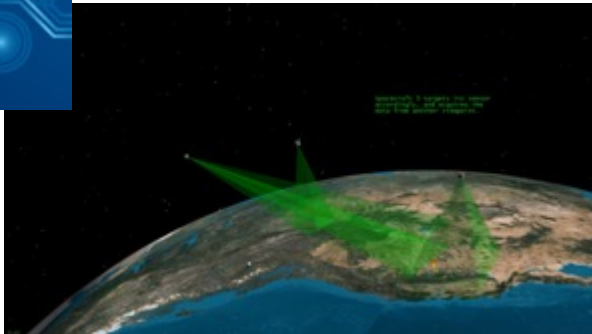
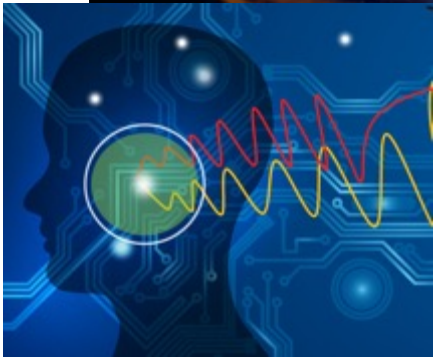




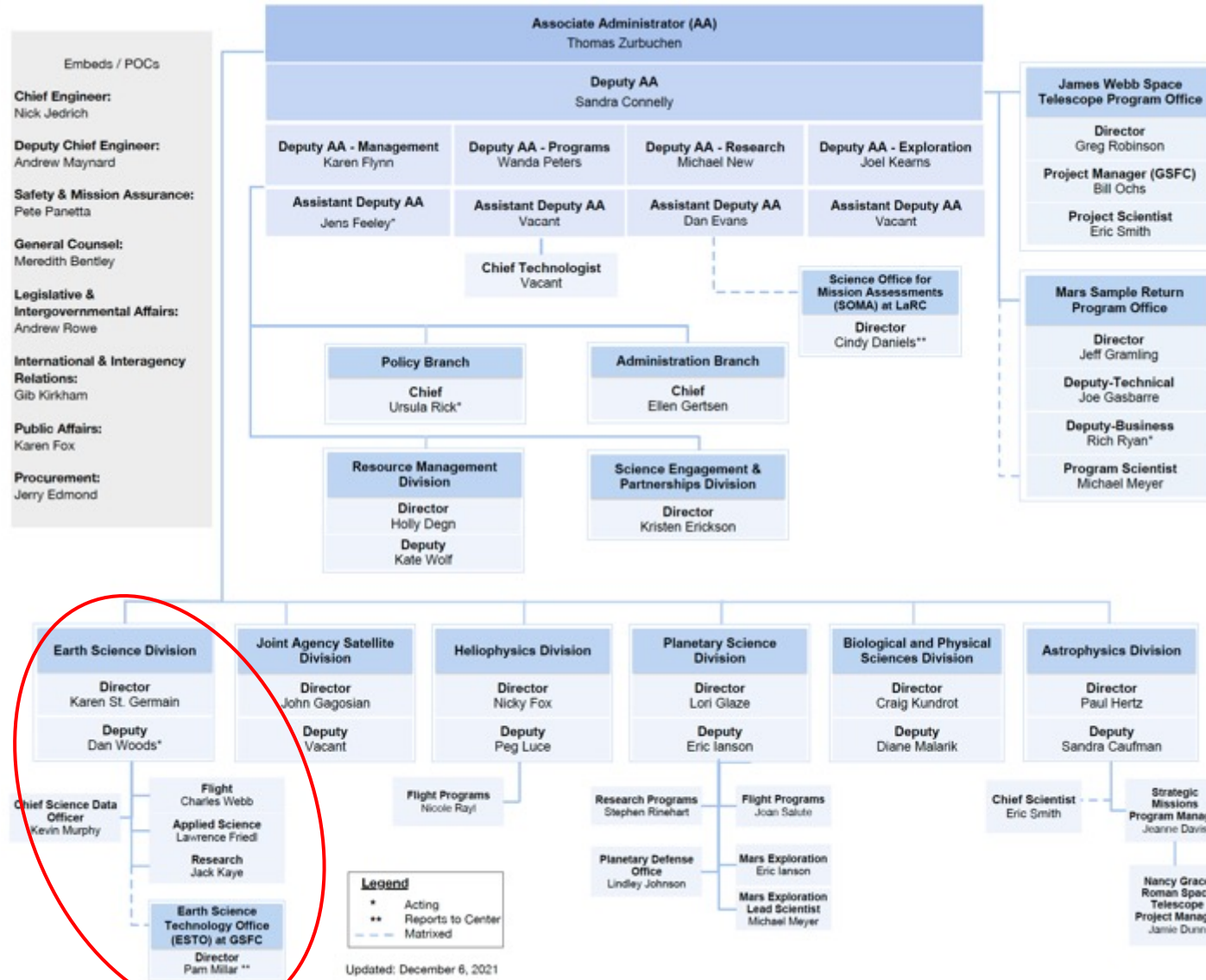
# NASA ESTO Advanced Information Systems Technology (AIST)



Jacqueline Le Moigne

November 2022

# NASA Science Mission Directorate



# Earth Science Technology Office



ESTO leads technology development activities for the Earth Science Division. Through a science-driven competitive process it enables the next generation of instruments and information systems that advance our ability to study the Earth.

ESTO comprises five program lines:

**ATIP**    ● Advanced Technology Initiatives Program

**IIP**    ● Instrument Incubator Program

**AIST**    ● Advanced Information Systems Technology

**DSI**    ● Decadal Survey Incubation

**FIRET**    ● Fire Technologies

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# ESTO and AIST Goals



- **ESTO Goals**

End-to-End Technology Development Approach

- Identify technology needs based on Decadal Survey and annual requirements reviews
- Develop technologies through competitive peer-reviewed solicitations
- Assess the development strategy and maturity of funded technologies and leverage investments through internal NASA program synergy and partnerships with federal agencies, academia, and industry
- Infuse maturing technologies into future missions and measurements

- **AIST Goals**

Innovate in technology development to enable:

- New and unique measurement collection capabilities through distributed sensing
- Optimizing Science missions return on investment through flexible and rapid information integration
- Agile Science investigations through data analytics and artificial intelligence tools and algorithms

# AIST Objectives



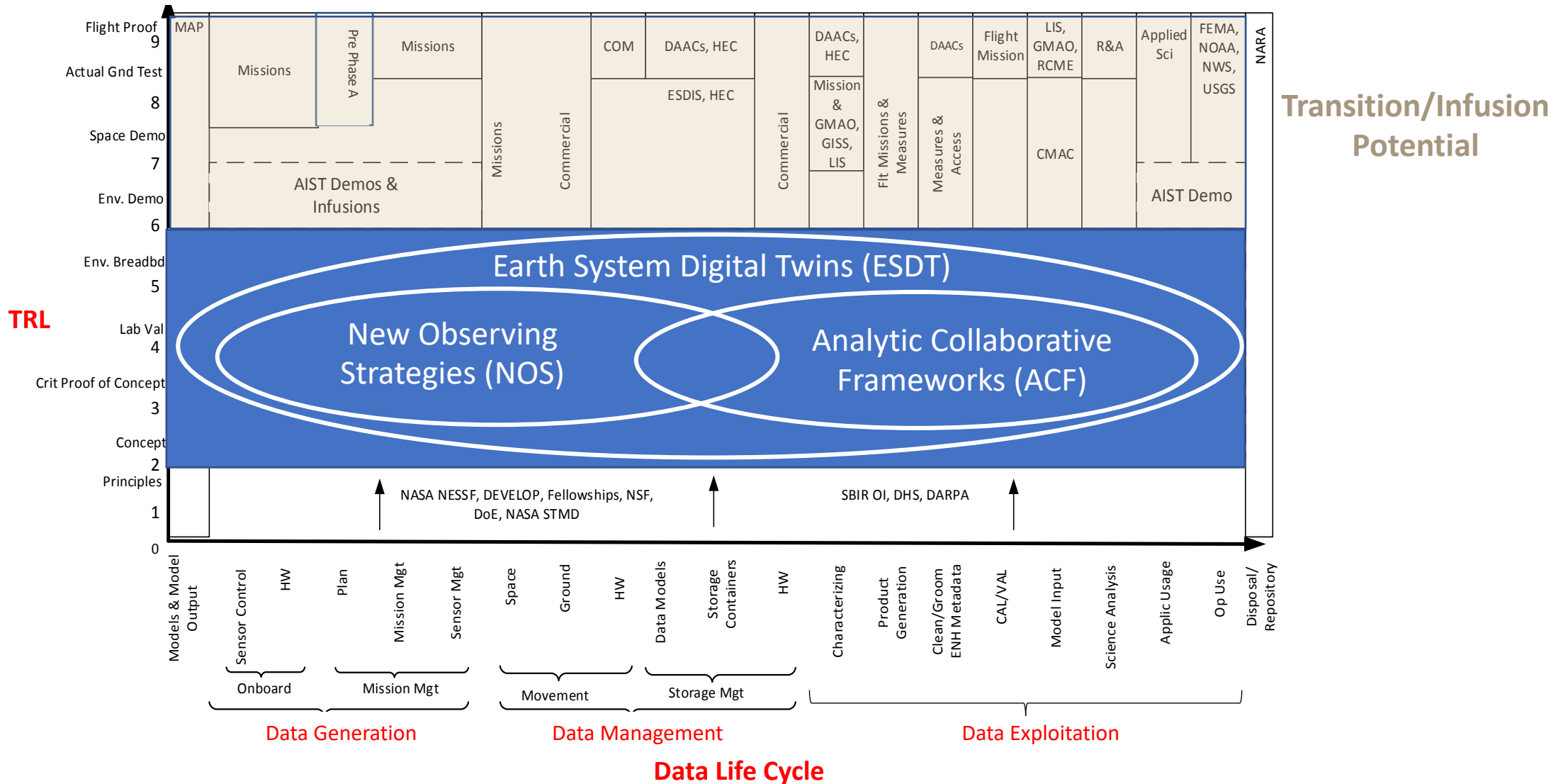
## Innovate in technologies that enable:

- O1. New observation measurements and new observing systems design and operations through intelligent, timely, dynamic, and coordinated distributed sensing  
=> **New Observing Strategies (NOS)**
- O2. Agile science investigations that fully utilize the large amount of diverse observations using advanced analytic tools, visualizations, and computing environments, and that interact seamlessly with relevant observing systems  
=> **Analytic Collaborative Frameworks (ACF)**
- O3. Developing integrated Earth Science frameworks that mirror the Earth with state-of-the-art models (Earth system models and others), timely and relevant observations, and analytic tools. This thrust will provide technology for enabling near- and long-term science\* and policy decisions  
=> **Earth System Digital Twins (ESDT)**

## More generally, provide "Science Data Intelligence"

\* "Science decisions" including planning for the acquisition of new measurements; the development of new models or science analysis; the integration of Earth observations in novel ways; applications to inform choices, support decisions, and guide actions for societal benefit; etc.

# AIST Program Scope



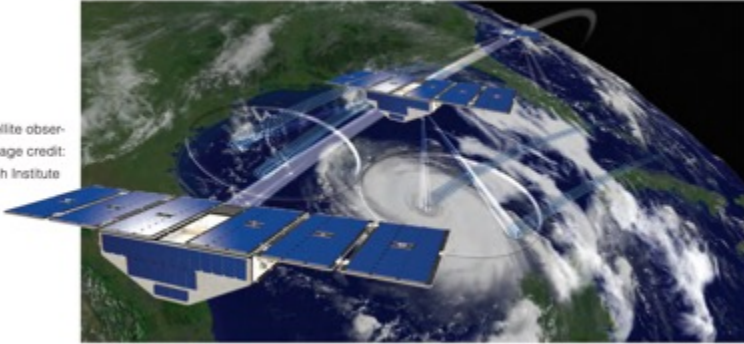
# New Observing Strategies (NOS)



# NOS for Optimizing Measurements Design & Dynamically Capturing full Science Events



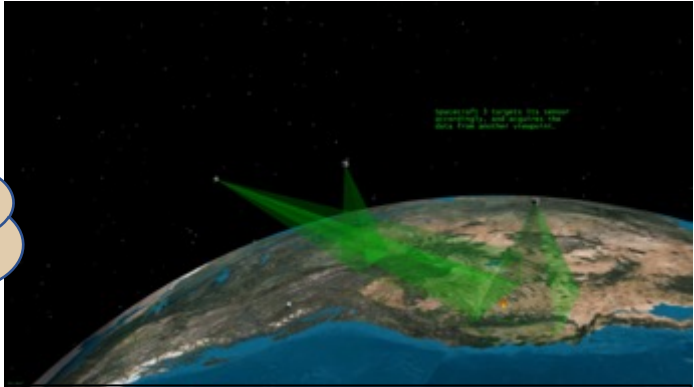
CYGNSS microsatellite observatories in orbit. Image credit: Southwest Research Institute



**Distributed Spacecraft Mission (DSM):** mission involving multiple spacecraft to achieve one or more common goals.

Provide complete picture of physical processes or natural phenomena

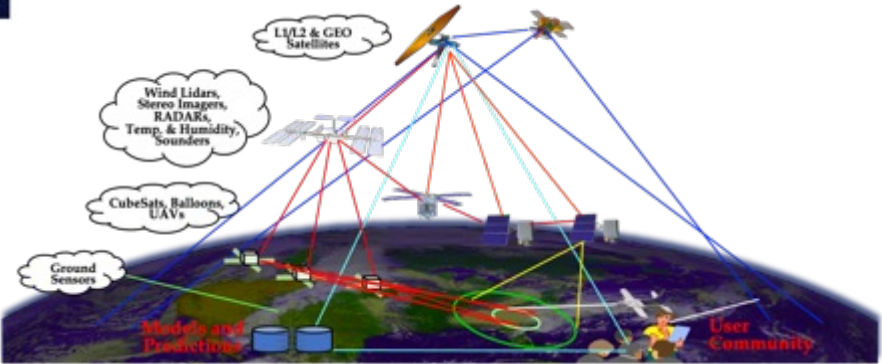
Increased understanding and predictability of dynamic events on Earth.



A special case of DSM is an **Intelligent and Collaborative Constellation (ICC)** which involves the combination of:

- Real-time data understanding
- Situational awareness
- Problem solving;
- Planning and learning from experience
- Communications & cooperation between several S/C

Multiple collaborative nodes from multiple organizations (NASA, OGAs, Industry, Academia, International) from multiple vantage points and in multiple dimensions (spatial, spectral, temporal, radiometric)



A **SensorWeb** is a distributed system of *sensing nodes* (space, air or ground) that are interconnected by a *communications fabric* and that functions as a single, highly coordinated, virtual instrument.

