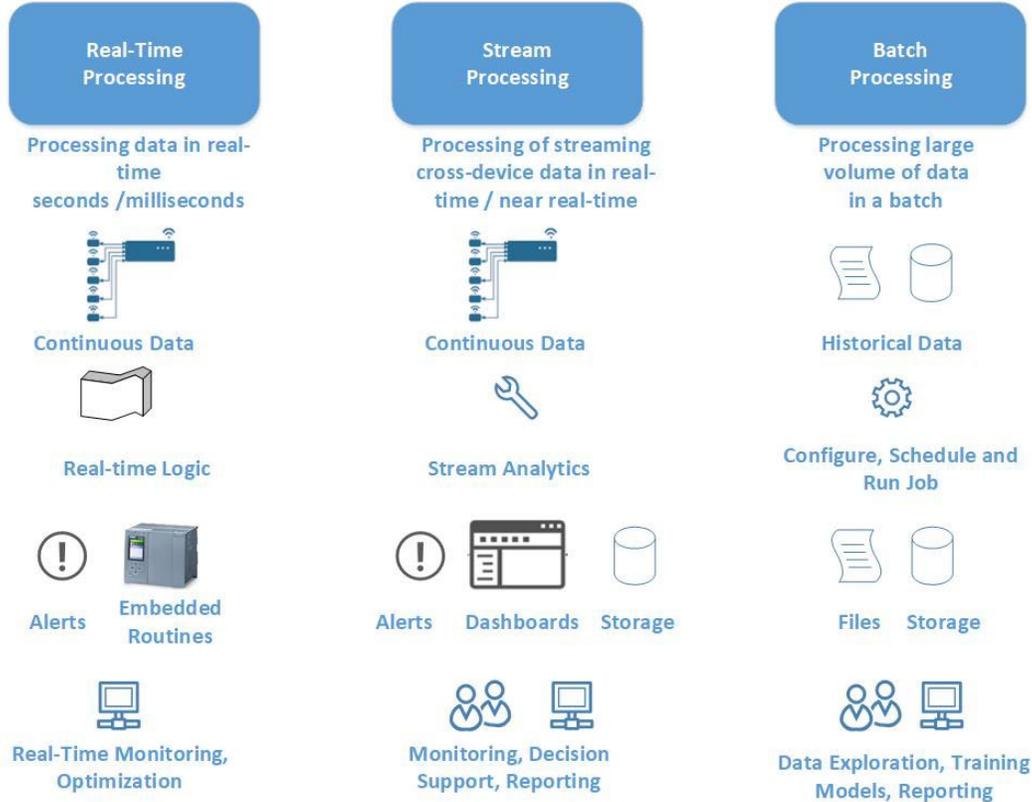


- **Digital Cybersecurity and Privacy**
  - Interdependent with physical security, safety, resilience and reliability
  - Critical physical system: medical, life-safety, critical infrastructure (energy, transport, telecommunications)
- **Heterogeneity of “Things”**
  - Number of connection points and network bandwidth
  - Platforms heterogeneity and physical accessibility
- **Cybersecurity categories of CPS**
  - Complex deployment landscape – new threat vectors
  - Cyber attacks on Physical Domain
  - Physical attacks on Cyber Domain

# Convergence of IT / OT / ET



Plateau horizon 5 – 10 years



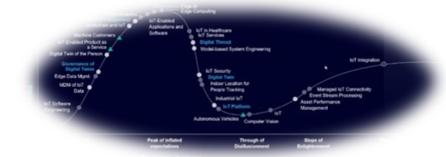
## Leverage of IT/OT/ET

- Information Technology (IT)
- Operational Technology (OT)
- Engineering Technology (ET)

## Data load balance distribution

- On-premise:
  - Control Systems (Embedded)
  - Field Device (Edge)
- Enterprise:
  - Data Center
  - Cloud

# Edge Computing and Analytics



Plateau horizon 5 – 10 years

- **Unified Hybrid – Discrete and Continuous Methods**

- Science and Engineering to address:

