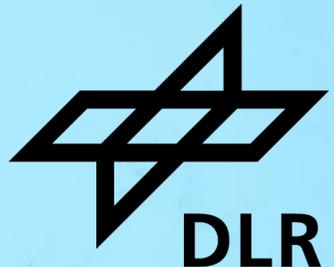


The Challenge of System-of-Systems: FROM DEFINING THE PROBLEM TO SHAPING THE SOLUTION ARCHITECTURE

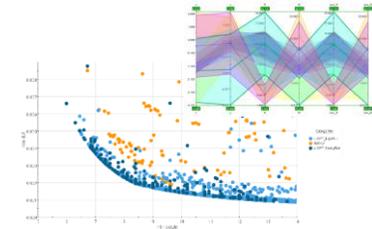
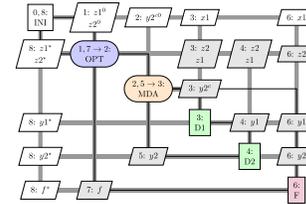
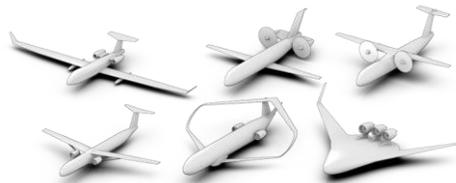
MODPROD Workshop | Linköping, 3rd February 2026

Jasamin Akbari | Institute of System Architectures in Aeronautics (SL) | German Aerospace Center (DLR)