Actively acquire data in coordination with other sensors, models in response to measurement needs and/or science events

**OBJECTIVES:**

**1. Design and develop New Observing Concepts:**

- From Decadal Survey or Model; **Various size spacecraft; Systems of systems (Internet-of-Space); Various organizations**
- **Perform trades** on sensor number/type, spacecraft, orbits; resolutions; onboard vs. on-the-ground computing; inter-sensor communications, etc.
- System being **designed in advance** as a mission or observing system or **incrementally and dynamically over time**

**2. Respond to various science and applied science events of interest:** Various overall observation timeframes; Various area coverages; Dynamic/Timely; Scheduling, re-targeting/re-pointing assets, as possible

**System-of-Systems NOS-Testbed** for technologies & concepts validation, demonstration, comparison and socialization

# NOS Application Cases



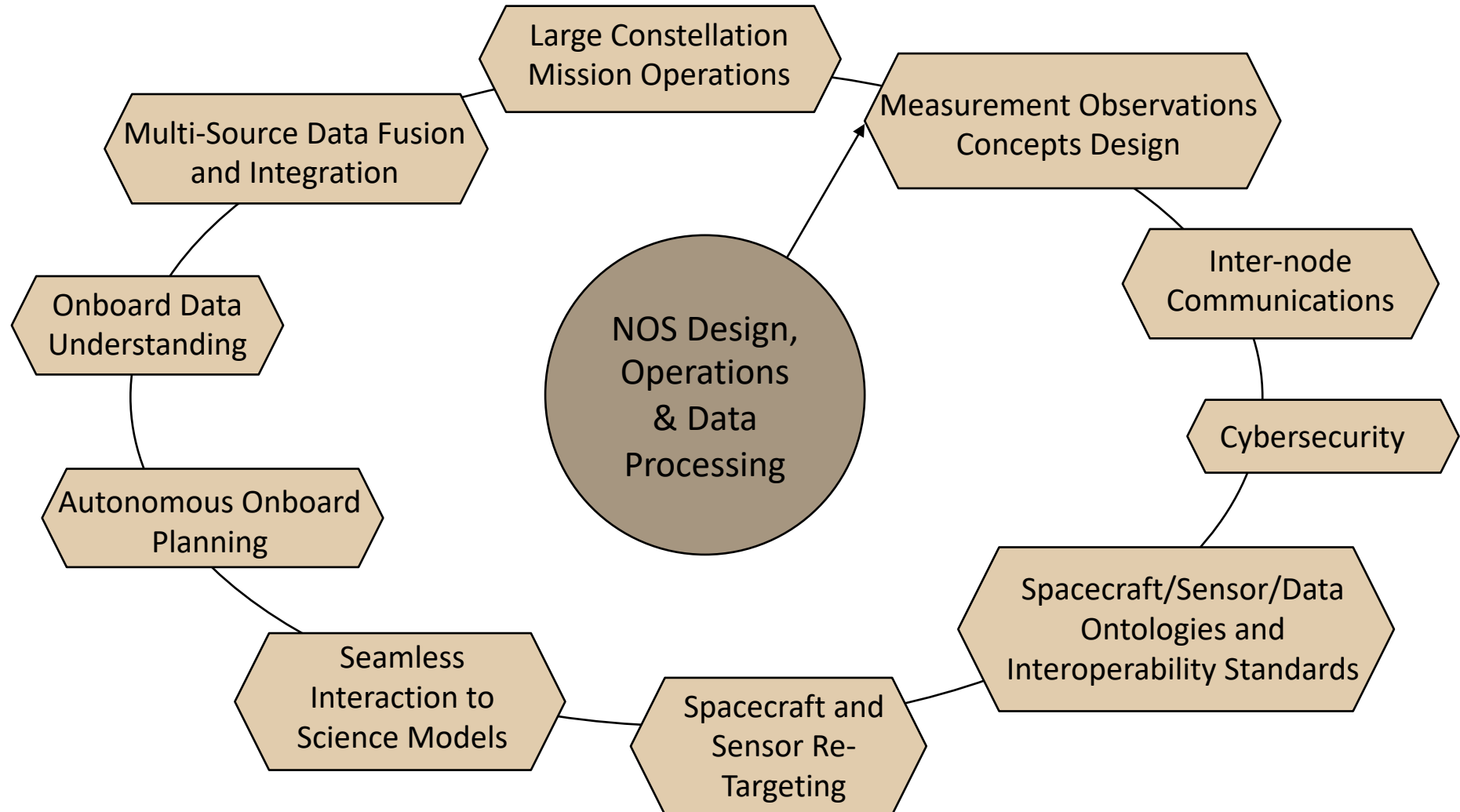
<b>Mission Type</b> <i>Timeframe</i> <i>Application</i>	<b>Tactical Observing System</b> <i>Seconds-minutes</i> <i>Point event/phenomenon</i>	<b>Operational Observing System</b> <i>Hours-days</i> <i>Spatial phenomenon</i>	<b>Strategic Observing System</b> <i>Months-years</i> <i>Spatial-temporal phenomenon</i>
<i>Example</i>	<i>Detect and observe volcanic activity</i>	<i>Increase spatial observation of primary forest burning as input into long-term Air Quality and Climate models</i>	<i>Select observing strategy to optimize all measurements that will improve hydrologic estimates</i>
<b>Functions</b>	Detect emergent event Deploy observation assets	Deploy observation assets Digest information sources	Design observation system Digest information sources
<b>Capabilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsiveness</li> <li>• Interaction</li> <li>• Dynamics</li> <li>• Adaptation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resource allocation</li> <li>• Coordination</li> <li>• Data assimilation</li> <li>• Prediction/ forecasting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Platform selection</li> <li>• Coordination</li> <li>• Data assimilation</li> <li>• State estimation (belief)</li> </ul>

# Technologies Needed for NOS



## Some Examples of Capabilities Needed Onboard:

- Recognizing science events of interest
- Exchanging data inter-spacecraft
- Analyzing data for optimal science return
- Reconfiguring the spacecraft based on coordinated observations



# AIST-18 NOS Awards



## • NOS-T Relevant

PI's Name	Organization	Title	Synopsis
Mahta Moghaddam	U. of Southern California	SPCTOR: Sensing Policy Controller and Optimizer	Multi-sensor coordinated operations and integration for soil moisture, using ground-based and UAVs "Sensing Agents".
Jim Carr	Carr Astro	StereoBit: Advanced Onboard Science Data Processing to Enable Future Earth Science	SmallSat/CubeSat high-level onboard science data processing demonstrated for multi-angle imagers, using SpaceCube processor and CMIS Instrument, and Structure from Motion (SfM).
Sreeja Nag	NASA ARC	D-SHIELD: Distributed Spacecraft with Heuristic Intelligence to Enable Logistical Decisions	Suite of scalable software tools - Scheduler, Science Simulator, Analyzer to schedule the payload ops of a large constellation based on DSM constraints (mech, orb), resources, and subsystems. Can run on ground or onboard.
Paul Grogan	Stevens Institute of Technology	Integrating TAT-C, STARS, and VCE for New Observing Strategy Mission Design	Inform selection and maturation of Pre-Phase A distributed space mission concept, by integrating: TAT-C: architecture enumeration and high-level evaluation (cost, coverage, quality); STARS: autonomous/adaptive sensor interaction (COLLABORATE); VCE: onboard computing and networking

## • OSSEs (Observing System Simulation Experiments)

PI's Name	Organization	Title	Synopsis
Derek Posselt	NASA JPL	Parallel OSSE Toolkit	Fast-turnaround, scalable OSSE Toolkit to support both rapid and thorough exploration of the trade space of possible instrument configurations, with full assessment of the science fidelity, using cluster computing.
Bart Forman	U. of Maryland	Next Generation of Land Surface Remote Sensing	Create a terrestrial hydrology OSSE/mission planning tool with relevance to terrestrial snow, soil moisture, and vegetation using passive/active microwave RS, LiDAR, passive optical RS, hydrologic modeling, and data assimilation, using LIS and TAT-C.
Ethan Gutmann	UCAR	Future Snow Missions: Integrating SnowModel in LIS	Improve NASA modeling capabilities for snow OSSE, to plan and operate a future cost-effective snow mission by coupling the SnowModel modeling system into NASA LIS.

# AIST-21 NOS Awards



## • NOS for Smart Sensors and Onboard Intelligence

PI's Name	Organization	Title	Synopsis
William Blackwell	MIT Lincoln Labs	Sensor-in-the-Loop Testbed to Enable Versatile/Intelligent/Dynamic Earth Observation (VIDEO)	Develops a methodology and test approach for a scene measured by a sensor to be able to configure the sensor in real-time during the scene measurement. Will significantly improve the resolution of the retrieved atmospheric fields in regions in which that improvement is most beneficial, while conserving resources in other regions. Includes two components: (1) Radiometric Scene Generator (RSG) using advanced metamaterial and its associated control software; (2) Intelligent processing and configuration software using feature detection and ML, running onboard the sensor, to detect and react to changes by dynamically optimizing the sensor response functions.
James Carr	Carr Astronautics	Edge Intelligence for Hyperspectral Applications in Earth Science for New Observing Systems	Will use the SpaceCube processor and its Low-power Edge Artificial Intelligence Resilient Node (SC-LEARN) coprocessor powered by Google Coral Edge Tensor Processing Units (TPUs) to implement two AI science use cases in hyperspectral remote sensing: (1) Use learned spectral signatures of clear-sky scenes to retrieve surface reflectance and therefore increase the efficiency of collecting land observations on ~68% cloudy planet (e.g., for SBG); (2) Classify artificial light sources after training against a catalog of lighting types. SC-LEARN will fly on STP-H9/SCENIC to the ISS with a Headwall Photonics HyperspecMV hyperspectral imager.
James MacKinnon	NASA Goddard Space Flight Center	Multi-Path Fusion Machine Learning for New Observing System Design and Operations	Proposes to develop a system based on data fusion and multi-path neural network ML to aid in the design and operation of multi-sensor NOS concepts. Will build ML-enabled analytic tools and advanced computing environment capabilities for NOS workflows that utilize large amounts of diverse airborne and satellite observations. Using multiple neural networks working in parallel, it will first be demonstrated with a forest productivity use case, with fusion of lidar, spectrometry, satellite-derived climatology and ecosystem modeling providing insights into the driving environmental factors that influence productivity. Then will be used for sensitivity studies to guide sensor and mission requirements traceability.
Daniel Selva	Texas A&M Univ.	3D-CHESS: Decentralized, distributed, dynamic and context-aware heterogeneous sensor systems	Proposes to demonstrate proof of concept for a context-aware Earth observing sensor web consisting of a set of nodes with a knowledge base, heterogeneous sensors, edge computing, and autonomous decision-making capabilities. Context awareness refers to the nodes' ability to gather, exchange, and leverage contextual information to improve decision making and planning. Will demonstrate and characterize the technology in a multi-sensor in-land hydrologic and ecologic monitoring system performing 4 inter-dependent missions: studying non-perennial rivers and extreme water storage fluctuations in reservoirs and detecting and tracking ice jams and algal blooms.

# AIST-21 NOS Awards (cont.)



## • NOS for UAS Integration and NOS Prototypes

PI's Name	Organization	Title	Synopsis
Meghan Chandarana	NASA Ames Research Center	Intelligent Long Endurance Observing System	Proposes the development of the Intelligent Long Endurance Observing System (ILEOS) to help scientists build plans to improve spatio-temporal resolution of climate-relevant gases by fusing coarse-grained sensor data from satellites and other sources and plan High-Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) UAS flights to obtain finer-grain data. ILEOS will also enable observations for longer periods and of environments not accessible through in-situ observations and field campaigns. 3 components: (1) the Target Generation Pipeline to identify candidate target scenes; (2) the Science Observation Planner using automated planning and scheduling technology to automatically generate a flight plan; and (3) a Scientists' User Interface.
Carl Legleiter	USGS	An Intelligent Systems Approach to Measuring Surface Flow Velocities in River Channels	Will develop a New Observing Strategy (NOS) for measuring streamflow from a UAS using an intelligent system. Using the USGS/NASA UAS-based payload for measuring surface flow velocities in rivers (USGS & NASA), consisting of thermal/visible cameras, a laser range finder, and an embedded compute (integrated within a common software middleware), it will address both quality control during routine streamgaging operations by quantifying uncertainty, as well as autonomous route-finding during hazardous flood conditions using inter-sensor communications. Will be implemented for real-time processing onboard the platform.
Carrie Vuyovich	NASA Goddard Space Flight Center	A New Snow Observing Strategy in Support of Hydrological Science and Applications	Will develop the Snow Observing System (SOS) considering the most critical snow data needs along with existing and expected observations, models, and a future snow satellite mission. It will estimate SWE and snow melt throughout the season, targeting obs with the greatest impact. It will: evaluate/combine observations from existing missions; create a hypothetical experiment to determine optimal observing strategy; assess value of new potential sensors, e.g., commercial SS for filling gaps and higher frequency obs. Higher density observations for early warning in regions where concerns for flood, drought or wildfires will also be studied.

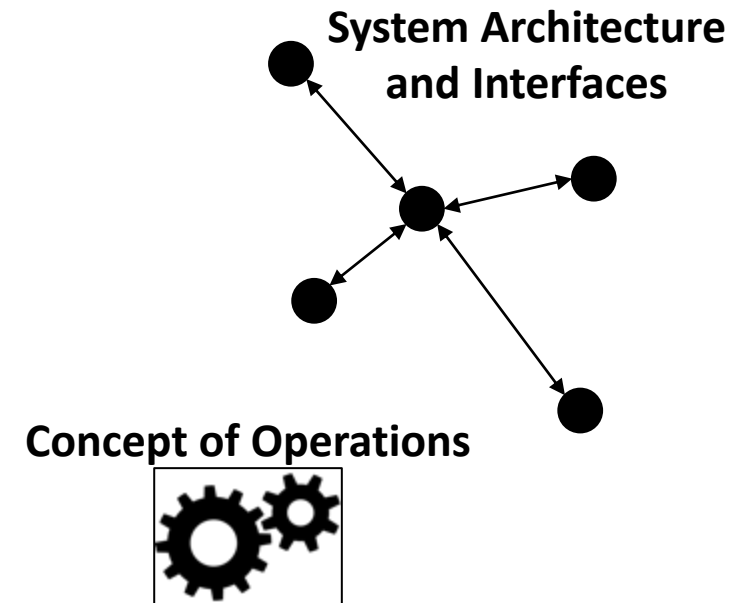
# New Observing Strategies Testbed



- Technologies to be deployed should be first integrated into a working **breadboard** where the components can be debugged and performance and behavior characterized and tuned-up.
- A system of this complexity should not be expected to work without full integration and experimental characterization as a “system of systems”

## Testbed Main Goals:

1. Validate new DSM/NOS technologies, independently and as a system
2. Demonstrate novel distributed operations concepts
3. Enable meaningful comparisons of competing technologies
4. Socialize new DSM technologies and concepts to the science community by significantly retiring the risk of integrating these new technologies.



