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2024

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Digital twins in aviation: twice as many opportunities?



Thomas Romig

Vice President Safety, Security and Operations
Airports Council International (ACI)

Panel Speakers



John Gradek

Faculty Lecturer and Academic program
Coordinator, Supply Networks

McGill University



Lynette DuJohn

VP Innovation and Chief Information Office
Vancouver Airport Authority (YVR)



Richard Vilton

CEO
Emu Analytics



Jia Xu

CEO
SkyGrid



Robert Freitag

Assistant Vice-President, Chief Technology
Officer

NAV CANADA



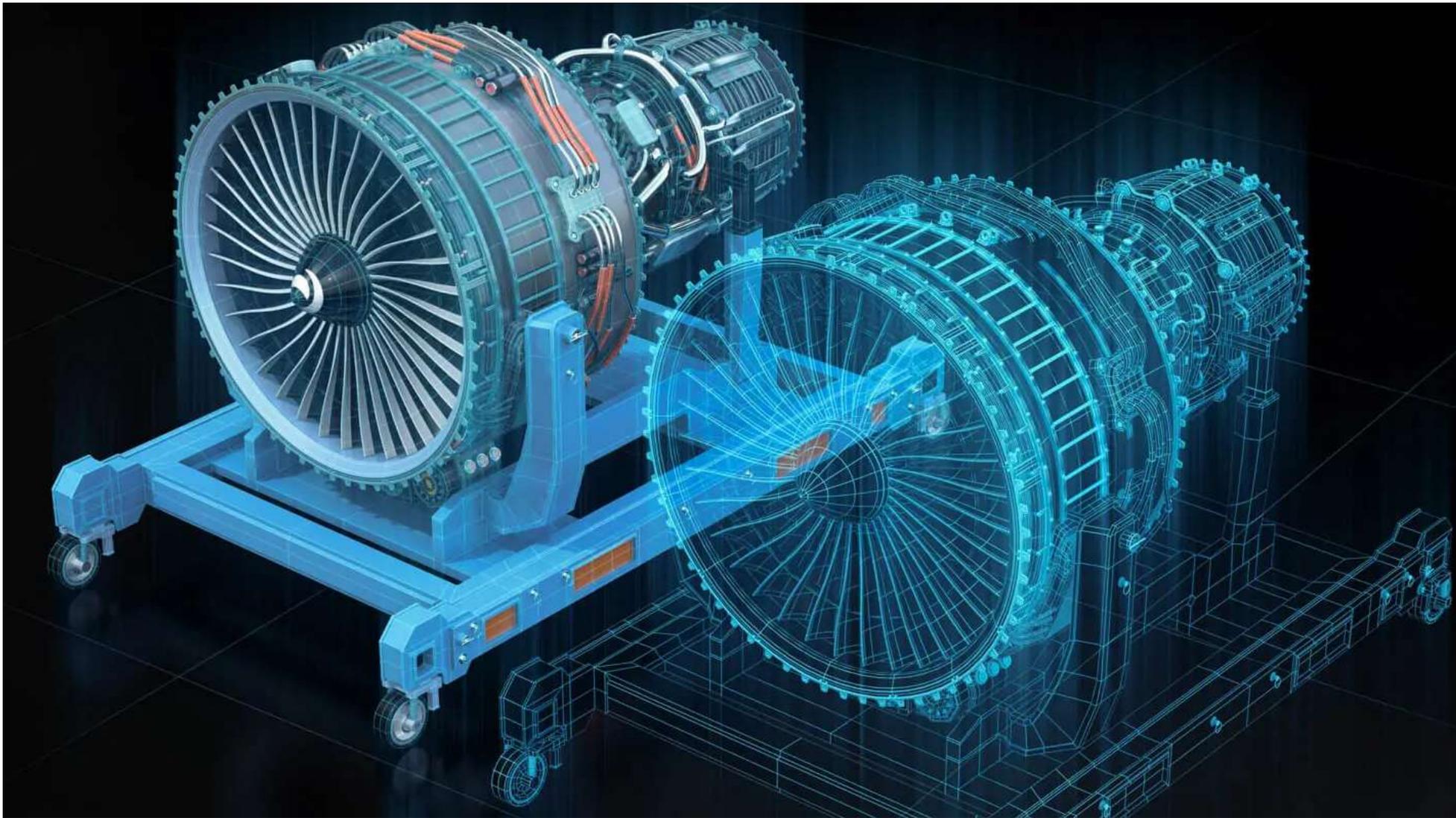
John Gradek

Faculty Lecturer and Academic program Coordinator,
Supply Networks
McGill University

Digital Twins – past, present, future

Apollo 13 – The first incarnation of the Digital Twin





Today's Digital Twin



Today's Digital Twin

Elements of a Digital Twin

Beyond a simulator by incorporating real-time data capture

The three elements of a digital twin



RY; IMAGE: JACKIE NIAM/ADOBE STOCK

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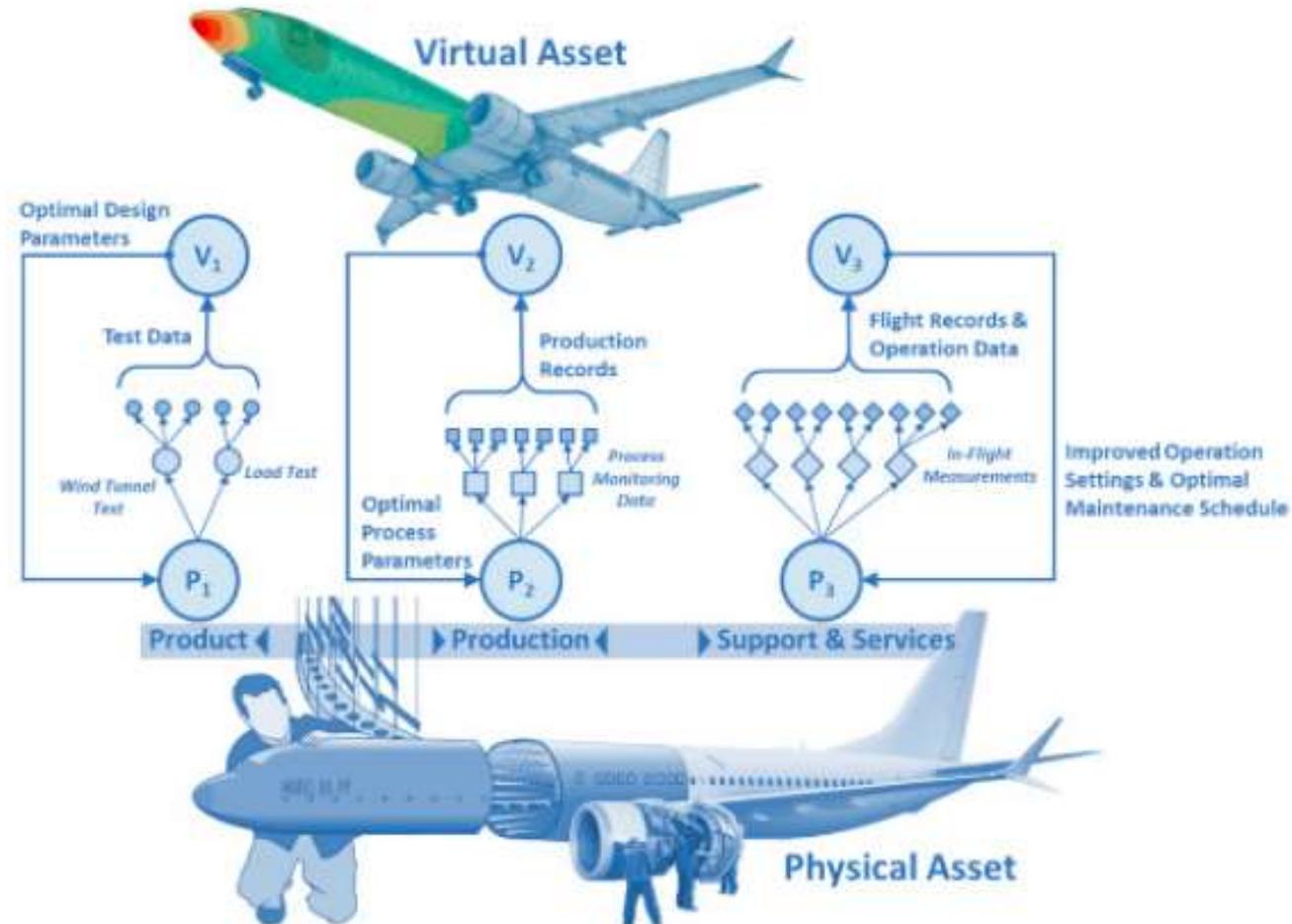
Application of Digital Twin in Aviation