State of the Art AGILE Framework

An **MBSE** process, integrating **MDO** and **Trade-Space Exploration**



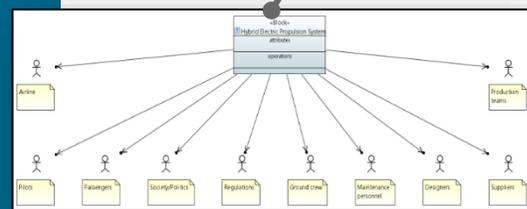
Stakeholders & Needs

Requirements

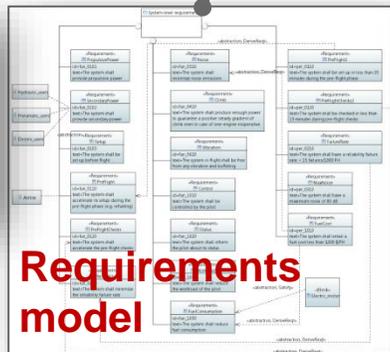
Architecture Alternatives

Domain tools & MDO

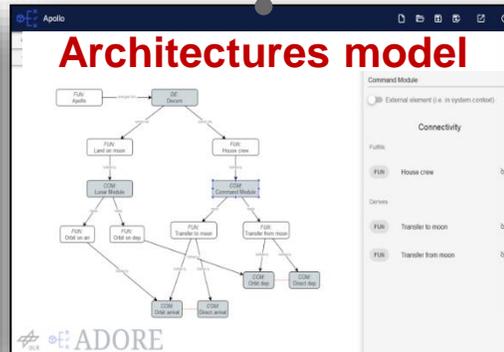
Trade-off & Decision-Making



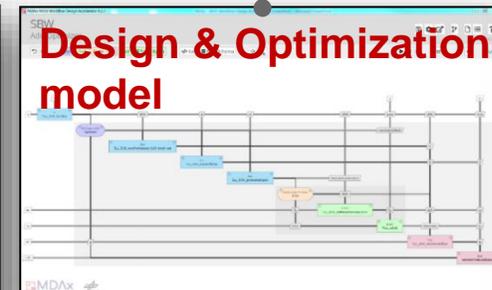
Stakeholders model



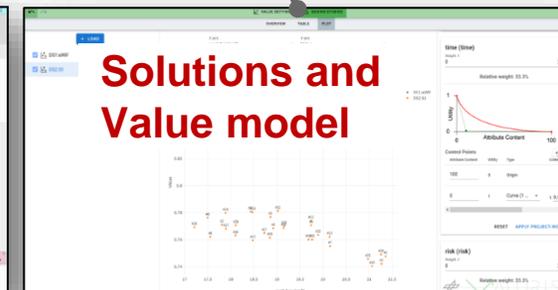
Requirements model



Architectures model



Design & Optimization model



Solutions and Value model

State of the Art AGILE Framework

An **MBSE** process, integrating **MDO** and **Trade-Space Exploration**



How can established **MBSE processes** be adapted and scaled to support the development of **System-of-Systems**?