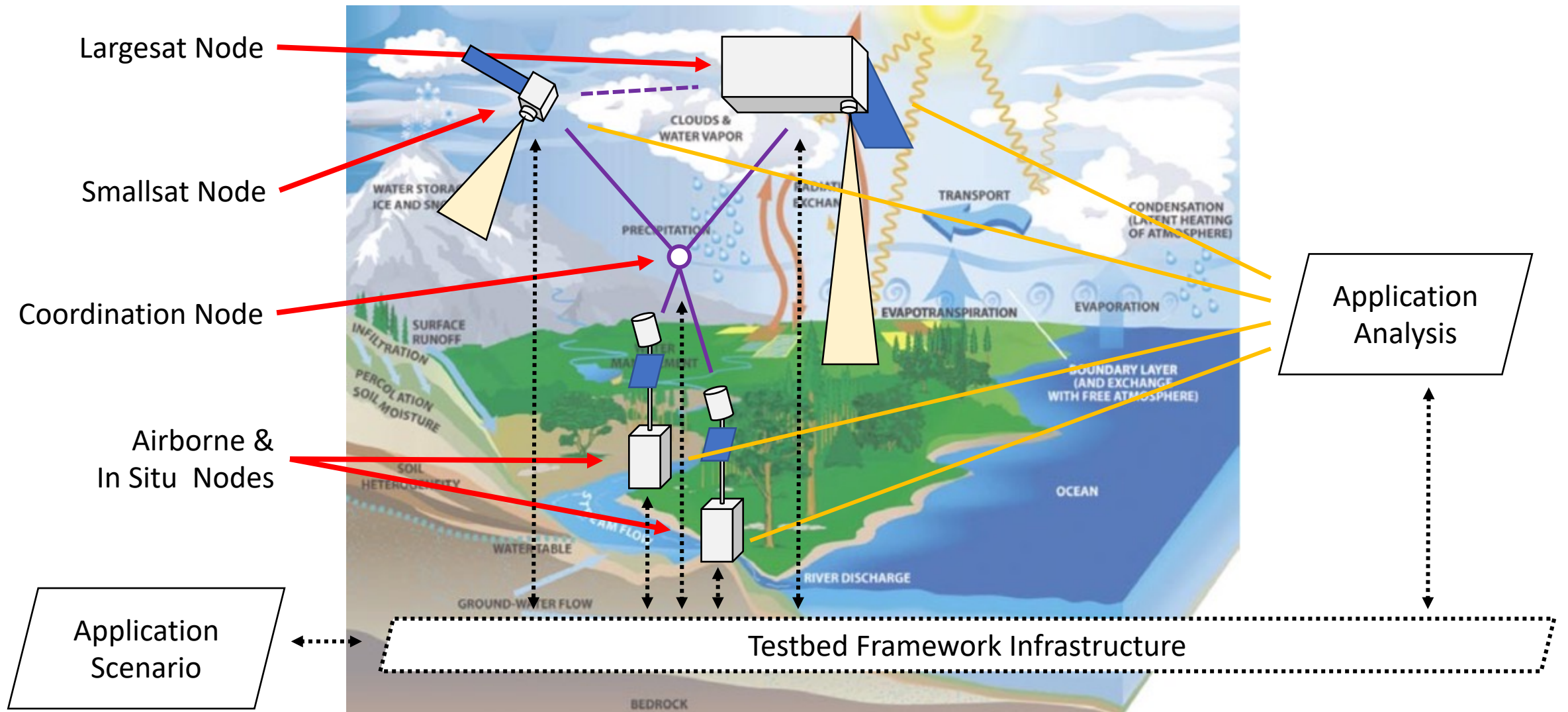
NOS-T framework objective:

**Enable disparate organizations to propose and participate in developing NOS software and information technology**

Governance Model



# NOS Testbed Concept





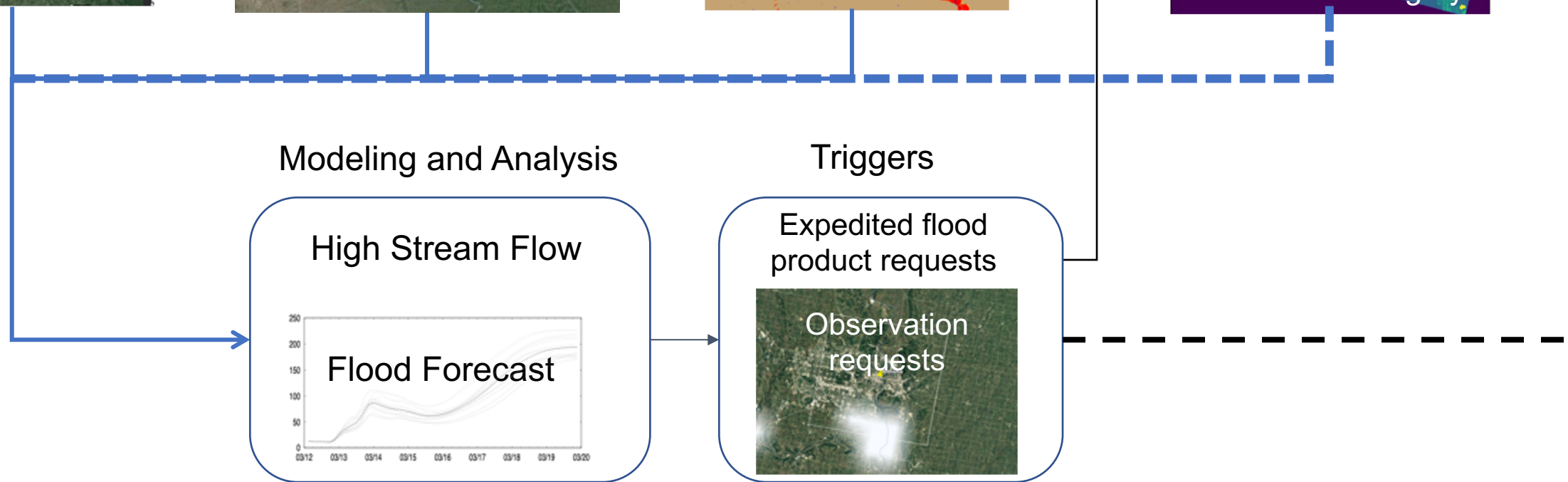
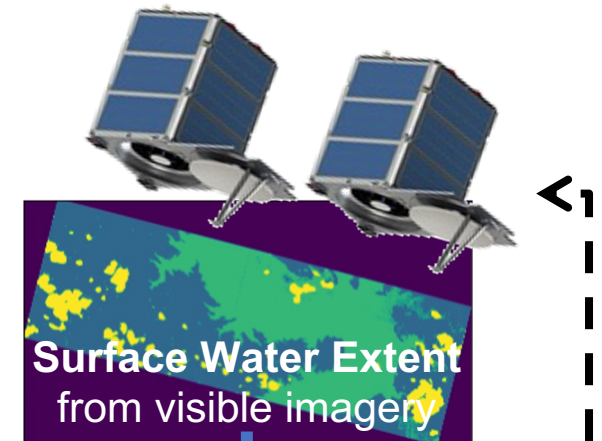
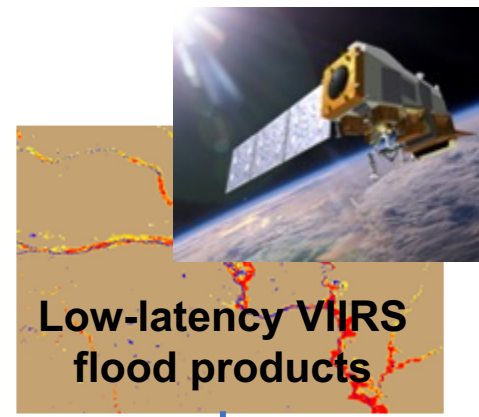
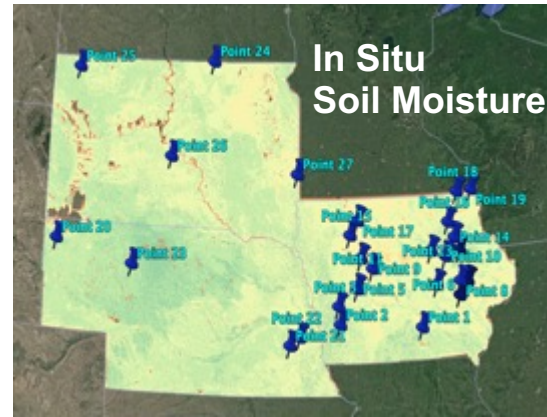
# NOS-T Architecture and Pilot Projects



PI's Name	Organization	Emails	Title	Synopsis
Tom McDermott & Paul Grogan & Jerry Sellers	Systems Engineering Research Center (SERC)	tmcdermo@stevens.edu; pgrogan@stevens.edu; jsellers@tsti.net	New Observing Strategies Testbed (NOS-T) Design and Development	Design the NOS-T framework to enable system-of systems experiments and testing; enable multi-party and geographically distributed participation and connected tests and operations; enables both open community and protected exchange of measurement data; provide a communications infrastructure; and simulate actual operational security challenges.
Chad Frost & Daniel Cellucci	NASA Ames	chad@nasa.gov; daniel.w.cellucci@nasa.gov	Earth Science "Tip and Cue" Technologies for a New Observing Strategy	Extend the capabilities of the Generalized Nanosatellite Avionics Testbed (G-NAT) and networked, state-of-the-art, miniaturized, tracking and sensing devices (termed 'tags'), developed in collaboration with USGS, to enable a tip-and-cue architecture for dynamically reconfigurable remote sensing.
Sujay Kumar & Rhae Sung Kim	NASA Goddard	sujay.v.kumar@nasa.gov; rhaesung.kim@nasa.gov	A Hydrology Mission Design and Analysis System (H-MIDAS)	Extend LIS capabilities to: support the incorporation of distributed sensor observations for hydrology; support the development of observation operators; perform data assimilation simulations and provide feedback to the observing systems.
Steve Chien & James Mason	NASA JPL	steve.a.chien@jpl.nasa.gov; james.mason@jpl.nasa.gov	Planning and Scheduling for Coordinated Observations	Develop a planning and scheduling framework for the NOS Testbed that will coordinate multiple observing assets (e.g. space, air, land) to perform coordinated and continuous measurements at varying scales (e.g. spatial, temporal).
Dan Crichton & Cedric David	NASA JPL	daniel.j.crichton@jpl.nasa.gov; cedric.david@jpl.nasa.gov	NOS Testbed Study and Science Use Cases Identification	Contribute to the definition of the NOS Testbed by identifying science use cases, observing assets, requirements, interfaces, and other design recommendations in close collaboration with the NOS Testbed Definition activity.
Louis Nguyen	NASA LaRC		Ground Stations as a Service (GSaS) for Near Real-time Direct Broadcast Earth Science Satellite Data	Utilize GSaS to receive direct broadcast (DB) data from EOS to significantly reduce latency in acquiring LEO satellite observations (e.g., from 3-6 hours to 20-25 mins). It will provide ability to receive low latency LEO data without the need to own/maintain DB ground station; improve NASA Earth Science's ability to deliver lower latency products and therefore increasing optimal use; provide NOS with capability to schedule, coordinate, receive, and process DB data from EOS.
Jay Ellis	KBR/GSFC	nathaniel.j.ellis@nasa.gov	NOS Testbed Administration and Management	Administer and manage the NOS Testbed for disparate organizations to propose and participate in developing NOS software and information systems technology capabilities and services.

# NOS-Testbed Hydrology Demonstrations

March 2021 – Historical Nebraska Flood + Live Mid-West Flood

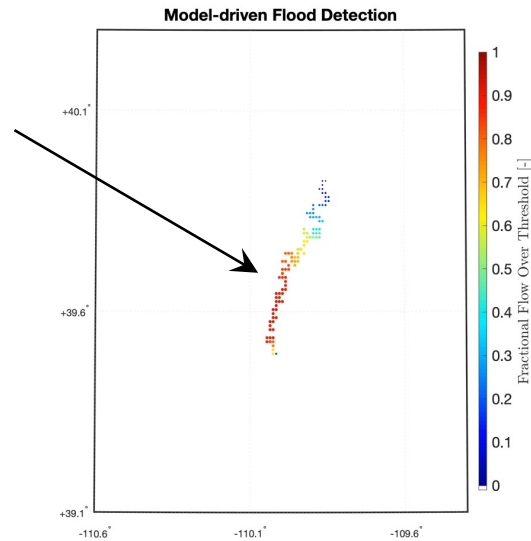


# NOS-L: Autonomous, Model-driven Tasking of Flood Events

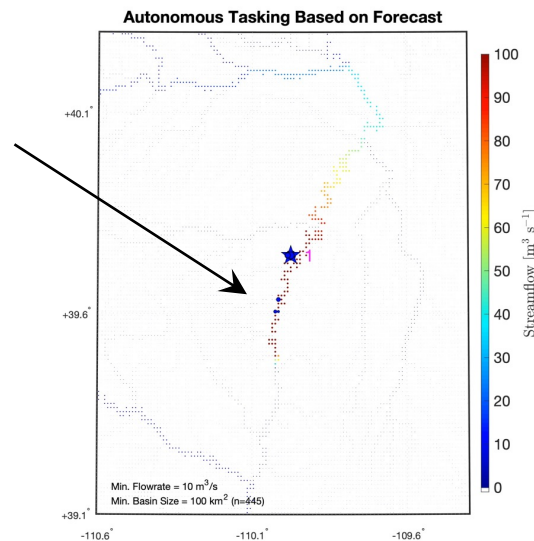


Successful NOS-L end-to-end live demonstration

**flood wave**  
exceeding  
climatological  
threshold



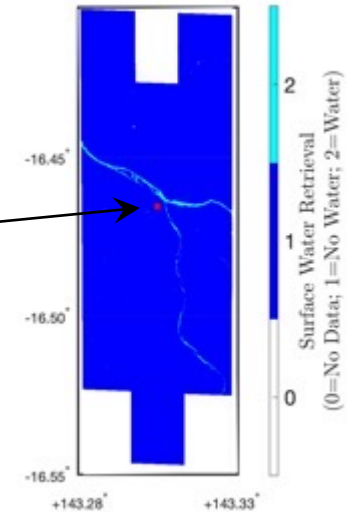
**model-driven tasking** of commercial satellites for observation collection (different marker sizes represent different forecast lead times)



Automated tasking enables timely, coincident observation collection to improve model predictions via data assimilation

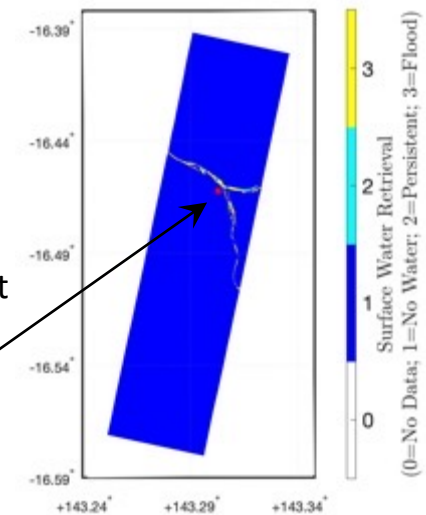
**Planet**

surface water extent retrieval via **VIS/NIR radiometry** (targeted location in red)



**Capella Space**

surface water extent retrieval via **X-band SAR** (targeted location in red)



# Analytic Collaborative Frameworks (ACF)

# NOS and ACF for Science Data Intelligence



*Optimize measurement acquisition using many diverse observing capabilities, collaborating across multiple dimensions and creating a unified architecture*

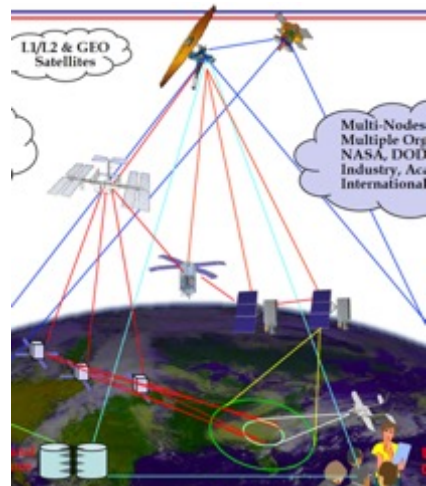
Assimilate Observations

*Enhance and enable focused Science investigations by facilitating access, integration and understanding of disparate datasets using pioneering visualization and analytics tools as well as relevant computing environments*

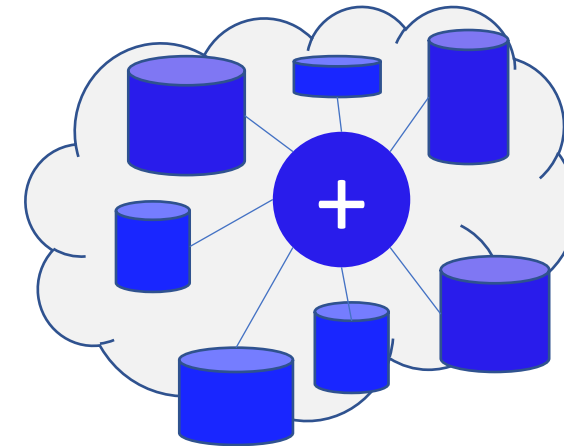
## New Observing Strategies (NOS)

## Analytic Collaborative Frameworks (ACF)

Acquire coordinated observations



Track dynamic and spatially distributed phenomena



Assimilate many various data into models and analytic workflows.