- + Robust design, operation and assurance

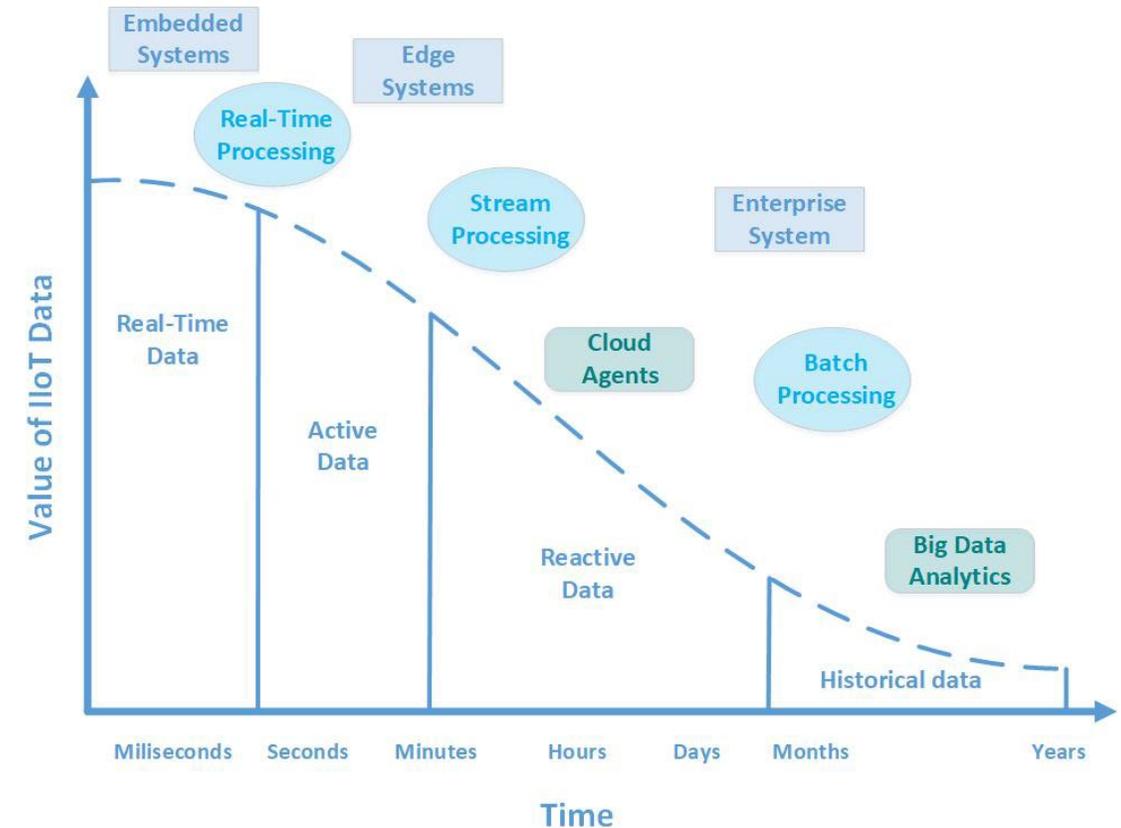
- => Identifying and leveraging physical and logical-state-focused mathematical formalisms

- **Logical – Physical Linkage**

- Seamless integration to address:

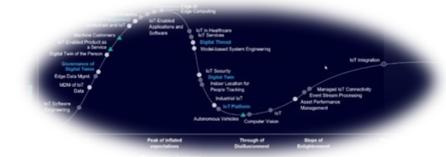
- + Insecure channels, poor digital models, coarse system responsiveness