Problem Definition

System Specification

System Architecting

System Design and

System Solutions

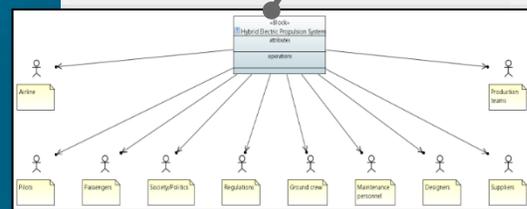
Stakeholders & Needs

Requirements

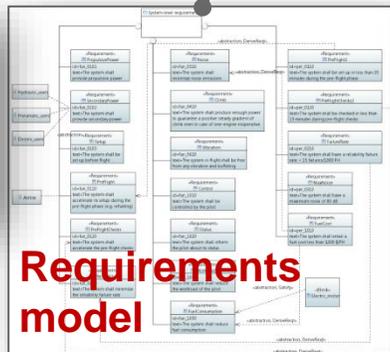
Architecture Alternatives

Domain tools & MDO

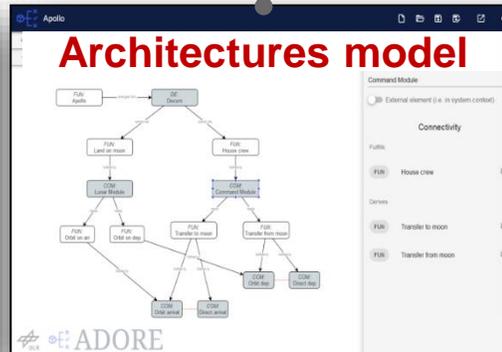
Trade-off & Decision-Making



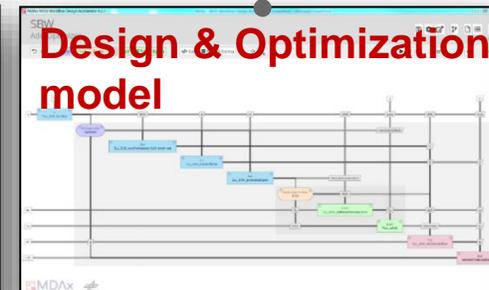
Stakeholders model



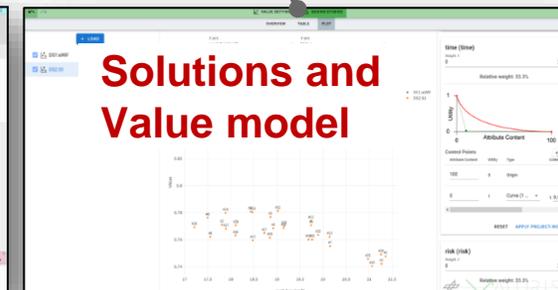
Requirements model



Architectures model



Design & Optimization model



Solutions and Value model

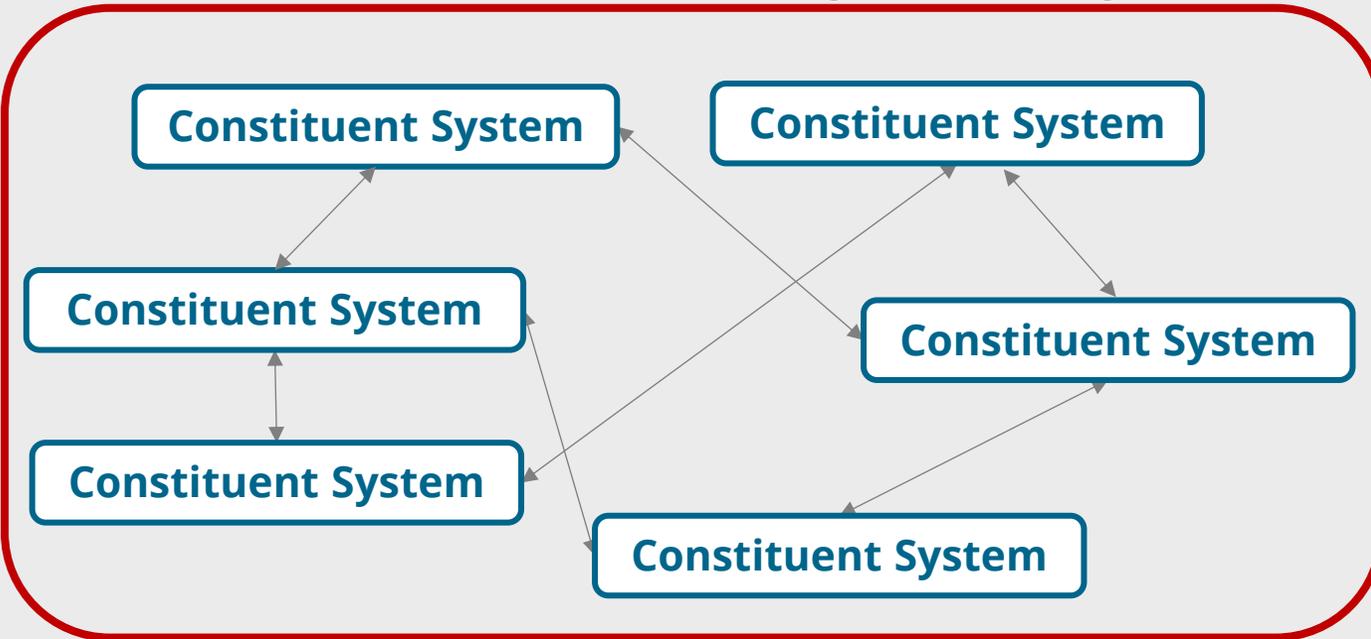
Definitions

What is a System-of-Systems?



Operating Environment

System of Systems



“A **system-of-systems** (SoS) is a collection of independent systems, integrated into a larger system that delivers **unique capabilities**.” [1]

Distintguishing Criteria [2]:

1. **Operational Independence**
2. **Managerial Independence**

Overview of the Methodology

From a Problem to a Solution

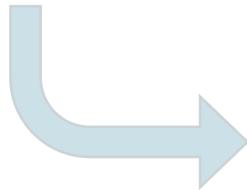


Application Case:
Wildfire Fighting SoS



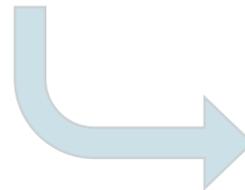
SoS Problem Definition

Capture the current system-of-systems, capabilities and derive desired capabilities