What additional observations are needed?

*Example: NOS Testbed Demonstration planned for Spring 2021 targeting Mid-West Floods with LIS Models as well as Space and ground observations*

Observation Requests

*Example: OceanWorks, ACF for Ocean Science <https://oceanworks.jpl.nasa.gov>*

**NOS+ACF acquires and integrates complementary and coincident data to build a more complete and in-depth picture of science phenomena**

# From Archives to Analytic Frameworks

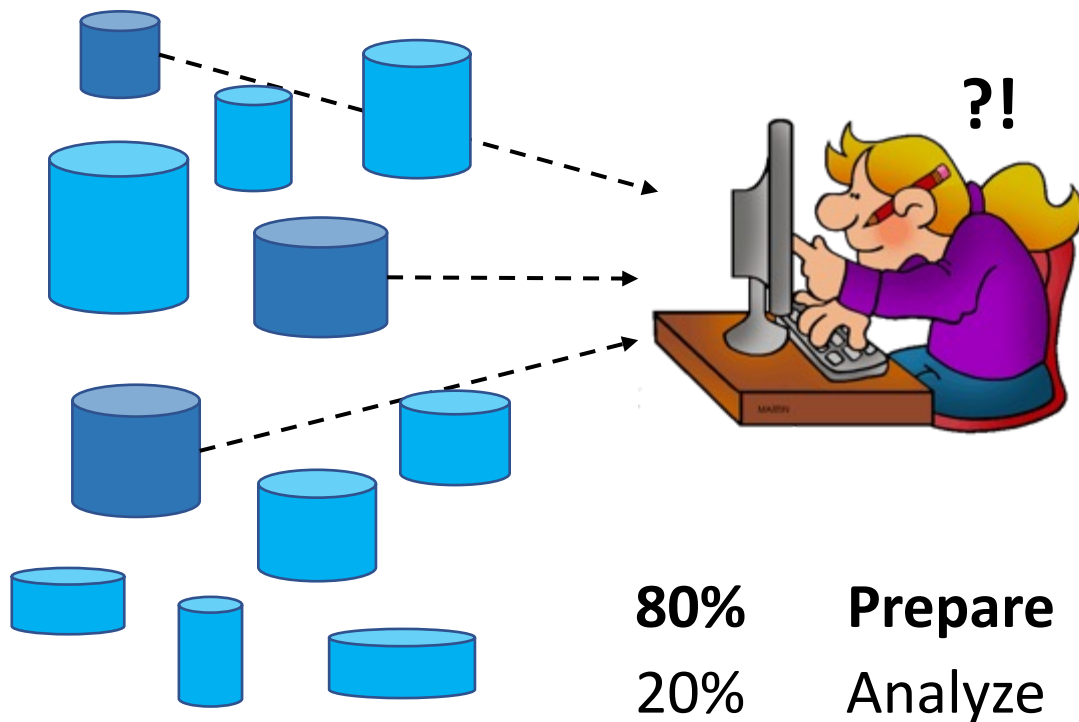
*Focus on the Science User*



## Data Archives

*Focus on data capture, storage, and management*

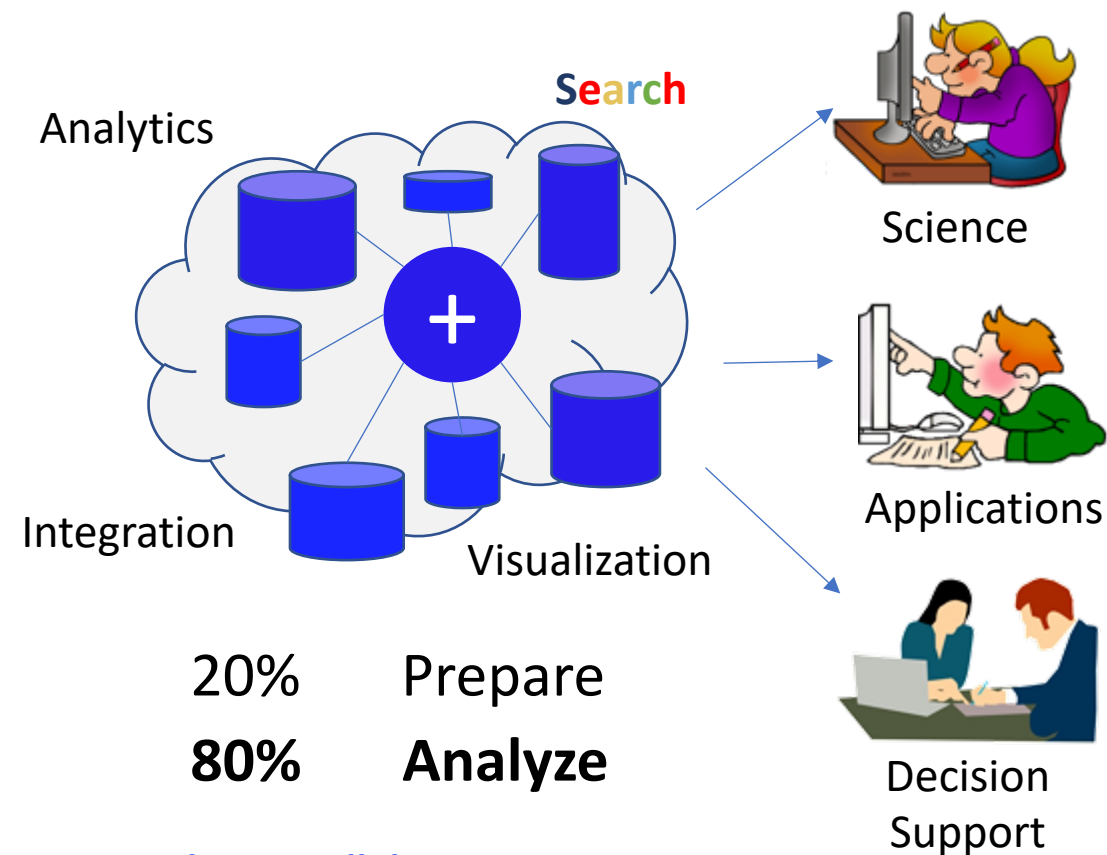
Each user has to find, download, integrate, and analyze



## Analytic Centers

*Focus on the science user*

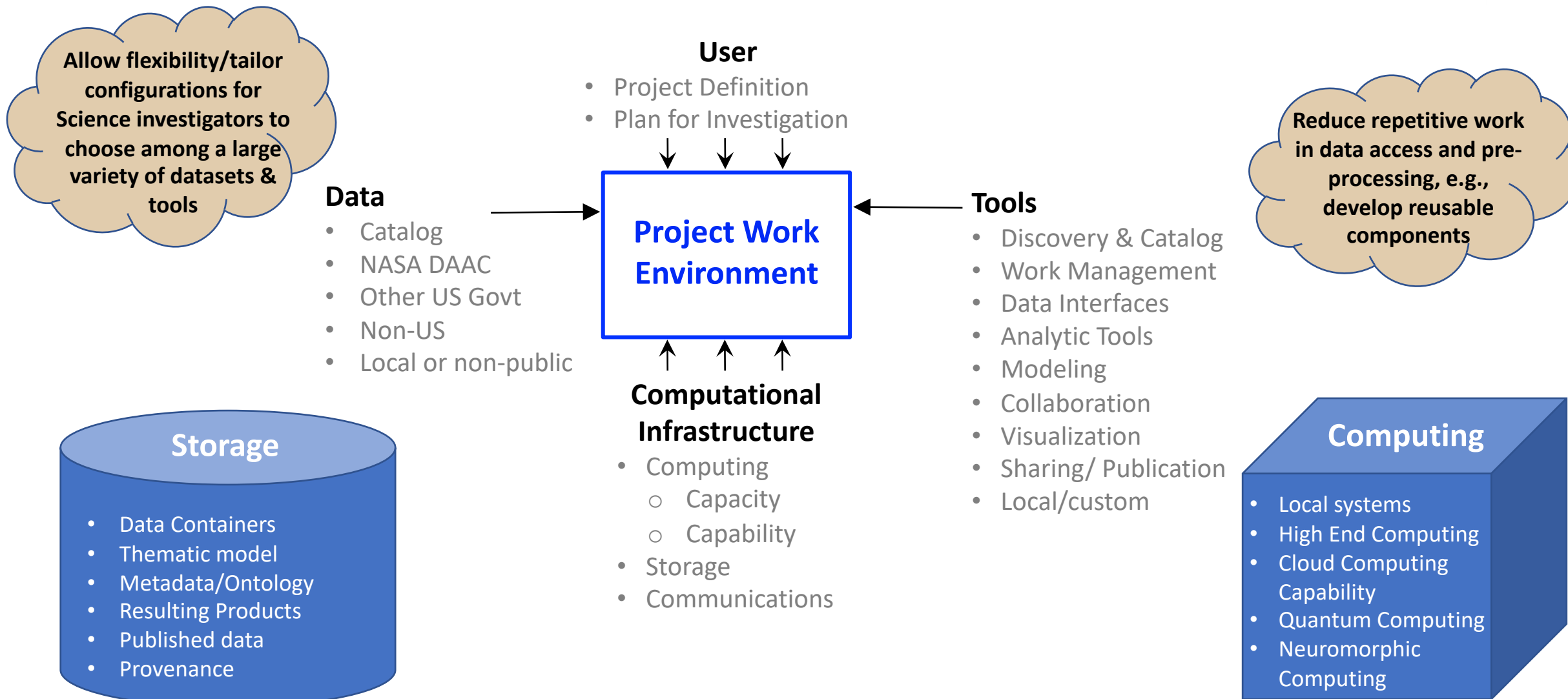
Integrated data analytics & tools tailored for a science discipline



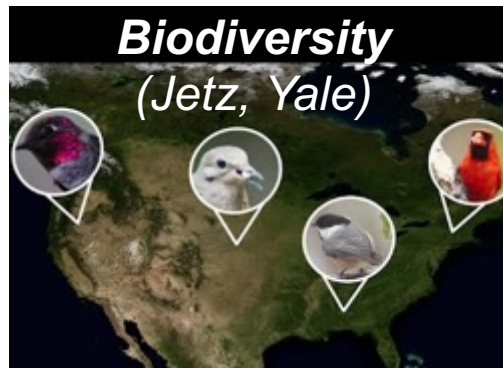
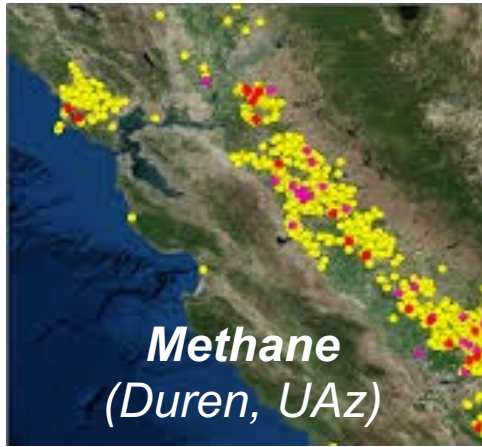
*Facilitates collaborative science across multiple missions and data sets*

# Analytic Collaborative Frameworks (ACF)

*Focus is on the Science User*



# Analytic Collaborative Frameworks (ACF) support various Earth Science Disciplines





# Analytic Collaborative Frameworks (ACF)

*Focus is on the Science User*



## Develop ACFs for new science domains:

- Manage large data volumes
- Manage wide variety of data types
- Manage frequent data updates (high data velocity)

## AI CAPABILITIES:

- Machine Learning
- Deep Learning
- Data Services Discovery
- Uncertainty Quantification Methods

## ADVANCED ANALYTICS:

- Data Accessibility
- Data Fusion
- Big Data Analytics
- Data Mining
- On-Demand Product Generation
- Data Operations Workflows
- Data Incorporation of Metadata, Provenance, Semantics, etc.