Power Plant Performance



Application of Digital Twin in Aviation

Aircraft Manufacture



Building and Scaling a Digital Twin

A three-step approach



creating a
blueprint



building the initial
digital twin

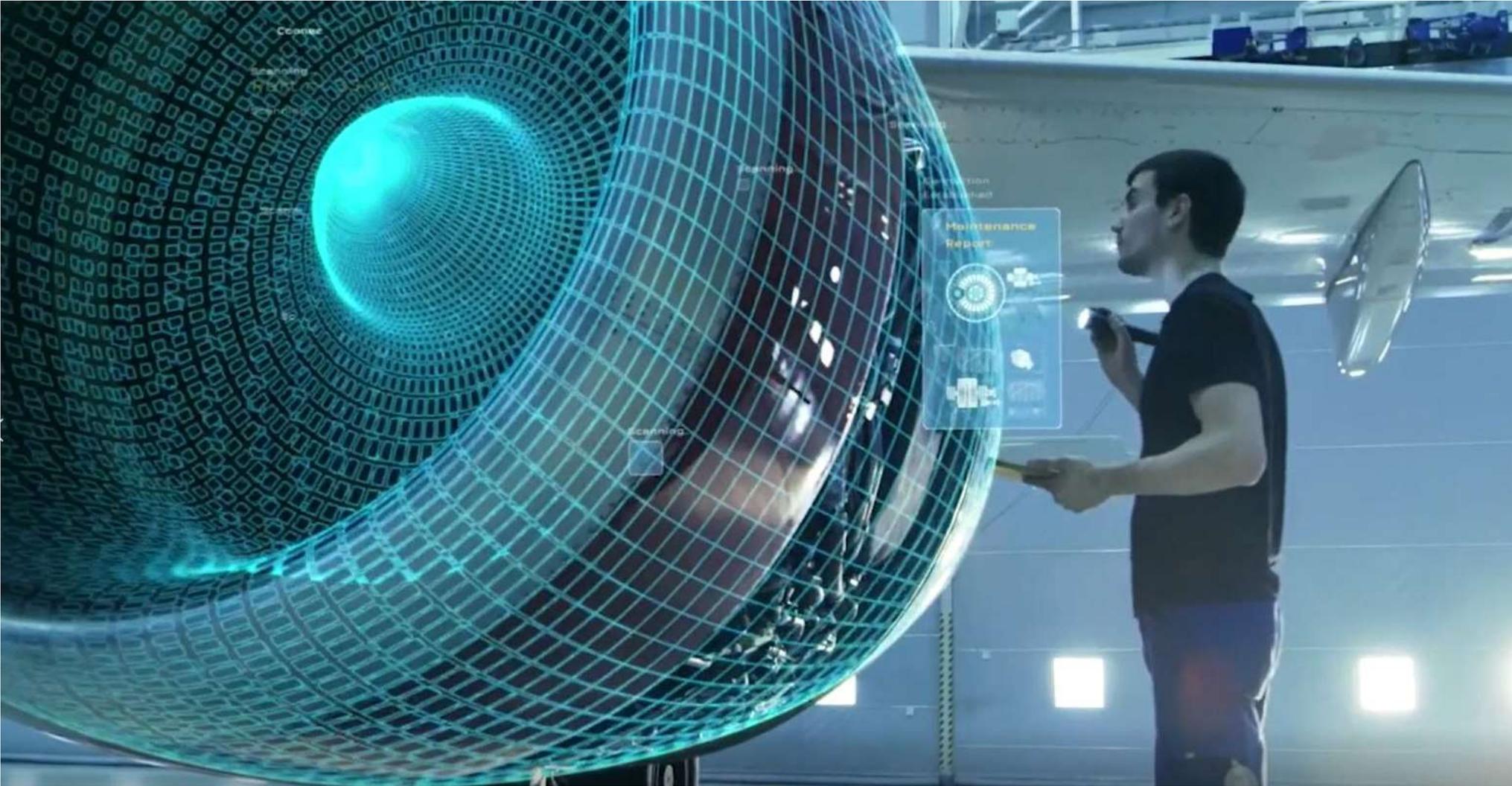


boosting its
capabilities

Digital Twin of Tomorrow



Digital Twin of Tomorrow



Airport Digital Twin

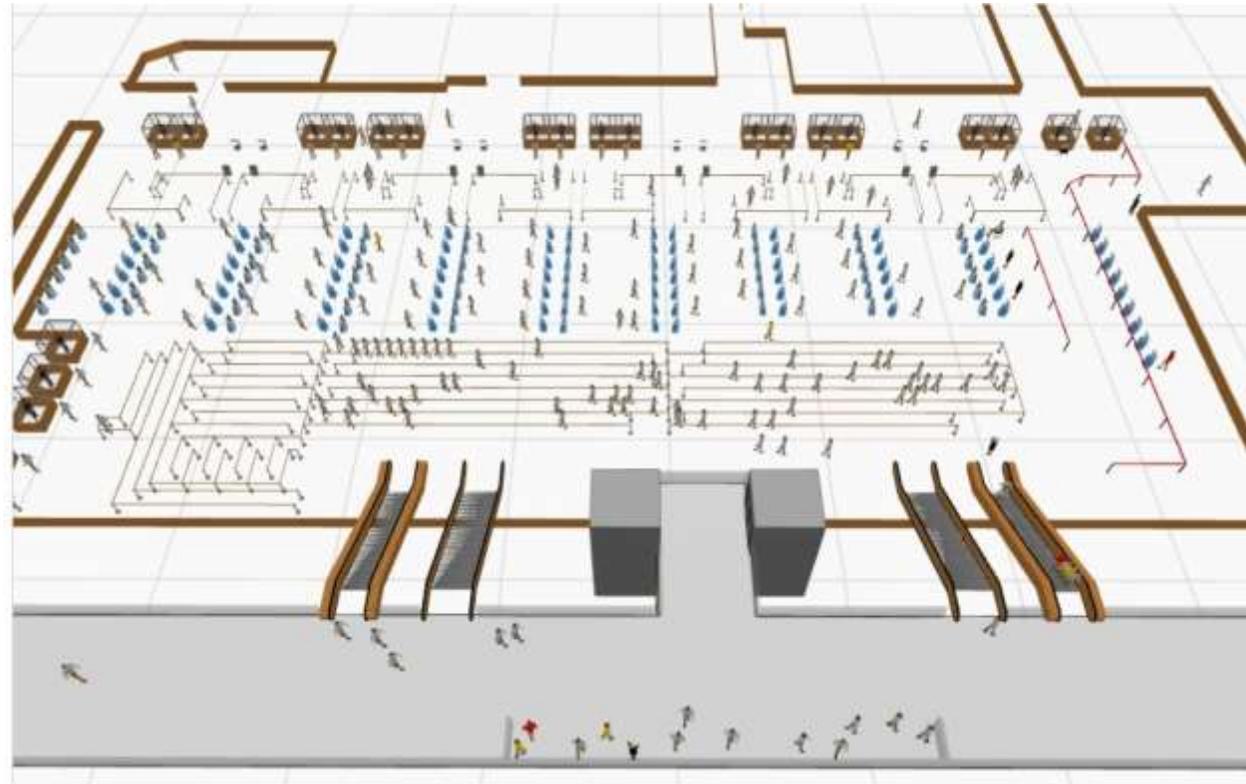
Evaluate alternative solutions to optimize airport capacity
The ADM experience



Montréal-Trudeau International Airport



Human Engineering



Airside Digital Twin

Evaluate aircraft parking and passenger handling capacities

The ADM experience

gss Centre Humain

ADM Aéroports de Montréal

Simulateur - Stationnements Éloignés

Scenario **4** Type d'expérience
 Flux
 Stationnement

Stationnements rapprochés
 Stationnements dispersés

AVEC trafic: % de réduction dans le zone
 SANS trafic

Vitesse km/h
 Accélération et Décélération km/h
 Temps entre les STA et les STD sec

Temps embarquement

	Départ			Arrivée		
	min	max	moy	min	max	moy
Row 1	0:30	1:00	0:50	1:10	2:00	1:30
Row 2	5:0	7:5	6:0			
Row 3	2:0	3:0	2:30			
Row 4	2:0	3:0	2:30			
Row 5	0:5	1:5	1:0			

Temps débarquement

	Départ			Arrivée		
	min	max	moy	min	max	moy
Row 1	2:0	4:0	3:0	1:0	1:25	1:10

Thank You





Richard Vilton

CEO

Emu Analytics

Emu Introduction



Bootstrapped SME founded in 2015, creating software for **Smart Cities, Digital Twin** and **IoT-** initiatives



Analytics & visualisation software solution **Flo.w** for **big, real-time geospatial data**



Dynamic, intuitive map-based web interface **accessible to all users**



Our UK footprint in Aviation



IAG INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES GROUP



Heathrow



GLASGOW AIRPORT



Civil Aviation Authority



LONDON GATWICK



BRITISH AIRWAYS

Our Innovation Credentials



9-time winner of corporate accelerator programmes
5-time winner of Innovate UK funding
Winner of EIT Digital funding



Aircraft Query Builder

Display Aircraft

Filters:

AND OR

0 active filters

CLEAR

APPLY

Vehicle Query Builder

Display Ground Fleet

Filters:

AND OR

1 active filters

CLEAR

APPLY

Display Settings

Show aircraft labels

Show aircraft background

Show track information

Show aircraft icons at zoom level:





Meet us at Booth 23

CEO and Co-Founder:

Richard.Vilton@emu-analytics.com