SoS Architecting

Define what the SoS architecture is, capture the architectural decisions



Decision-Making

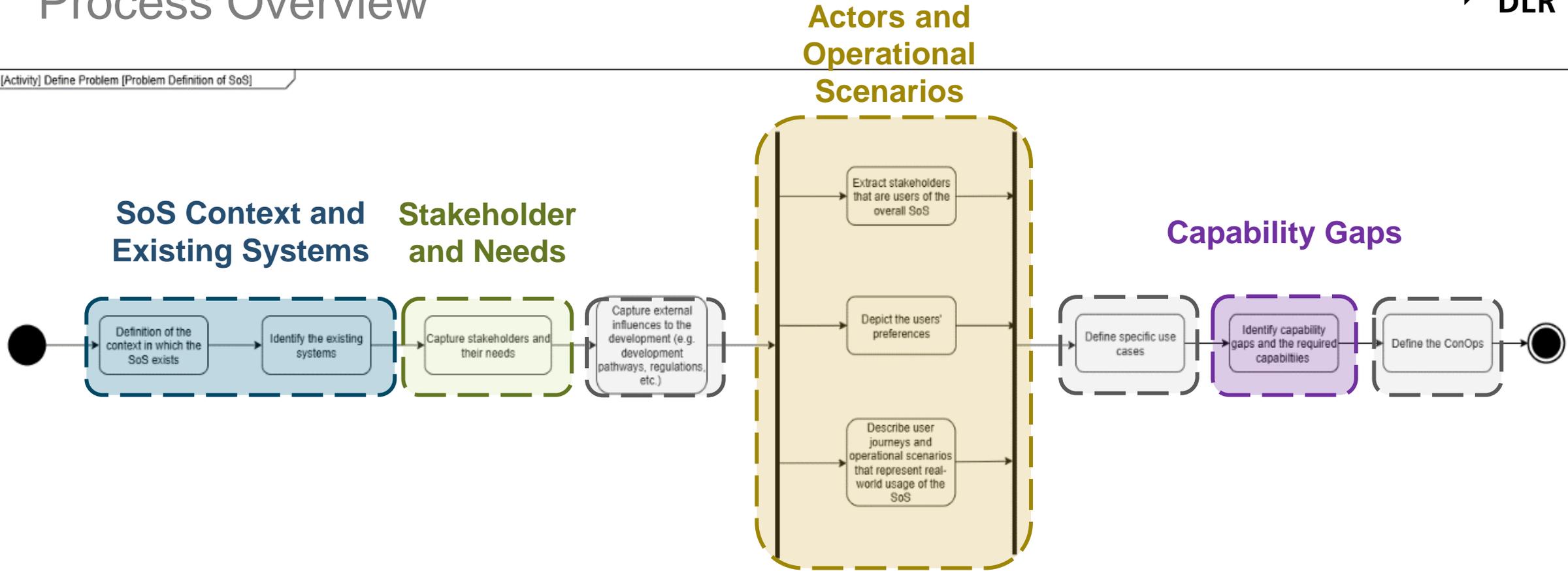
Support decisions about system acquisition based on given problem, enterprises, existing systems

SoS Problem Definition

Process Overview



act [Activity] Define Problem [Problem Definition of SoS]



SoS Problem Definition

SoS Context and Existing Systems

Geographical and Urban Context of Andalusia

- Mediterranean climate with extreme summer conditions
- Large, topographically heterogeneous territory
- Extensive wildland-urban interface
- Critical civil and economic infrastructure embedded in fire-prone areas

Existing Infrastructure Landscape

- Established aerial firefighting support infrastructure
- Regional wildfire brigades
- Fixed-wing firefighting aircraft



Source: ©Adobe Stock/Tandem Stock

SoS Problem Definition

Modification of the Meta-Model



- **Capability**

The **SYSTEM-OF-SYSTEMS** shall provide **CAPABILITY** while in **CONDITION**

Example: The SoS shall provide continuous wildfire observation while in the entire mission.

- **Performance**

The **SYSTEM-OF-SYSTEMS** shall provide **CAPABILITY** with **PERFORMANCE** while in **CONDITION**

Example: The SoS shall provide wildfire suppression with a fire containment effectiveness of 80% within 2 hours while in operating in wind speeds up to 30 km/h.