## Data

- Catalog
- NASA DAAC
- Other US Govt
- Non-US
- Local or non-public

## User

- Project Definition
- Plan for Investigation



## Tools

- Discovery & Catalog
- Work Management
- Data Interfaces
- Analytic Tools
- Modeling
- Collaboration
- Visualization
- Sharing/ Publication
- Local/custom

## Computational Infrastructure

- Computing
  - Capacity
  - Capability
- Storage
- Communications

## IMPROVED MODELING CAPABILITIES:

- Science Data Model Validation
- Software Architecture Frameworks
- Science Code Development & Reuse
- Modeling Systems
- Model Data Inter-Comparisons
- Custom Tools
- Forecasting/Prediction

## Storage

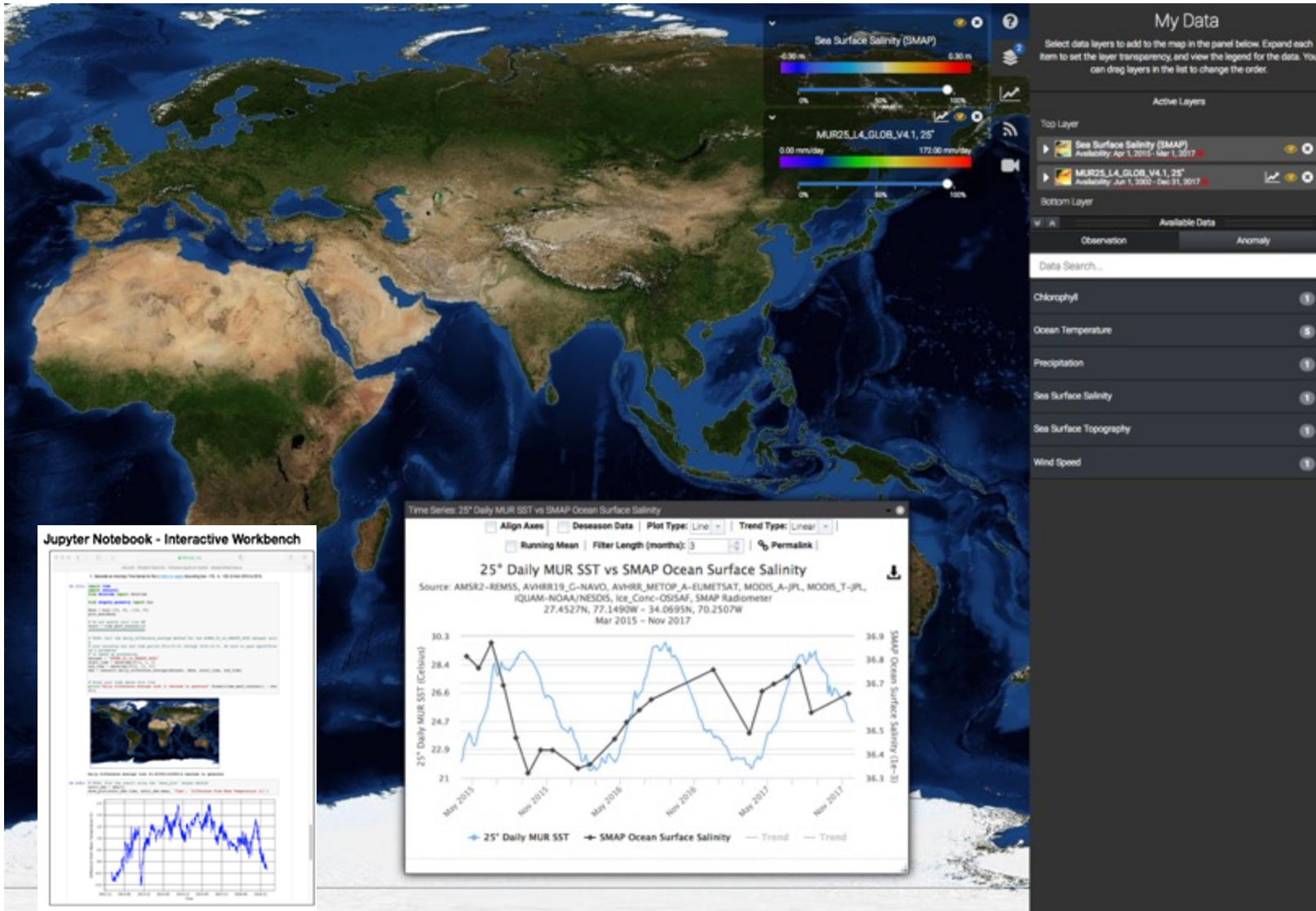
- Data Containers
- Thematic model
- Metadata/Ontology
- Resulting Products
- Published data
- Provenance

## Computing

- Local systems
- High End Computing
- Cloud Computing Capability
- Quantum Computing
- Neuromorphic Computing

# ACF Example – OceanWorks

## An Analytic Collaborative Framework (ACF) for Ocean Science



### Dozens of Ocean Data Sets

- Stored in the cloud
- Integrated, ready to use
- Organized for fast search, subset and analysis

### Search

- Find relevant data sets

### Cloud-based analytics

- Analyze years of data over multiple data sets in seconds... without downloading data
- Run analytics across multiple data sets despite differences in scale, times, granules, etc.

### Custom analytics

- Scientists can also run their own custom tools and algorithms

### Integrated data

- Match up in-situ and remote sensing data, despite differences in scale and resolution

### Visualization

- Subsets, layers, animations. Integrates with ArcGIS and Jupyter Notebooks

<https://oceanworks.jpl.nasa.gov>

# AIST-18 ACF Awards



## • Biodiversity ACF

Award #	PI's Name	Organization	Title	Synopsis
AIST-18-0007	Schollaert Uz	NASA GSFC	Supporting shellfish aquaculture in the Chesapeake bay using AI for water quality	Provide access to reliable information on a variety of environmental factors, not currently available at optimal scales in space and times, by using various data (sats and others) and AI for Pattern Recognition.
AIST-18-0031	Moisan	NASA GSFC	NASA Evolutionary Programming Analytic Center (NEPAC)	Discover and apply novel algorithms for ocean chlorophyll using AI/ML (Genetic Programming) on satellite/in-situ obs and a user-friendly GUI to connect data and applications with HEC resources for improved science.
AIST-18-0034	Jetz	Yale U.	Biodiversity - Environment Analytic Center	Near real-time monitoring of the biological pulse of our planet, using an online dashboard, taking into account various spatiotemporal resolutions, data uncertainty and biodiversity data biases, and supporting analysis, visualization and change detection across scales.
AIST-18-0043	Townsend	U. Wisconsin, Madison	GeoSPEC: On-Demand Geospatial Spectroscopy Processing Environment on the Cloud	Develop a framework/processing workflow for on-demand cloud-based Hyperspectral/Spectroscopy Science Data Processing in preparation for SBG needs. Will provide options for new atmospheric & other types of corrections, possibilities for users' or commercial code. Will be tested with AVIRIS-Classic and -NG data.
AIST-18-0063	Swenson	Duke University	Canopy condition to continental scale biodiversity forecasts	Characterize canopy condition from various spatio-temporal RS products (including drought indices and habitat structure) to predict supply of mast resources to herbivores (and threatened species) and visualize canopy condition and drought-stress maps

## • Land Cover ACF

Award #	PI's Name	Organization	Title	Synopsis
AIST-18-0020	Ives	U. Of WI, Madison	Valid time series analyses for satellite data	Develop new statistical tools to analyze large, time series of various remotely sensed datasets and provide statistical rigor and confidence to conclusions about patterns of change and to forecasts of future change, identifying patterns of annual trends, seasonal trends and phenological events, and analyzing the cause of these trends.

# AIST-18 ACF Awards (cont.)



## • Air Quality ACF

Award #	PI's Name	Organization	Title	Synopsis
AIST-18-0011	Martin	Washington U.	Development of GCHP to enable broad community access to high-resolution atmospheric composition modeling	Integrate atmospheric chemistry models online into Earth system models (ESMs) and offline using meteorological data, using the high-performance version of the GEOS-Chem global 3-D model of atmospheric chemistry (GCHP) and the Earth System Modeling Framework (ESMF) in its Modeling Analysis and Prediction Layer (MAPL) implementation.
AIST-18-0044	Duren	NASA JPL	Multi-scale Methane Analytic Framework	ACF for methane data analysis spanning multiple observing systems and spatial scales with workflow optimization, analytic tools to characterize methane fluxes and physical processes, tools for data search and discovery, and a collaborative, web-based portal.
AIST-18-0072	Henze	U. of CO, Boulder	Surrogate modeling for atmospheric chemistry and data assimilation	Advance computational tools available for AQ prediction, mitigation, and research by building a robust and computationally efficient chemical Data Assimilation system, merging research in compressive sampling and machine learning for large-scale dynamical systems and integrating multi-source data into an existing model.
AIST-18-0099	Holm	City of Los Angeles	Predicting What We Breathe: Using Machine Learning to Understand Urban Air Quality	Link ground-based in situ and space-based remote sensing observations of major AQ components to classify patterns in urban air quality, enable the forecast of air pollution events, and identify similarities in AQ regimes between megacities around the globe, using science models and ML-based algorithms.

## • Precipitation ACF

Award #	PI's Name	Organization	Title	Synopsis
AIST-18-0051	Beck	U. Of AL, Hunstville	Cloud-based Analytic Framework for Precipitation Research	Leverage cloud-native technologies from the AIST-2016 VISAGE project to develop a Cloud-based ACF for Precipitation Research using a Deep Learning (CNNs) framework to provide an analysis-optimized cloud data store and access via on-demand cloud-based serverless tools . It will use coincident ground and space radar observations.

# AIST-18 ACF Awards (cont.)



## • Disaster Management ACF

Award #	PI's Name	Organization	Title	Synopsis
AIST-18-0055	Coen	NCAR	Creation of a Wildfire Fire Analysis: Products to Enable Earth Science	Develop methods to create, test and assess wildland fire reanalysis products (standardized, gridded wildland fire information generated at regular intervals) using fire detection data, as well as coupled weather-wildland fire model and data assimilation.
AIST-18-0001	Donnellan	NASA JPL	Quantifying Uncertainty and Kinematics of Earthquake Systems ACF (QUAKES-A)	Create a uniform crustal deformation reference model for the active plate margin of California by fusing data with widely varying spatial and temporal resolutions, quantifying uncertainty, developing data management and geospatial information services and providing collaboration and infusion into target communities.
AIST-18-0085	Hua	NASA JPL	Smart On-Demand of SAR ARDs in Multi-Cloud & HPC	Enable full resolution time series analysis, high-accuracy flood and damage assessments with remote sensing SAR Analysis Ready Data (ARD), using Jupyter Notebooks and on-demand analysis across multi-cloud environments.

## • Cross-Cutting ACF Capabilities

Award #	PI's Name	Organization	Title	Synopsis
AIST-18-0042	Huffer	Lingua Logica	AMP: An Automated Metadata Pipeline	Automate and improve the use and reuse of NASA Earth Science data by developing a fully-automated metadata pipeline integrating ML and ontologies (SWEET) for a semantic, metadata mining from data. Developed in collaboration with GES DISC.
AIST-18-0059	Zhang	Carnegie Mellon U.	Mining Chained Modules in Analytics Center Framework	Build a workflow tool as a building block for ACF, capable of recommending to Earth Scientists multiple software modules, already chained together as a workflow. The tool will leverage Jupyter Notebooks to mine software module usage history, develop algorithms to extract reusable chain of software modules, and develop an intelligent service that provides for personalized recommendations.

# AIST-21 ACF Awards



## • ACF Infrastructure

PI's Name	Organization	Title	Synopsis
Ziad Haddad	NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory	Thematic Observation Search, Segmentation, Collation and Analysis (TOS2CA) system	TOS2CA is a user-driven, data-centric system that can identify, collate, statistically characterize and serve Earth system data relevant to a given phenomenon relevant to ESO. It will facilitate the collation and analysis of data from disparate sources, help scientists to establish science-traceability requirements, quantify detection thresholds, define uncertainty requirements and establish data sufficiency to formulate truly innovative missions. Components will include: 1) a user-driven thematic data collector; 2) a statistical analyzer; and 3) a user-friendly visualization and data exploration toolkit.
Huikyo Lee	NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory	Open Climate Workbench to support efficient and innovative analysis of NASA's high-resolution observations and modeling datasets	The Regional Climate Model Evaluation System (RCMES/JPL & UCLA) performs systematic evaluation of climate models and is powered by the Open Climate Workbench (OCW). The goal is to develop OCW v2.0 by extending the capabilities of OCW for characterizing, compressing, analyzing, and visualizing observational and model datasets with high spatial and temporal resolutions. It will run on AWS Cloud with special emphasis on developing two use cases: air quality impacts due to wildfires and elevation-dependent warming.

# AIST-21 ACF Awards (cont.)



## • Machine Learning for Modeling

PI's Name	Organization	Title	Synopsis
Yehuda Bock	Scripps Institute, Univ. of CA, San Diego		Proposes to create open-source software to provide a rich, interactive environment where machine learning (ML) models are used as collaborator to direct the attention of the human analyst to non-physical artifacts and real transient events that require interpretation. The proposed system will be realized through two coupled sub-systems: a novel "back-end" ML software called the Transient and Artifact Continuous Learning System (TACLS), and a significant upgrade to existing "front end" interactive MGviz user environment, originally designed to view displacement time series and their underlying metadata, to now interact and display layers of spatiotemporal information. Will use Scripp's archive of thousands of artifacts and transients.
Stephanie Schollaert Uz	NASA Goddard Space Flight Center	Integration of Observations and Models into Machine Learning for Coastal Water Quality	Proposes to build upon ongoing collaborations with state agencies managing water resources around the Chesapeake Bay to monitor water quality and ecosystem properties and how they change over time and space. Previous AISTpromising results used multispectral optical, medium spatial resolution satellite data trained using geophysical model variables within a machine learning (ML) architecture. Utilizing higher spatial resolution from commercial satellites, feature maps from many sensors of varying spatial, spectral, and temporal resolutions will be derived to determine the minimum set of requirements for RS of water quality, e.g. water clarity, phytoplankton blooms, and the detection of pollutants.
Brian Wilson	NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory	SLICE: Semi-supervised Learning from Images of a Changing Earth	Proposes to investigate and characterize the efficacy of multiple Self- and Semi-Supervised Learning (SSL) techniques for representative image problems on Earth imagery, and then select the best for further infusion into mission and science workflows. Three top-level goals of the SLICE system are: (1) Establish the SLICE framework and platform on the AWS Cloud and supercomputing environments; (2) Investigate and characterize the accuracy of multiple SSL models (i.e. SimCLRv2, DINO, EsViT) on a variety of relevant remote sensing tasks with minimum labels (e.g., ocean phenomena); (3) Build and publish self- and semi-supervised learning models with a focus on the upper ocean small-scale processes in anticipation of several on-going and upcoming NASA missions (i.e. SWOT, WaCM, and PACE).

# AIST-21 ACF Awards (cont.)



## • ACF Prototypes

PI's Name	Organization	Title	Synopsis
Colin Gleason	Univ. of Massachusetts at Amherst	A hosted analytic collaborative framework for global river water quantity and quality from SWOT, Landsat, and Sentinel-2	Proposes to integrate data from the soon-to-be launched SWOT mission with traditional optical imagery in a single ACF to simultaneously co-predict river water quantity and quality at a scale not currently possible. The existing Confluence system will be extended and the outputs of the proposed ACF will be: (1) Unique seamless data environment for SWOT and optical data; (2) Extended library of algorithms for water quantity; (3) Novel library of computer vision algorithms for water quality; and (4) Automated computational environment to produce river water quantity and quality products, globally. Multiplying the mass flux of water (via SWOT) by its constituent concentrations (via optical data) provides a constituent mass loading (e.g., sediment, algae) in the world's river systems and therefore a direct benefit to society and ecosystems.
Seungwon Lee	NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory	Ecological Projection Analytic Collaborative Framework (EcoPro)	Proposes to build EcoPro to support multidisciplinary teams conducting ecological projection studies, collaborations, applications, and new observation strategy developments. EcoPro will contain: (1) an analytic toolkit to perform multidisciplinary analyses; (2) a data gateway to organize, store, and access key input and output datasets; and (3) a web portal to publish and visualize the results of the studies and to provide a virtual collaborative workspace. The goals are to provide capabilities to advance ecological projection on multi-decadal timescales, as well as ecological forecasting on shorter timescales.