Marketing & Growth Lead:

Martine.Skaret@emu-analytics.com

www.emu-analytics.com



Robert Freitag

Assistant Vice-President, Chief Technology Officer

NAV CANADA

Digital Twin: Sector Performance Optimizer

Keeping Canada's Skies Safe:

Shaping the future of air navigation services

Our Shared Purpose is supported by four pillars



Safety is at the core

It is integral to everything we do and continues to mature as the industry evolves.



Innovation is key

We are passionate about modernizing Canada's air navigation system to deliver value to our customers.



Expertise is the cornerstone

The skill, agility, leadership, and collaboration of our people make the difference.



Partnerships are essential

Our partnerships help the aviation industry improve efficiency and support an environmentally sustainable future.



An Aircraft's Journey

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Safety Every Step of the Way

As the owner and operator of Canada's civil air navigation system, NAV CANADA tracks and guides aircraft from all over the world safely through Canadian airspace. Our role begins well before takeoff and continues right up to arrival.





Technology

is at the forefront of NAV CANADA's business – designing, delivering, adapting, maintaining and securing all the technology for air traffic services and business systems.



Helping the Industry Reduce its Environmental Impact

Collaborating on improving air traffic management, modernizing Canada's airspace and implementing new technologies.

Digital twin technology, a key to our AI Strategy

- Digital twin capabilities provide NAV CANADA with probabilistic decision models and experimentation platforms that are central to the long-term success of NAV CANADA's ability to deliver value to its customers and the flying public.
- Digital Twin capabilities benefit NAV CANADA through the creation of:
 - a digital operational planning environment;
 - an integrated data platform that acts as a fundamental pillar for decision support;
 - offline and consequence-free what-if scenario analysis;
 - Support for proactive decision-making through information and recommendations.
- Digital Twin capabilities support the shift to a data-first mindset at NAV CANADA.
 - A fundamental key to long-term success is a dynamic, continually improving data foundation.