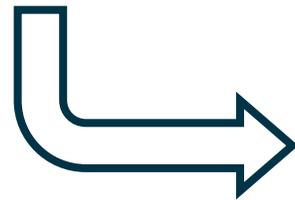
- **Design (constraint)**

The **SYSTEM-OF-SYSTEMS** shall **DESIGN CONSTRAINTS** [in accordance with **DESIGN CONSTRAINTS** in **CONDITION**]

Example: The SoS shall have technologies with maturity TRL 9

Armade

N.B. Patterns adapted from ¹



ID	Name	Statement Template	Attributes
RT-5	Capability Requirement	The [System] shall provide [Capability] [Condition]	Capability Condition System
RT-4	Performance Requirement	The [System] shall provide [Capability] with [Parameter] [Constraint] [Value] [Unit] [Condition]	Value Parameter Capability Unit Constraint Condition System
RT-3	Suitability Requirement (Constraint)	The [System] shall exhibit [Parameter] [Constraint] [Value] [Unit] [Condition]	Value Parameter Unit Constraint Condition System
RT-1	Need		

[1] R. Carson, Implementing structured requirements to improve requirements quality, INCOSE IS, Seattle, WA, 2015

Problem Definition and Specification

Stakeholders and Needs



Needs Definition

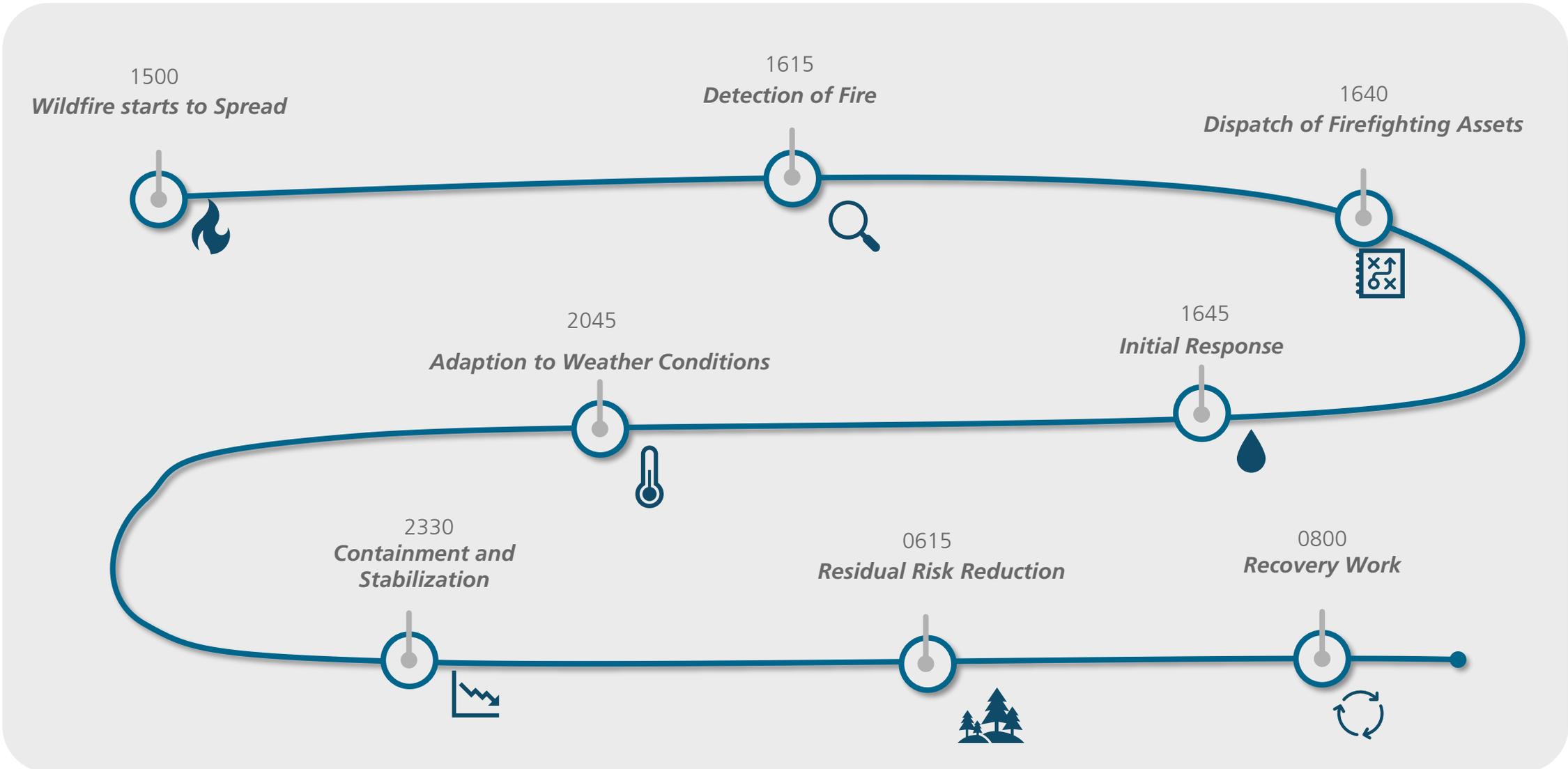
Stakeholder Overview

ID	Name
SH-14	Regulator
SH-8	Vehicle Operator
SH-2	Community
SH-7	Fire Departments
SH-11	Maintenance, Repair, Overhaul
SH-3	Manufacturer/ OEM
SH-4	Air Traffic Management

ID	Name	Statement	Links:
RQ-6	N004	The SoS has to minimize its environmental impact	Policy Maker SReq002 Community
RQ-7	N005	The SoS has to maximize effectiveness of firefighting	PReq005 Disaster Relief SoS Operator >
RQ-3	N001	One objective of the two scenarios is to minimize damage to vegetation, property, infrastructure and human life in case of wildfire	Community Policy Maker CReq002 CReq001
RQ-4	N002	The SoS has to operate in two scenarios: inland (landlocked) and island (seaside)	CReq004 SoS Operator Community
RQ-5	N003	The SoS has to minimize greenhouse emissions from the fire	Policy Maker SReq001 Community

SoS Problem Definition

Operational Scenarios



SoS Problem Definition

Required Capabilities



Armade

ID	Name	Statement	Links:
RQ-2	CReq002	The SoS shall provide wildfire suppression while in night conditions	→ N001

Capability Requirements

ID	Name	Statement	Links:
RQ-2	CReq002	The SoS shall provide wildfire suppression while in night conditions	→ N001
RQ-8	CReq003	The SoS shall provide operational capabilities while wildfire conditions	→ CReq001
RQ-9	CReq004	The SoS shall provide operational capabilities while wildfire conditions and in both landlocked and seaside environments	→ N002
RQ-1	CReq001	The SoS shall provide wildfire suppression while in day conditions	→ CReq003 → N001
RQ-12	CReq005	The SoS shall provide operational capabilities in EU regulated spaces	→ SReq003

SoS Problem Definition

Capability Requirements



ID	Name	Statement	Links:
RQ-2	CReq002	The SoS shall provide wildfire suppression while in night conditions	→ N001

Capability
(derived from Stakeholder Need)

Condition
(derived from Scenario Descriptions)

RQ-3	N001	One objective of the two scenarios is to minimize damage to vegetation, property, infrastructure and human life in case of wildfire	→ Community → Policy Maker → CReq002 → CReq001
------	------	---	---

SoS Problem Definition

Performance Requirements



Armade

RQ-14

PReq001

The SoS shall provide wildfire suppression with CO2 emissions ≤ 100 kg while operations

→ SReq002

Performance Requirements

ID	Name	Statement	Links:
RQ-15	PReq002	The SoS shall provide wildfire suppression with NOx emissions ≤ 100 kg while operations	→ SReq002
RQ-14	PReq001	The SoS shall provide wildfire suppression with CO2 emissions ≤ 100 kg while operations	→ SReq002
RQ-16	PReq003	The SoS shall provide wildfire suppression with particulate emissions ≤ 100 kg while operations	→ SReq002
RQ-18	PReq005	The SoS shall provide wildfire suppression with containment effectiveness ≥ 50 % in wind speeds up to 80 km/h	→ N005
RQ-17	PReq004	The SoS shall provide wildfire suppression with firefighting operations initialization ≤ 30 min while emergency condition and after emergency call	