# Earth System Digital Twins (ESDT)

# AIST Earth System Digital Twin(s)



AIST defines an Earth System Digital Twin (ESDT) as an **interactive and integrated multidomain, multiscale, digital replica of the state and temporal evolution of Earth systems that dynamically integrates:**

- Relevant Earth system models and simulations
- Other relevant models (e.g., related to the world's infrastructure)
- Continuous and timely (including near real time and direct readout) observations (e.g., space, air, ground, over/underwater, Internet of Things (IoT), socioeconomic)
- Long-time records
- Analytics and artificial intelligence tools.

Effective ESDTs enable users to run hypothetical scenarios to improve the understanding, prediction of and mitigation/response to Earth system processes, natural phenomena and human activities as well as their many interactions.

An ESDT is a type of integrated information system that, for example, enables continuous assessment of impact from naturally occurring and/or human activities on physical and natural environments.

AIST ESDT strategic goals are to:

- Develop information system frameworks to provide continuous and accurate representations of systems as they change over time;
- Mirror various Earth Science systems and utilize the combination of Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence, Digital Thread\*, and state-of-the-art models to help predict the Earth's response to various phenomena;
- Provide the tools to conduct "what if" investigations that can result in actionable predictions.

\* The digital thread designates the communication framework that links all digital twin data flow throughout its lifecycle.

# Earth System Digital Twins Components



## Digital Replica . . .

*An integrated picture of the past and current states of Earth systems.*

## Forecasting . . .

*An integrated picture of how Earth systems will evolve in the future from the current state.*

## Impact Assessment . . .

*An integrated picture of how Earth systems could evolve under different hypothetical what-if scenarios.*



- **Continuous observations** of interacting Earth systems and human systems
- From many **disparate sources**
- Driving **inter-connected models**
- At many **physical and temporal scales**
- With fast, powerful and integrated **prediction, analysis and visualization** capabilities
- Using **Machine Learning, causality and uncertainty quantification**
- Running at **scale** in order to improve our **science** understanding of those systems, their **interactions and their applications**

# Earth System Digital Twins Components



## Digital Replica . . . **What now?**

*An integrated picture of the past and current states of Earth systems.*

## Forecasting . . . **What next?**

*An integrated picture of how Earth systems will evolve in the future from the current state.*

## Impact Assessment . . . **What if?**

*An integrated picture of how Earth systems could evolve under different hypothetical what-if scenarios.*



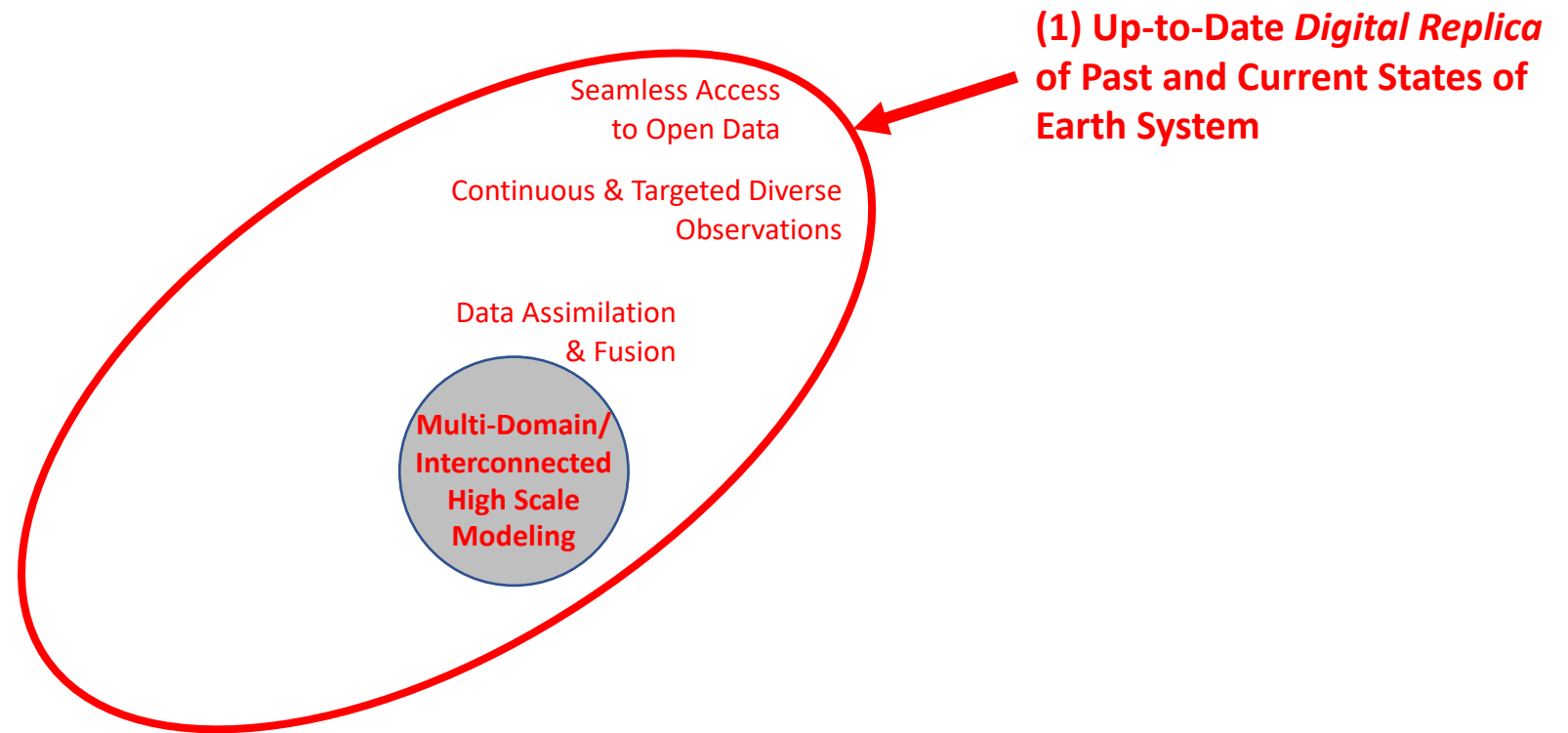
- **Continuous observations** of interacting Earth systems and human systems
- From many **disparate sources**
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# AIST ESDT Description

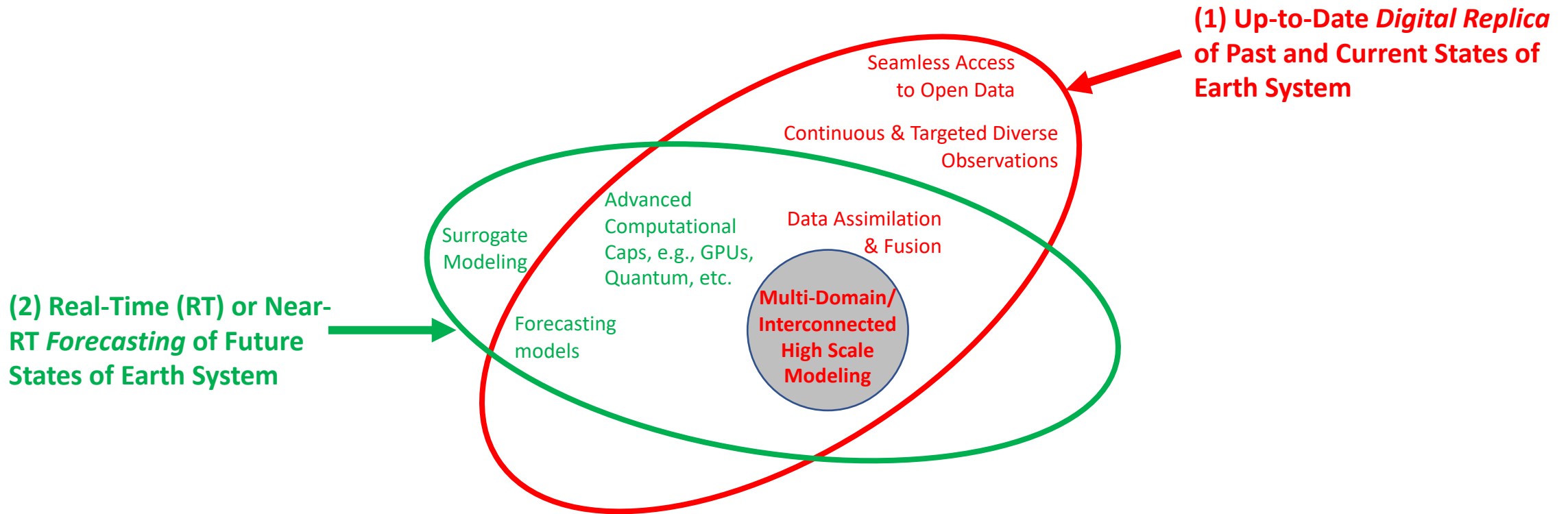


**Multi-Domain/  
Interconnected  
High Scale  
Modeling**

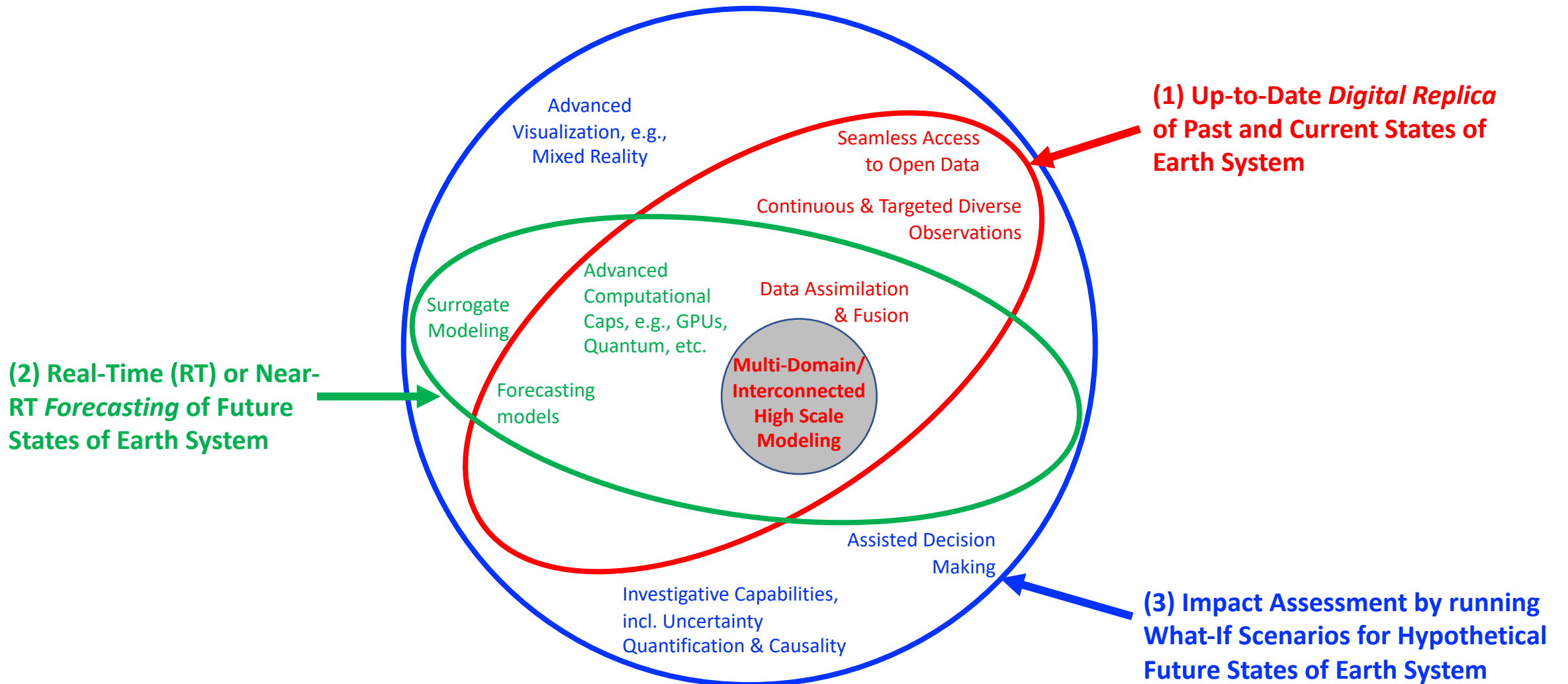
# AIST ESDT Description



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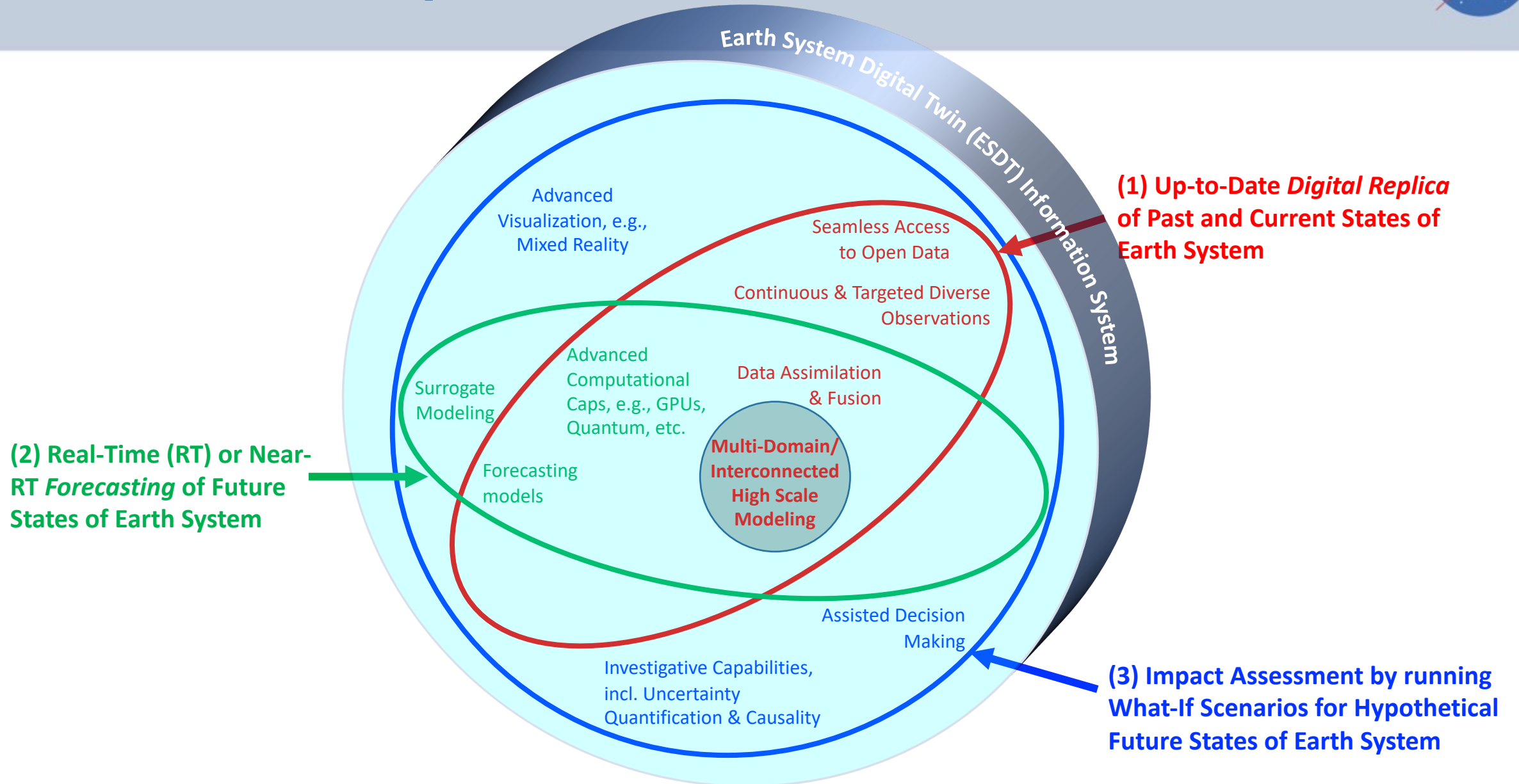