Our vision for advanced analytics and AI



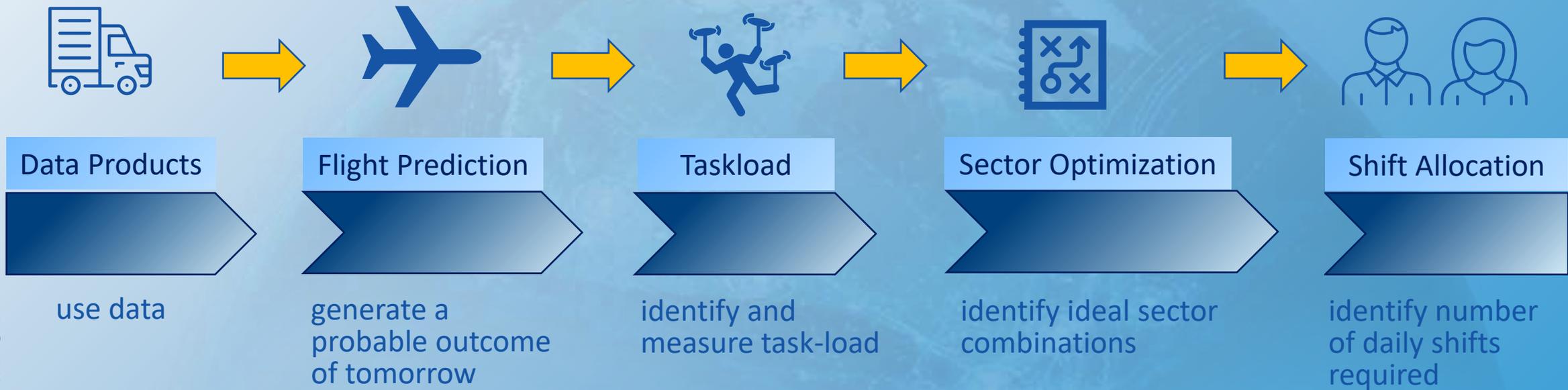
Transform NAV CANADA to become a **digitally enabled** ANSP **safely, cost-effectively** and **sustainably** to address the needs of our **customers** and create a more **resilient** organization for the future.

Guiding Principles:

- 1 Safety is always at the forefront.
- 2 Consider human in the loop to manage and mitigate risks.
- 3 Importance of data, people, process and governance.
- 4 Take an iterative, phased approach.

Digital Twin Sector Performance Optimizer - How does it work?

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Algorithms generate predictions and recommendations
- Based on user-defined parameters

Digital Twin Sector Performance Optimizer (DT-SPO)

Virtual representation of
NAV CANADA's airspace

In sync with the physical
world, data streams to
digital twin system processor

Uses simulation, machine
learning optimization, and
analysis to create a digital
environment

Predicts tomorrow, today

Supports decision making with
analytics

Provides insight into flight &
task load complexity

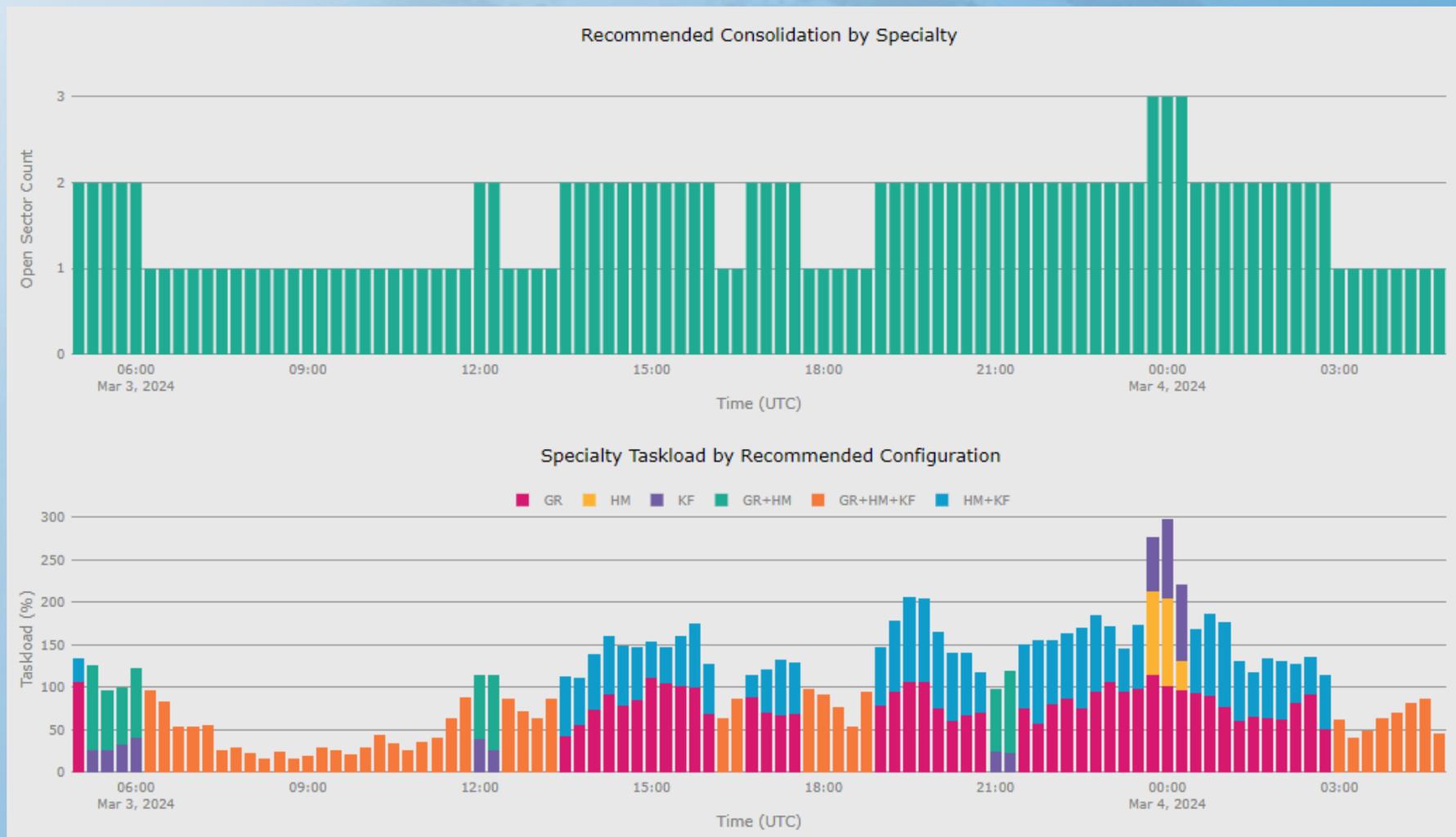
Supports:

Post-Ops analysis
What-if analysis
Sector recommendation
Shift recommendation
ATC training

DT-SPO: Use Cases

Shift and Sector Configuration Recommendation

To be used daily in operational briefing sessions to incorporate recommendations into operational decisions