- => Usage of computational systems (AI) to manage events in the physical worlds

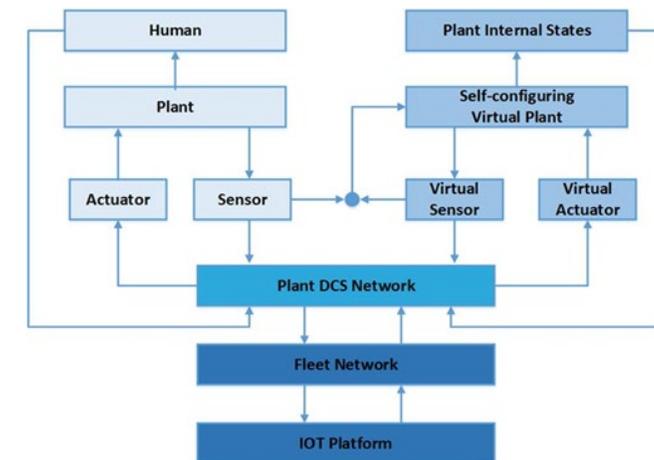
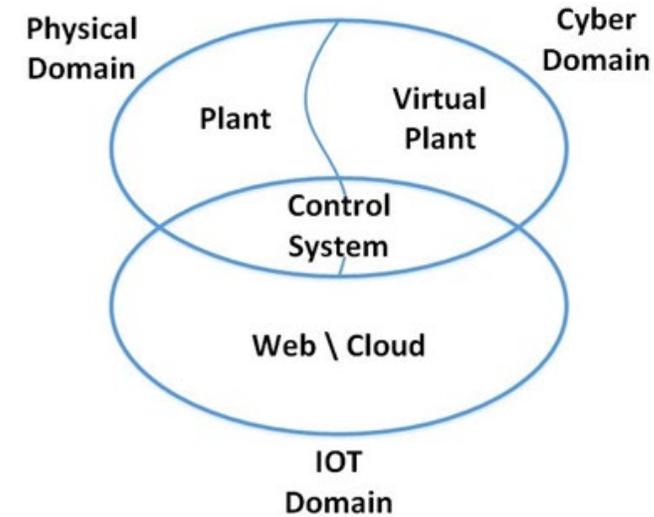


# Cyber-Physical Systems

- **Challenges of CPS Design – due to interdependencies related to:**
  - Complexity of Self-Adaptive / Configuring / Healing Systems
  - Interaction of Discrete and Continuous System
  - Heterogeneity and Compatibility of CPS & IoT Components
  - Uncertainty of interaction between Cyber and Physical Domains



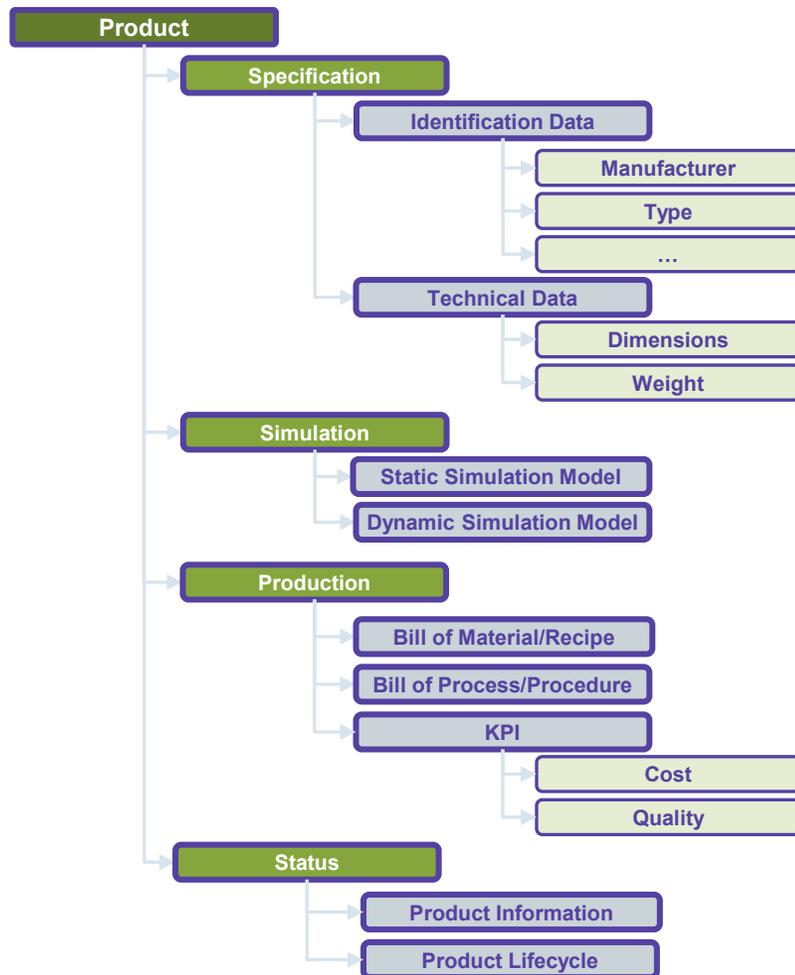
Plateau horizon 5 – 10 years



# Governance of Digital Twins



Plateau horizon 5 – 10 years



*Digital twining process as an act of governance that steers:  
Design, Production, Commissioning, Asset Management, Optimization and Legislation*