# AIST ESDT Description



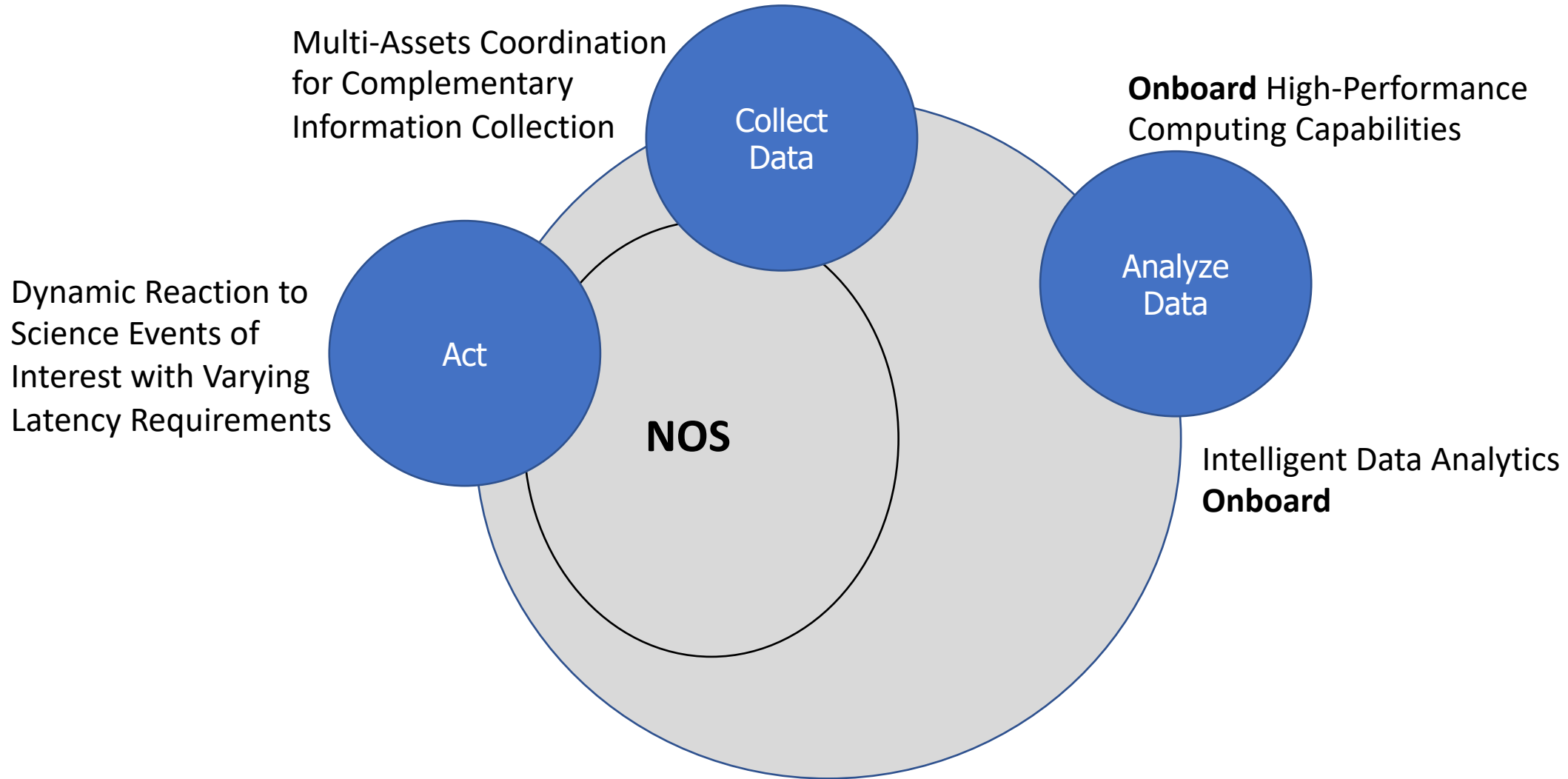


# AIST ESDT Capabilities



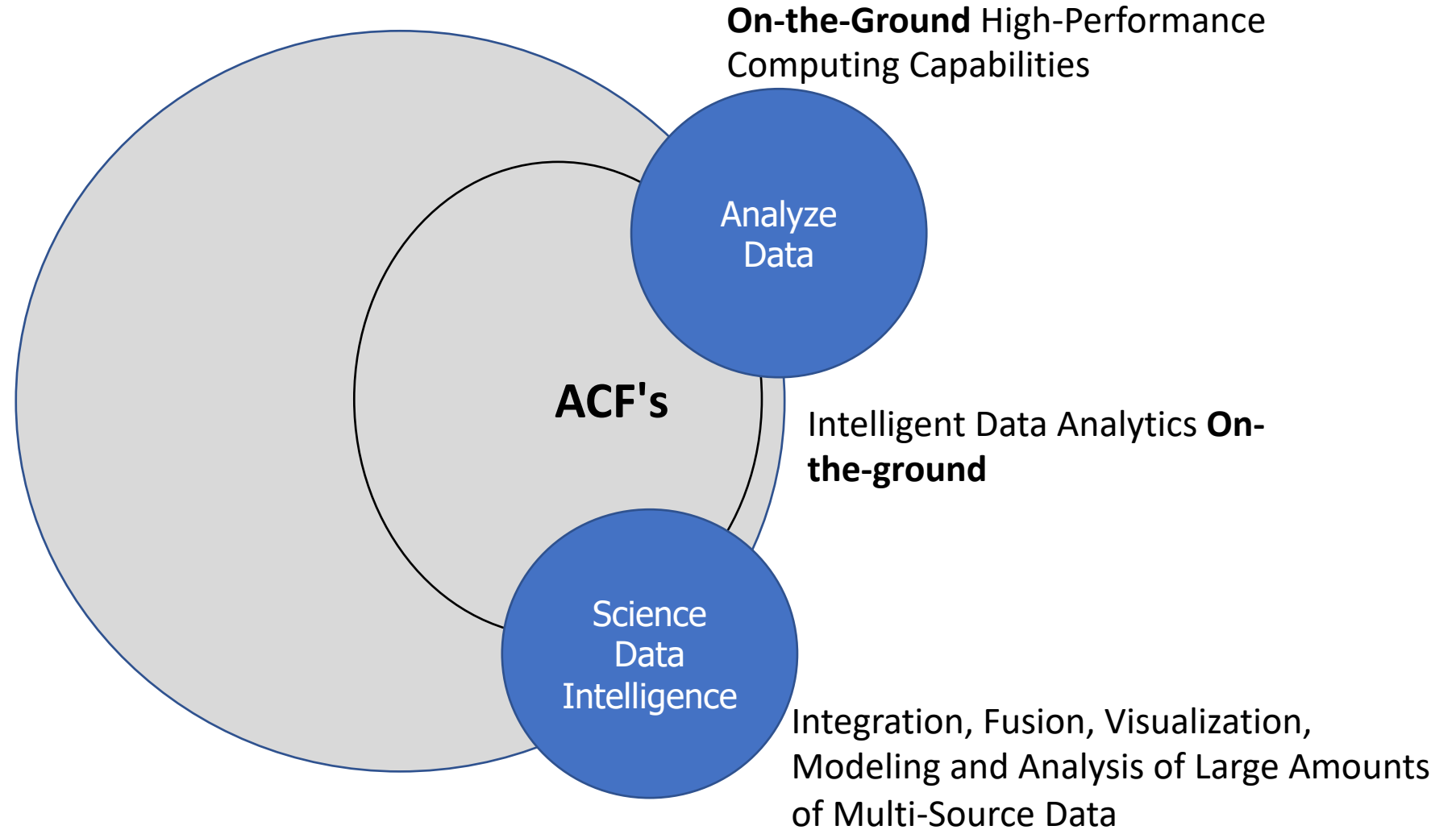
# ESDT = New AIST-21 Thrust

*Continuous Integration of NOS and ACF Technologies*

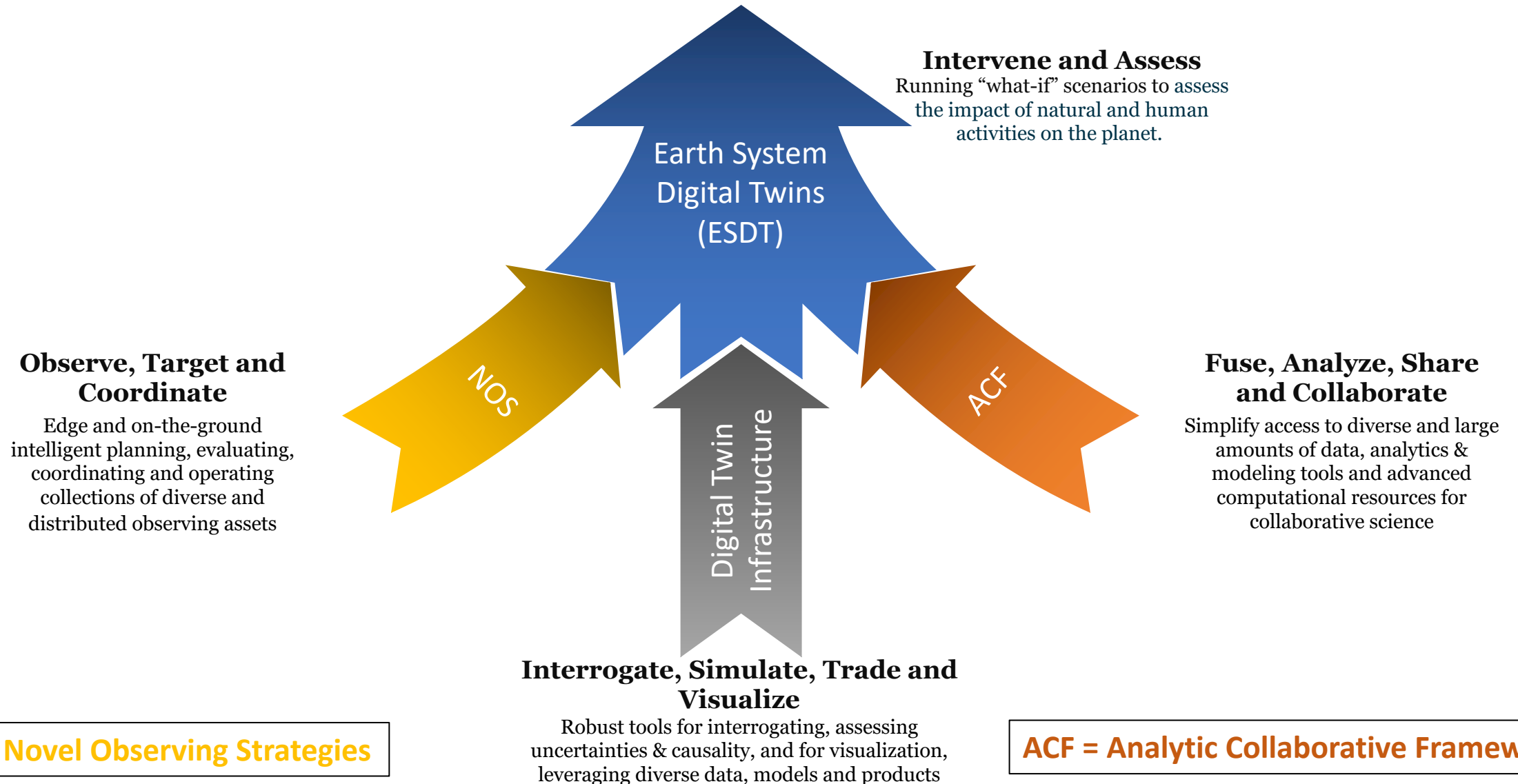


# ESDT = New AIST-21 Thrust

*Continuous Integration of NOS and ACF Technologies*

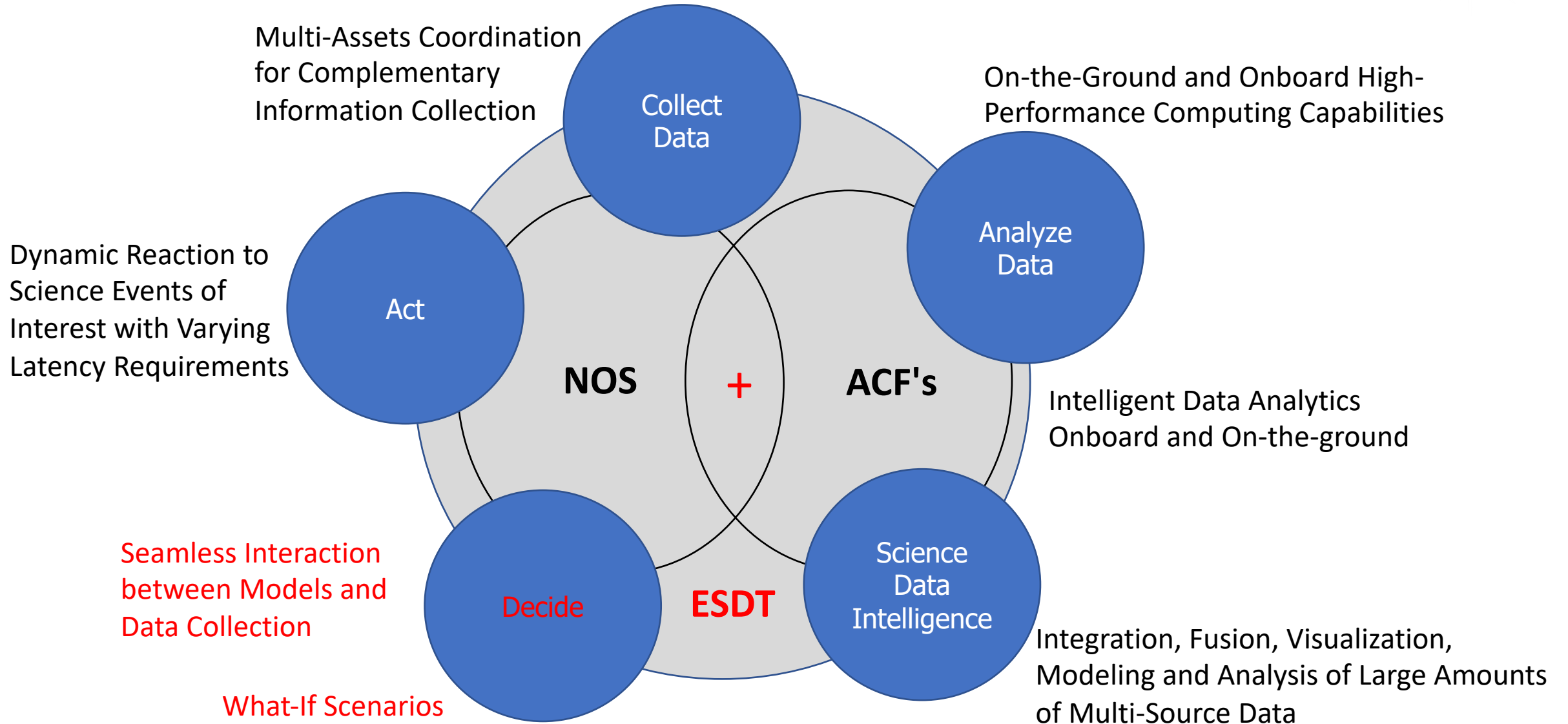


# ESDT one of 3 AIST Thrusts



# ESDT = New AIST-21 Thrust

*Continuous Integration of NOS and ACF Technologies*



# ESDT Technologies Requested in AIST-21



- Technologies for agile interaction and interoperability between measurement acquisition (NOS or NOS-like) and science investigations (ACF or ACF-like)
- Frameworks that enable data ingest from multiple, integrated models, and/or moving from mono-discipline to multi-discipline inter-related systems
- Leveraging of Model-Based System Engineering (MBSE) frameworks for the development and sustainment of Earth Systems Digital Twins, especially based on the integration and coordination of NOS and ACF systems
- Digital Thread developments to link all digital twin capabilities (design, performance data, product data, operational status data, event status data), to enable design requirements, records, provenance, and system reorientations to be easily reviewed and address issues within the digital twin system
- Concepts and technologies for developing "federated ESDTs" in which multiple individual ESDTs interact and can be integrated as the layers of broader ESDTs
- Novel AI (not limited to ML) techniques enabling systems to quickly request, integrate, and fuse diverse and timely Earth observations into ESDTs
- Investigative technologies to facilitate "what-if" investigations inherent to ESDT systems, including but not limited to:
  - Multi-scale simulations, statistics, uncertainty quantification, and causality methodologies
  - Computational algorithms and methodologies involving high-end computing, such as GPUs or other hardware systems that will enable running large permutations of what-if scenarios using large amounts of data and high-resolution and high-fidelity models
  - Statistical methodologies that optimize the computational efficiency of such "what-if" investigations
  - Innovative and simple user interfaces and visualization methods based on Augmented Reality (AR) and Mixed Reality (MR) techniques and capable of visualizing complex systems of systems

# AIST-21 ACF for ESDT Awards



## • ACF Towards ESDT

PI's Name	Organization	Title	Synopsis
Thomas Allen	Old Dominion University	Pixels for Public Health: Analytic Collaborative Framework to Enhance Coastal Resiliency of Vulnerable Populations in Hampton Roads, Virginia (VA)	Proposes to design and operationally demonstrate a system linking the VA Open Data Cube, a socio-spatial-health information "Digital Neighborhood" (Hampton Roads Biomedical Research Cons.), hydrodynamic models, and in-situ flood sensor network. Will connect observational and physical environmental domains with human vulnerability.
Arlindo Da Silva	NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC)	An Analytic Collaborative Framework for the Earth System Observatory (ESO) Designated Observables	Will develop an Analytic Collaborative Framework for the Earth System Observatory (ESO) missions, based on realistic, science-based observing system simulations and the Program of Record (PoR), tied together in a cloud-based cyberinfrastructure. Create a 3D, holistic view of Earth with all ESO unique satellites.
Thomas Huang	NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL)	Fire Alarm: Science Data Platform for Wildfire and Air Quality	Proposes to advance AIST's Air Quality Analytics Collaborative Framework (AQACF) to establish a wildfire and air quality ACF, Fire Alarm, focusing on the prediction and analysis of wildfire, burned area and the air quality as an integrated platform to guide decision-makers, science researchers, and first-responders.

# AIST-21 ESDT Awards



## • ESDT Infrastructure

PI's Name	Organization	Title	Synopsis
Thomas Clune	NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC)	A Framework for Global Cloud Resolving OSSEs	Will enable global, cloud-resolving Observing System Simulation Experiments (OSSEs) by addressing key computational challenges to enable existing technologies to scale to the spatial resolutions needed by the end of decade, e.g., extending parallel I/O capabilities, adopting a 2-phase Nature Run approach and a flexible API for customization.
Thomas Grubb	NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC)	Goddard Earth Observing System (GEOS) Visualization And Lagrangian dynamics Immersive eXtended Reality Tool (VALIXR) for Scientific Discovery	Proposes to develop a scientific exploration and analysis mixed augmented and virtual reality tool with integrated Lagrangian Dynamics (LD) to help scientists identify, track, and understand the evolution of Earth Science phenomena in the NASA GEOS model. It will provide both a scientific discovery tool and a model analysis and improvement tool.
Matthias Katzfuss	Texas A&M University (TAMU)	A scalable probabilistic emulation and uncertainty quantification tool for Earth-system models	Proposes to develop a fully automated toolbox for uncertainty quantification in Earth-system models, to provide insight into the largest and most critical information gaps and identify where potential future observations would be most valuable. It would allow interpolation between observed covariate values and running extensive what-if scenarios.
Tanu Malik	De Paul University	Reproducible Containers for Advancing Process-oriented Collaborative Analytics	Aims to establish reproducible scientific containers that are easy-to-use and are lightweight. Reproducible containers will transparently encapsulate complex, data-intensive, process-oriented model analytics, will be easy and efficient to share between collaborators, and will enable reproducibility in heterogeneous environments.



# AIST-21 ESDT Awards (cont.)



## • AI-Surrogate Modeling for ESDT

PI's Name	Organization	Title	Synopsis
Allison Gray	Univ. of Washington, Seattle	A prototype Digital Twin of Air-Sea Interactions	Proposes to develop hybrid physics-informed AI model that ingests several existing flux estimates and observation data products and train against simultaneous ocean-atmosphere data from Saildrones. This will ascertain uncertainty of existing flux measurements and optimize combination of near-real-time existing flux data and observational data => This represents the first step towards a Digital Twin for the Planetary Boundary Layer.
Christopher Keller	Morgan State University (MSU)	Development of a next-generation ensemble prediction system for atmospheric composition	Proposes to develop a next-generation modeling framework for the real-time simulation of reactive gases and aerosols in the atmosphere. Will deploy computationally efficient parameterizations of atmospheric chemistry and transport and will develop generative models based on machine learning (ML) to predict model uncertainties.
Jouni Susiluoto	NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL)	Kernel Flows: emulating complex models for massive data sets	Proposes a general-purpose, versatile emulation tool to provide fast, accurate emulation with little tuning, to scale up to very large training sets, and to provide uncertainties associated with outputs. This tool set will facilitate large-scale implementation of forward modeling and retrievals, and of UQ at production scales. To be applied to SBG radiative transfer emulation & convective storm nowcasting.

# AIST-21 ESDT Awards (cont.)



## • ESDT Prototypes

PI's Name	Organization	Title	Synopsis
Rajat Bindlish	NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC)	Digital Twin Infrastructure Model for Agricultural Applications	Will develop an agriculture productivity modeling system over Continental United States as an example of incorporating representations of infrastructure-oriented process, for the understanding, prediction, and mitigation/response of Earth system process variability, with application to crop growth, yield, and agricultural production information, critical to commodity market, food security, economic stability, and government policy formulation.