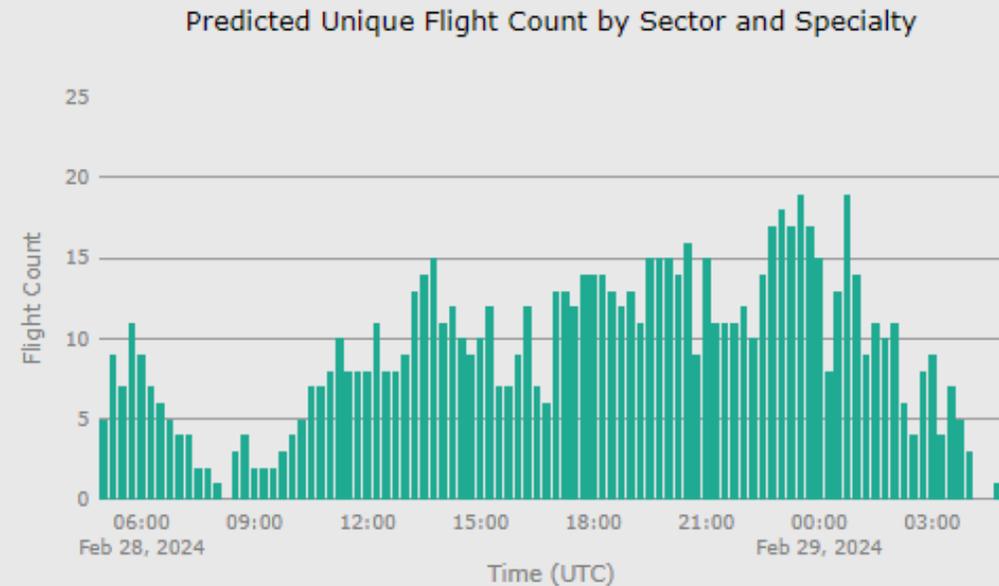
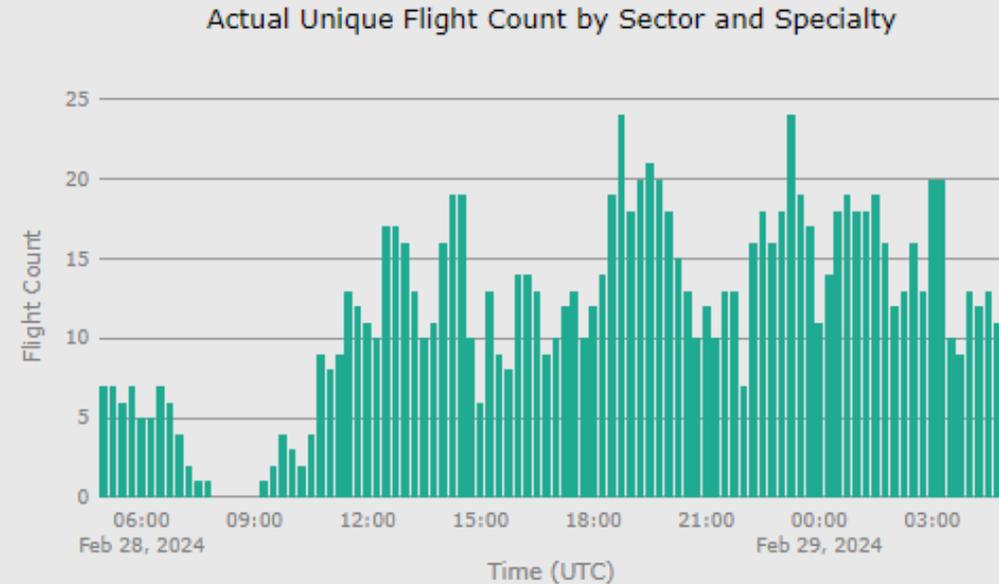


DT-SPO: Use Cases

Recommendation Review (Post Ops Analytics)

Operational decision makers will review Traffic Management Initiatives [TMI] to analyse and compare the predicted against what happened operationally.

Example: early morning thunderstorms shifted flights, workload impact, and demand recovery to later in the day.

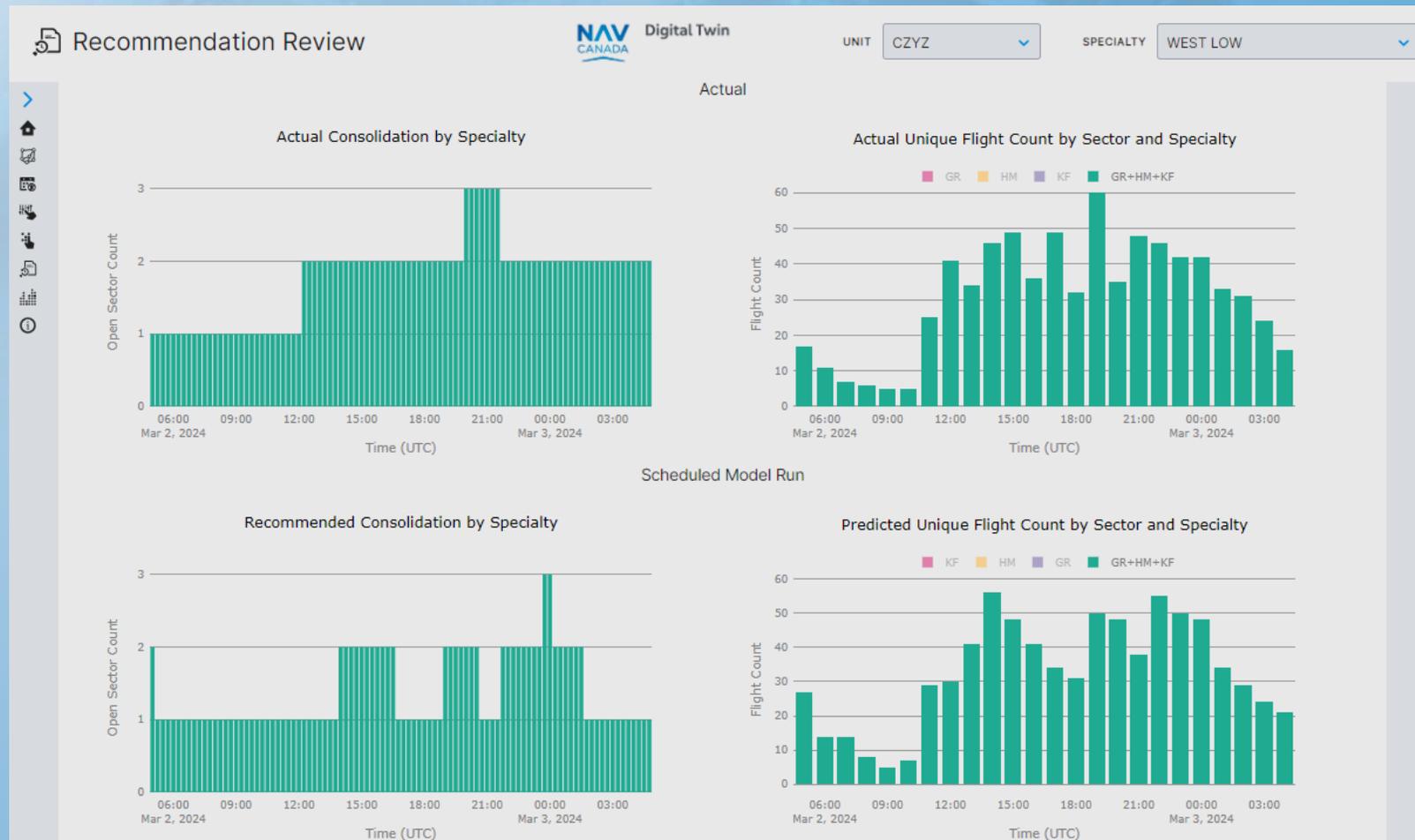


DT-SPO: Use Cases

Building Trust Through Monitoring the Accuracy of Predicted Flight Count

Monitor daily and report weekly accuracy of predicted flights.