SoS Problem Definition

Performance Requirements



Capability
(derived from Stakeholder Need) **Armade**

RQ-14

PReq001

The SoS shall provide wildfire suppression with
CO2 emissions ≤ 100 kg while operations

SReq002

Parameter
(derived from KPIs/KVIs/business model)

Condition
(derived from Scenario Descriptions)

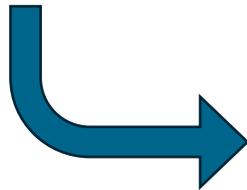
Overview of the Methodology

From a Problem to a Solution



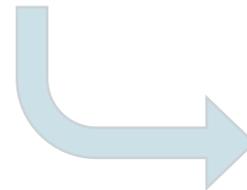
SoS Problem Definition

Capture the current system-of-systems, capabilities and derive desired capabilities



SoS Architecting

Define what the SoS architecture is, capture the architectural decisions

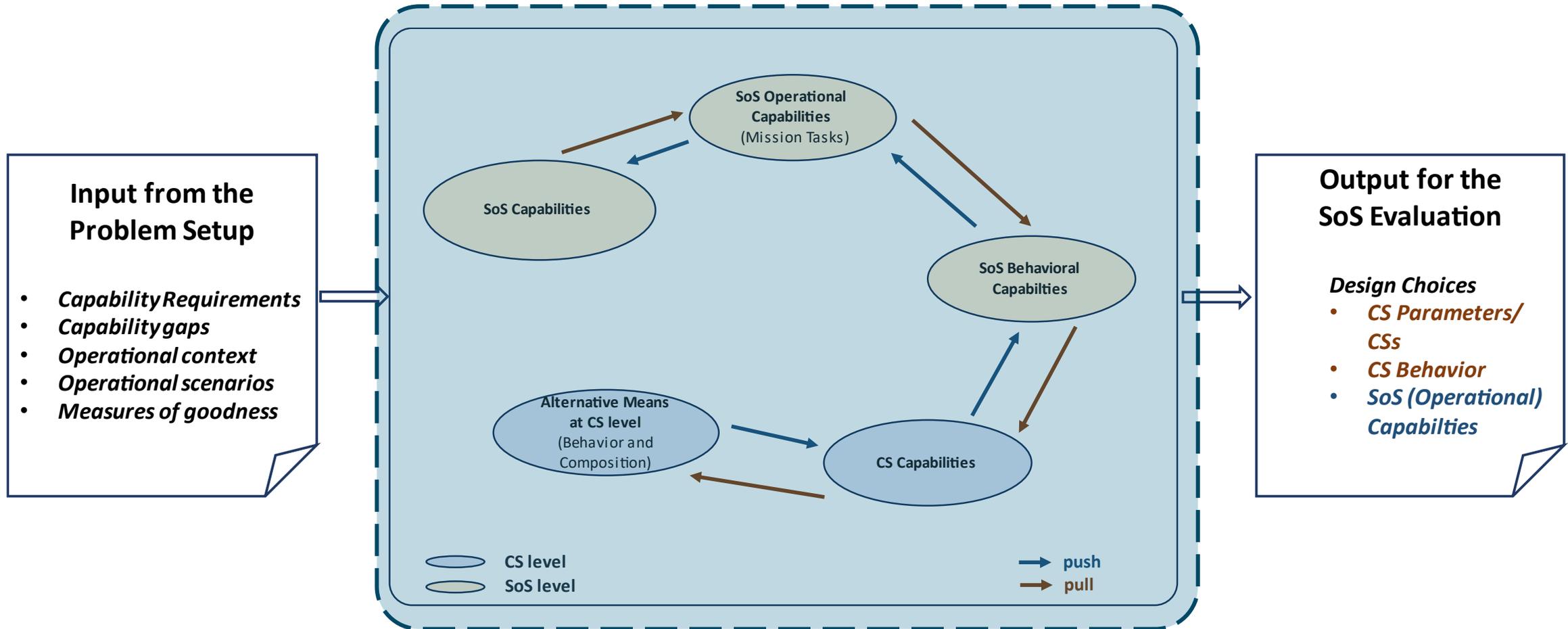


Decision-Making

Support decisions about system acquisition based on given problem, enterprises, existing systems