Milton Halem	University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)	<i>Towards a NU-WRF based Mega Wildfire Digital Twin: Smoke Transport Impact Scenarios on Air Quality, Cardiopulmonary Disease and Regional Deforestation</i>	<i>Will develop and implement a Regional Wildfire Digital Twin (WDT) model with a sub-km resolution to enable the conduct of mega wildfire smoke impact scenarios at various spatial scales and arbitrary locations over N. America. WDT will provide a valuable planning tool for impact scenarios by season, location, intensity, and atmospheric state.</i>
Craig Pelissier	Science Systems and Applications, Inc. (SSAI)	Terrestrial Environmental Rapid-Replicating Assimilation Hydrometeorology (TERRAHydro) System: A machine-learning coupled water, energy, and vegetation terrestrial Earth System Digital Twin	Proposes to develop a terrestrial Earth System Digital Twin (TESDT) that couples state-of-the-art ML with NASA (and other) EO data. It will combine the best ML hydrology models with capabilities for uncertainty quantification and data assimilation to provide ensemble & probabilistic forecasting, sensitivity analyses, and counterfactual "what if" experiments.



**Earth System Digital Twins**  
**ESDT Workshop**  
*Washington, DC – October 26-28, 2022*

# Why a Workshop on Earth Systems Digital Twins (ESDT)?



- Bring together science and technology communities to explore the use and benefits of ESDT and their enabling technologies.
- Develop ESDT reference use cases and corresponding technology needs to guide the development of ESDT technologies that will be needed by NASA Earth Science within the next five to ten years.

## **WORKSHOP GOALS:**

1. Identify driving Earth science use cases that will benefit from unique ESDT capabilities
2. Identify emerging technologies that will enable such ESDT systems within the next five to ten years
3. Understand opportunities and technologies for federating ESDTs and creating more capable systems

# Workshop Goals: Some Overarching Questions



- What are Digital Twins?
- What are the benefits of ESDT to NASA Earth Science?
- What are the main differences between Earth System Models (ESMs) and Earth System Digital Twins (ESDT) (e.g., model resolutions, connection to impact models, overall interactive information system, others)? How can we integrate/coordinate ESMs with ESDT?
- What are the main architecture components of an ESDT? What could various ESDT architectures look like?
- Should we develop a common Digital Twin Engine?
- What are the AIST Technologies that need to be enhanced or developed?
- What is the role of Machine Learning for ESDT? What is the role of Open Science for ESDT?
- Which computational resources will be required? Cloud, GPU's, Quantum, Neuromorphic, etc.?
- How will various data, models, ESDT interoperate? Which basic interfaces and standards will be required?
- How to prioritize “quick wins” (short-term prototypes) and incrementally enhance digital twin investments over time?
- How do we validate ESDT (e.g., using historical data, etc.)? How to quantify uncertainty?
- How will we federate future ESDT?
- Which sustainable digital twin governance model should be adopted to address software configuration changes, security and full life cycle management?

# Workshop Agenda

<https://esdt2022.sched.com/>



## WEDNESDAY October 26, 2022

9:30	10:00	Gathering	
10:00	10:30	Welcome Plenary	Susan Shingledecker, ESIP Jacqueline Le Moigne, ESTO AIST
10:30	11:30	<a href="#">Panel: Digital Twins for NASA Earth Science</a>	
11:30	Noon	Interactive discussion	
NOON	1pm	LUNCH	
1:00	1:30	Earth system digital twins and the European Destination Earth initiative	Peter Bauer, ECMWF
1:30	2:30	<a href="#">Panel: Federating Earth System Digital Twins</a>	
2:30	3:00	BREAK	
3:00	3:30	Global Digital Twin of the Earth System Environment in NOAA - for Monitoring and Prediction	Sid Boukabara, NOAA
3:30	4:30	<a href="#">Panel: Technologies for Earth System Digital Twins</a>	
4:30	5:00	Wrap up discussion	

## THURSDAY Oct 27, 2022

8a	8:30	GATHERING and Welcome
8:45	9:40	Lightning talks I
9:40	10:00	Science reference scenarios overview
10:00	10:30	BREAK
10:30	Noon	<a href="#">Breakout Session A: Science Use Cases</a>
NOON	1pm	LUNCH
1:00	1:30	Session A Brief-outs
1:30	3:00	Lightning talks II
3:00	3:30	BREAK
3:30	5:00	<a href="#">Breakout Session B: Technologies and gaps</a>
5:00	5:30	Session B Brief-outs
5:30		Adjourn for the day

## FRIDAY Oct 28, 2022 (Half Day)

8a	8:30	Welcome/plan for the day
8:30	10:00	<a href="#">Breakout Session C: ESDT Systems Vision &amp; Federation</a>
10:00	10:30	BREAK
10:30	11:15	Session C Brief-outs
11:15	12:00	Wrap up discussion
12:00	12:15	Closing remarks
12:15		Lunch
1:15		Workshop Ends

# ESDT Science Use Cases/Scenarios



ESDT Domain	Abstract
Wildfires	A digital twin of Earth systems involved in wildfires to represent and understand the origins and evolution of wildfires and their impacts on ecosystem, infrastructure, and related human systems.
Ocean Carbon	An Earth system digital twin of: ocean, land, atmospheric Earth systems to understand ocean carbon processes such as carbon export and ocean-atmosphere processes and coupling; land-ocean continuum and interactions with human systems (e.g., urbanization, land use change), to understand coastal ecological changes and impacts to ecosystem services; ocean, land, and atmospheric system to understand feedback processes, such as storm intensification and sea level rise, and their impact on coastal communities and the blue economy; assessing feasibility and impacts of the various Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) approaches as a strategy to remove and sequester atmospheric carbon.
Water Cycle	A local or regional digital twin to understand all the complexities of the Water Cycle, how it is affected by various Earth Systems at multiple temporal and spatial scales, and how it is impacted by decision making and human influence. It would provide capabilities <i>such as</i> zooming out in time and space; helping understand water availability and origin for agriculture; how events such as floods and droughts affects life, property and infrastructure; and more generally how the effects of weather and climate variability can be mitigated under various scenarios.
Central Africa Carbon Corridors	An Earth System digital twin of “Carbon Corridors” (i.e., connected regions of protected forests/vegetation. They store carbon and maintain habitat connectivity for biodiversity) in Central Africa to: understand the current conditions; assess their ability to store carbon and promote biodiversity; forecast future conditions; conduct what-if scenarios to assess the impact of policy decisions and potential climate conditions.
Atmospheric Boundary Layer	An Earth system digital twin of: the atmospheric boundary layer to provide a digital replica of the lowest portions of the atmosphere and of their processes and interactions with other systems – land, ocean, and ice surfaces – and how these interactions control exchanges with materials such as trace gases, aerosols; coupled atmospheric systems to understand the underlying processes and their relationship to climate and air quality, and the role of these interactions on the global weather and climate system; atmospheric systems related to greenhouse gasses (GHG), sources of pollution, and their transport in the atmosphere to understand air quality and human health impacts at multiple scales from hyper local to long term global climate projections; proper characterization of the Planetary Boundary Layer (PBL) is also critically important for modeling nighttime minimum temperatures for agricultural applications, and for prediction of wildland fire risk.