Measured by count of flights by Specialty per given time range.

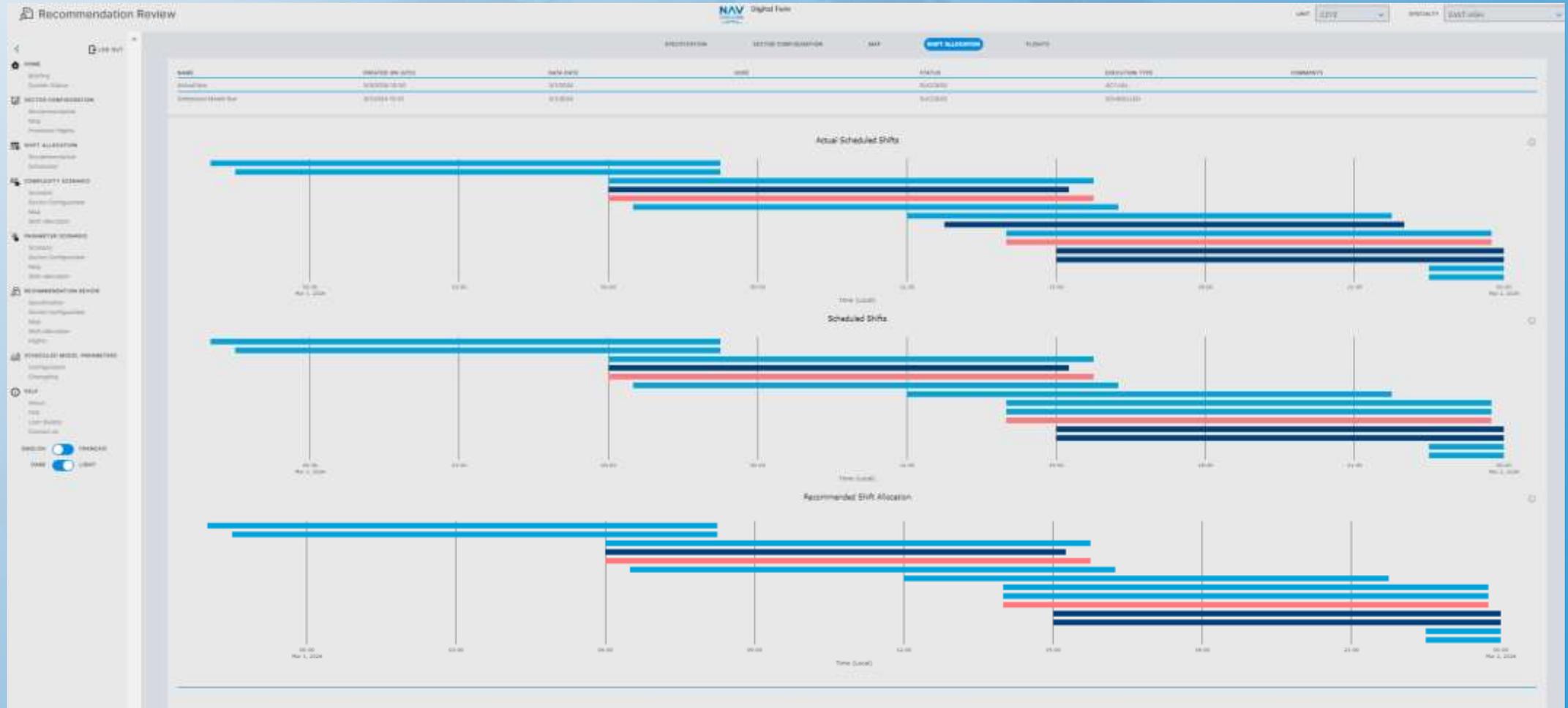


DT-SPO: Use Cases

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Shift Allocation Review

Review actual shifts, scheduled shifts, recommended shifts to compare staffing recommendations



Thank You



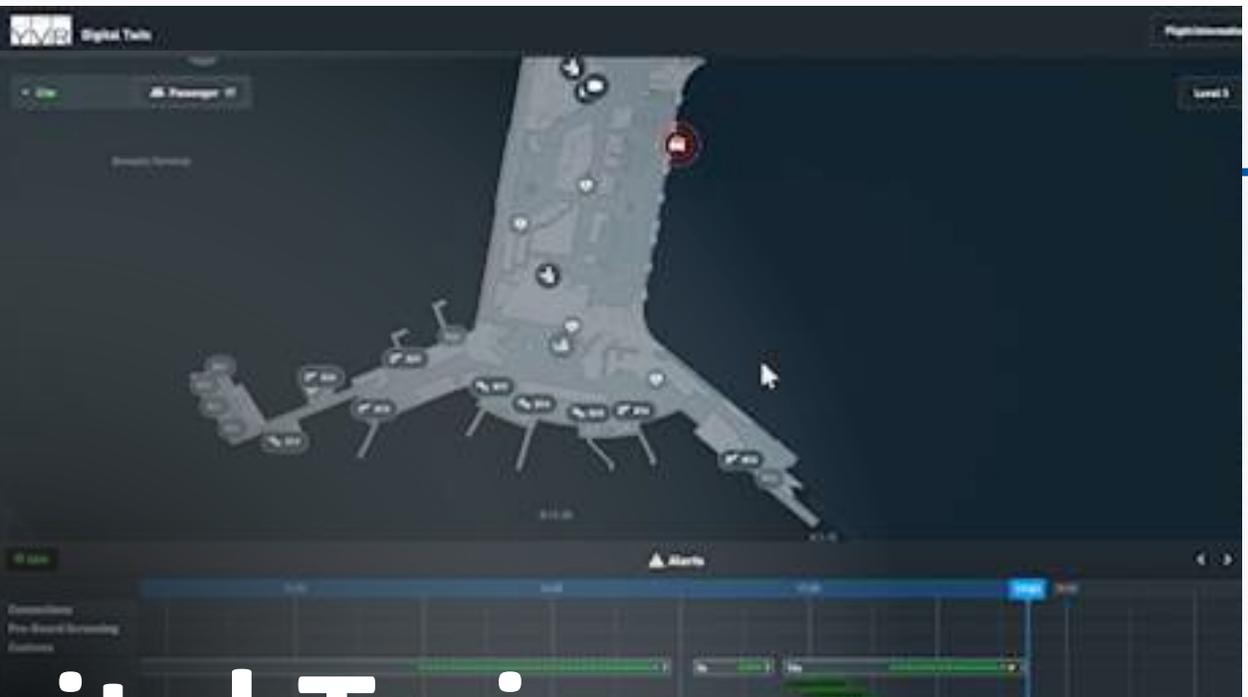


Lynette DuJohn

VP Innovation and Chief Information Office
Vancouver Airport Authority (YVR)

YVR's Digital Twin

Supporting the airport's snow operations



YVR's Digital Twin



JANUARY 2024 WINTER STORM | At a Glance



FORECAST

~30cm of snow on Jan 17, 2024 – about 5cm more than Dec 19, 2022.