*The bill of material / recipe (BOM) and bill of process / procedure (BOP) is created*

*Digital twins of product enable virtual commissioning*

*Modification of recipes or procedures are automatically tracked by the digital twin of a product*

*The digital twin of a product steers production through its BOM / BOP and the corresponding specifications and enables tracking and tracing*

*Product quality degradations and an analysis of product histories allows for optimization of production, asset management And operational optimization*

## Unambiguous Legal and Regulatory Framework

- Policy provisions to support:
  - + Engineering, lifecycle management and human perception
  - => Addressing these implication will secure smooth introduction and adoption of Digital Twin Technology

1

## Product Digital Twin

Using digital twins for efficient design of new products

2

## Production Digital Twin

Using digital twins in manufacturing & production planning

3

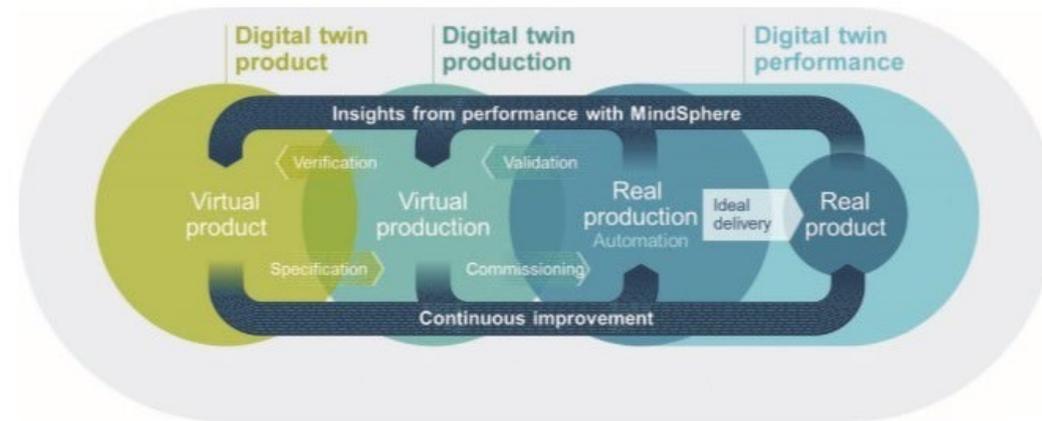
## Performance Digital Twin

Using digital twins to capture, analyse, and act on operational data

# Digital Thread



Plateau horizon 5 – 10 years



### • Design Assurance for Digital Twins

- Evolving standards for Quality Assurance (ISO 9000) and System Engineering Lifecycle Management (ISO 15288\_ to capture provisions for:

- + Cybersecurity
- + Digital Privacy
- + Engineering requirements for safety, security, resilience and reliability

5

# Outlook

SEITL



# Future Outlook

*The outlook for Digital Twins in engineering is exceptionally strong, where transitioning from novel to essential is expected. Driven by AI, IoT, and Cloud-native platforms, Digital Twins can enable predictive maintenance, reducing downtime by 50% and increasing efficiency by 10-40%.*

**Market Growth:** The global market is growing rapidly, with compound annual growth rates (CAGR) exceeding 60%, shifting from \$10.1 billion in 2023 to projected highs over \$100 billion by 2028.

**AI and IoT Integration:** Future digital twins will leverage artificial intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT) for autonomous optimization, enabling self-learning and real-time decision-making systems.

**Applications in Mechanical/Manufacturing sector:** Reduction of testing costs up to 20% and critical optimization of operational parameters.

**Transition to 'Platform' Usage:** By 2028, over 70% of companies using IoT are expected to adopt digital twins, moving away from or complementing, traditional simulation tools.

**Thank you for your attention**

# Contact page



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# Close and Optional Tour of the Bridge

- Dr Nick Riess, The Bridge