7th highest single day of snowfall since 1938.

Temperatures dropped as low as -14C.



TEAM

80% of our winter operators were experiencing their first snow event at YVR.

50% of the Snow Control desk were new to the team.



AIRSIDE

Operated 80% of our regular schedule vs. 35% on Dec 20, 2022.

All arrival aircraft gated in less than 30mins – flow management at work.

Deicing cleared up to 40cm of accumulation on some aircraft.



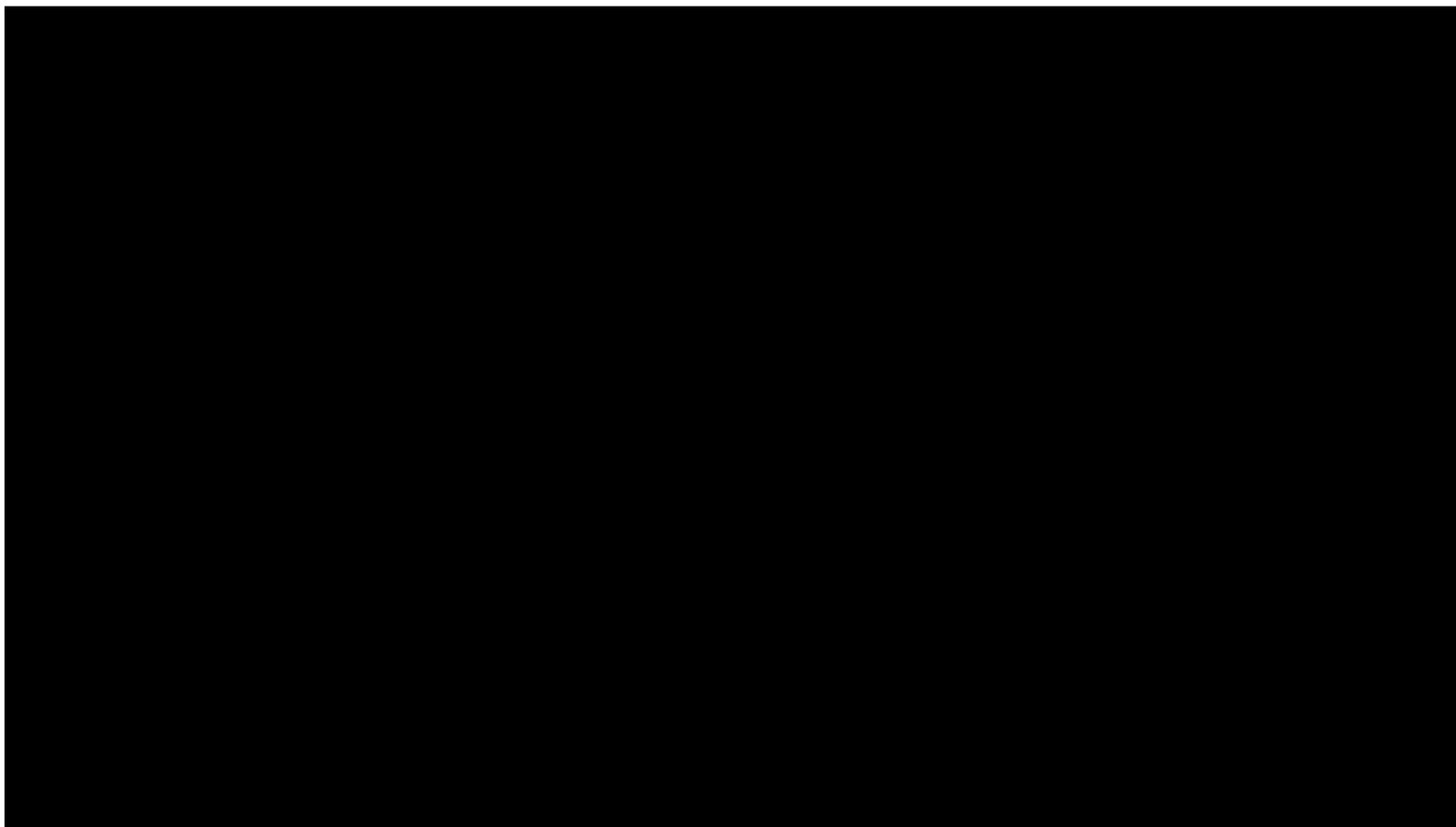
BAGGAGE

99% of baggage delivery maintained throughout weather disruption

JANUARY 2024 WINTER STORMI Timelapse



JANUARY 2024 WINTER STORMI Digital Twin



Thank you



Jia Xu

SkyGrid
CEO



SKYGRID

A Boeing,
SparkCognition
Company.

OPEN THE AIRSPACE

We build high-assurance certified third-party services (**3PS**) to open the sky for autonomous flight and scale advanced air mobility.

3PS (Third Party Services)

A distributed service provided by someone other than the vehicle operator or the ANSP. Examples include data suppliers (SDSP), UAM integration and air traffic services (PSU), and drone air traffic services (UTM).

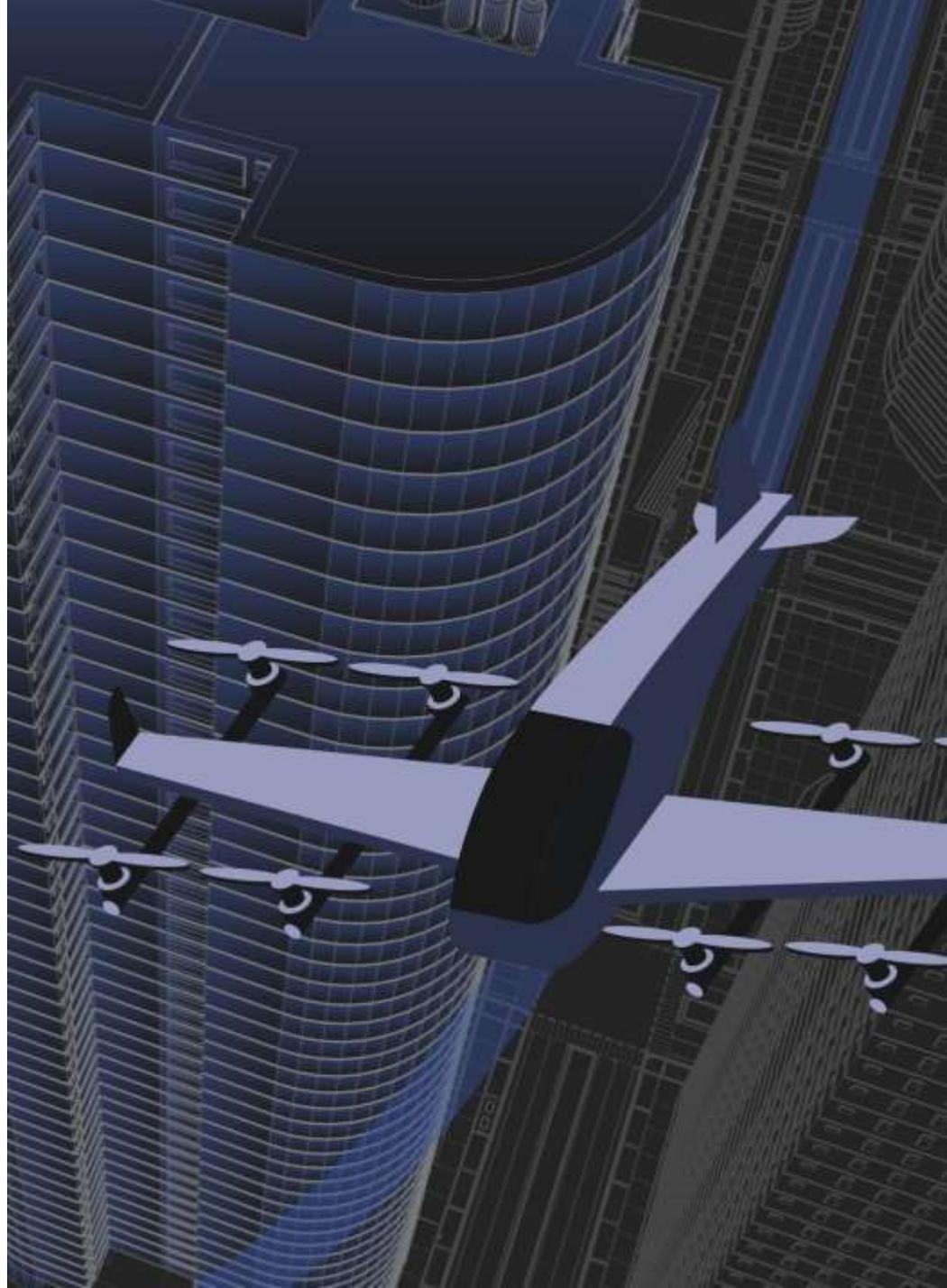


The Future of Aviation is Autonomous

Autonomous aviation and advanced aerial mobility (AAM) will **multiply** the positive economic and social impact of flight.

P1: As autonomous aircraft come to the market, we still face challenges in **integrating** and **operating** these aircraft in the airspace.

P2: Today's airspace is not configured to support UAS and AAM operations at **scale**.



Problem Space for Autonomous Flight Operations

		Integrate UAS Operations Required for operational approval				Automate Air Traffic Management Required to scale operations			
		High-integrity traffic	High-integrity data	CNS monitoring	Dispatch for autonomy	Strategic deconfliction	Separation support	Network contingency mgmt.	Conformance monitoring
	Autonomous eVTOL	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Autonomous CTOL	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
	Crewed eVTOL	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
	High Assurance sUAS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Autonomous / SPO Part 25	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓

Foundation: High-integrity data and services and common operating picture

What's a Digital Twin?

A set of virtual information constructs that mimic the structure, context, and behavior of an individual / unique physical asset, or a group of physical assets, is dynamically updated with data from its physical twin throughout its life cycle and informs decisions that realize value.

AIAA

A virtual replica of a physical entity that is synchronized across time. Digital twins exist to replicate configuration, performance, or history of a system.

US DOD

A set of virtual information constructs that mimics the structure, context, and behavior of a natural, engineered, or social system (or system-of-systems), is dynamically updated with data from its physical twin, has a predictive capability, and informs decisions that realize value. The bidirectional interaction between the virtual and the physical is central to the digital twin.

Committee on Foundational Research Gaps and Future Directions for Digital Twins, NAE

A virtual replica of a physical asset, system, or process that can monitor, model or simulate, analyze, and optimize the physical world. It aims to bridge the physical-digital gap at the right frequency and fidelity, enabling continuous improvements to performance and sustainability.

Capgemini Research Institute

A virtual representation of an object or system designed to reflect a physical object accurately. It spans the object's lifecycle, is updated from real-time data and uses simulation, machine learning and reasoning to help make decisions

IBM

The digital representation of the “current state” of a manufactured product or system at any given point in time –

David Grasso

An integrated multi-physics, multi-scale, probabilistic simulation of a complex product and uses the best available physical models, sensor updates, etc., to mirror the life of its corresponding twin.

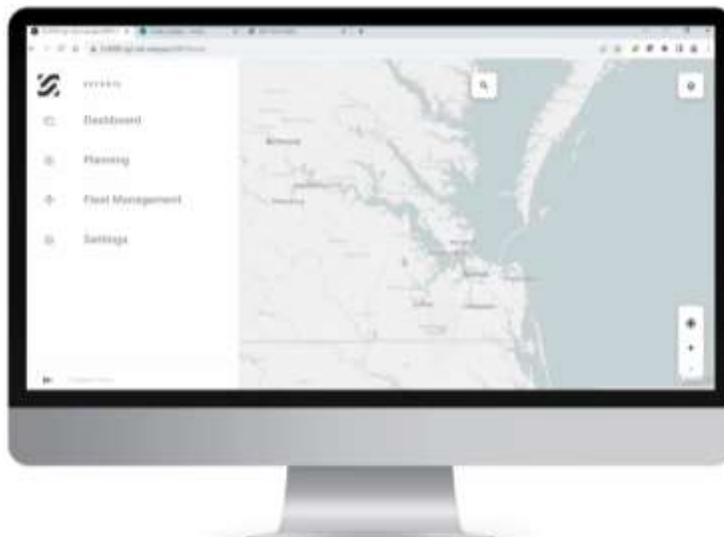
Glaessgen and Stargel

A computational model (or a set of coupled computational models) that evolves over time to persistently represent the structure, behavior, and context of a unique physical asset such as a component, system, or process

Kapteyn, Pretorius and Willcox

TLDR: it's a thing in the computer that's like a thing in the real world. The two are linked.





What we need for autonomy and scaled AAM operations:
 A high-integrity and fidelity digital twin of the operating environment

Enable Advanced Functions

- Hazard Awareness
- End-to-end ops optimization
- Conformance Monitoring
- Tactical Deconfliction
- Strategic Deconfliction
- Efficient Dispatch



Fleet Dispatcher
 Dispatch view and data for mission planning and optimization



AAM Traffic Manager
 Situational awareness and decision support



Remote Operator
 Operator view and data for situational awareness and decision support



SKYGRID

A Boeing,
SparkCognition
Company.

A high-integrity digital twin of the operating domain is the foundation for safe aviation autonomy

*You will of course also need digital twins of onboard systems, perhaps the operational intent, the vehicle and system in scaled simulation ... and of course, a safe autonomous aircraft =)

ICAO INNOVATION



A high-integrity digital twin of the operating domain is the foundation for safe aviation autonomy



-  We must think beyond the vehicle to make autonomy work. ICAO is leading here.
-  Elevate the integrity of data and functions to enable autonomy
-  Autonomy is a powerful forcing function for digitizing aviation
-  Empower 3rd party services via rulemaking and regulatory advances

Thank You