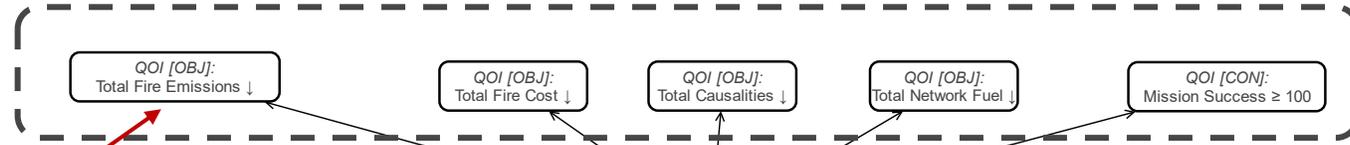
SoS Architecting Process Overview

SoS Architecture Generation



SoS Architecting

Architectural Design Space



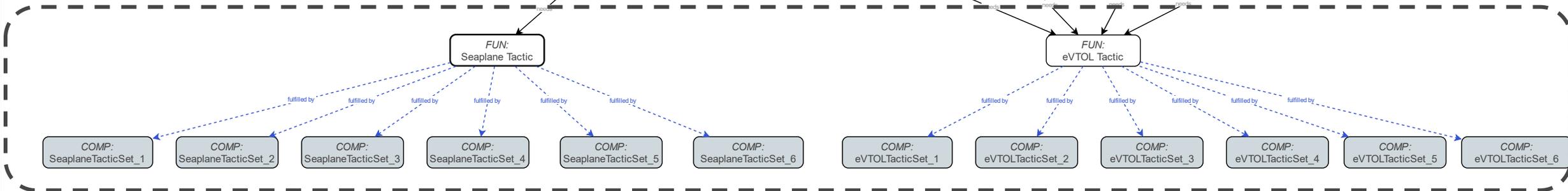
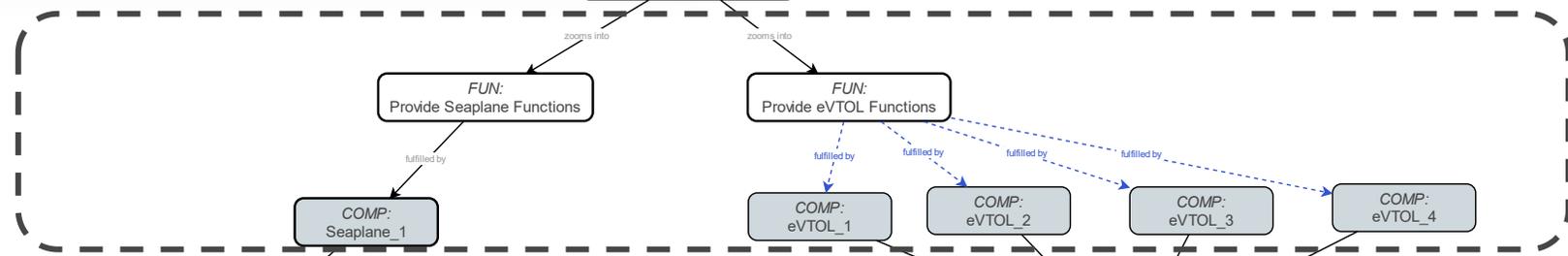
Quantities of Interest for Evaluation

The SoS shall provide wildfire suppression with CO2 emissions ≤ 100 kg while operations

RQ-14

PReq001

Choices on Composition + Number of Vehicles



Choices on Tactics

SoS Architecting

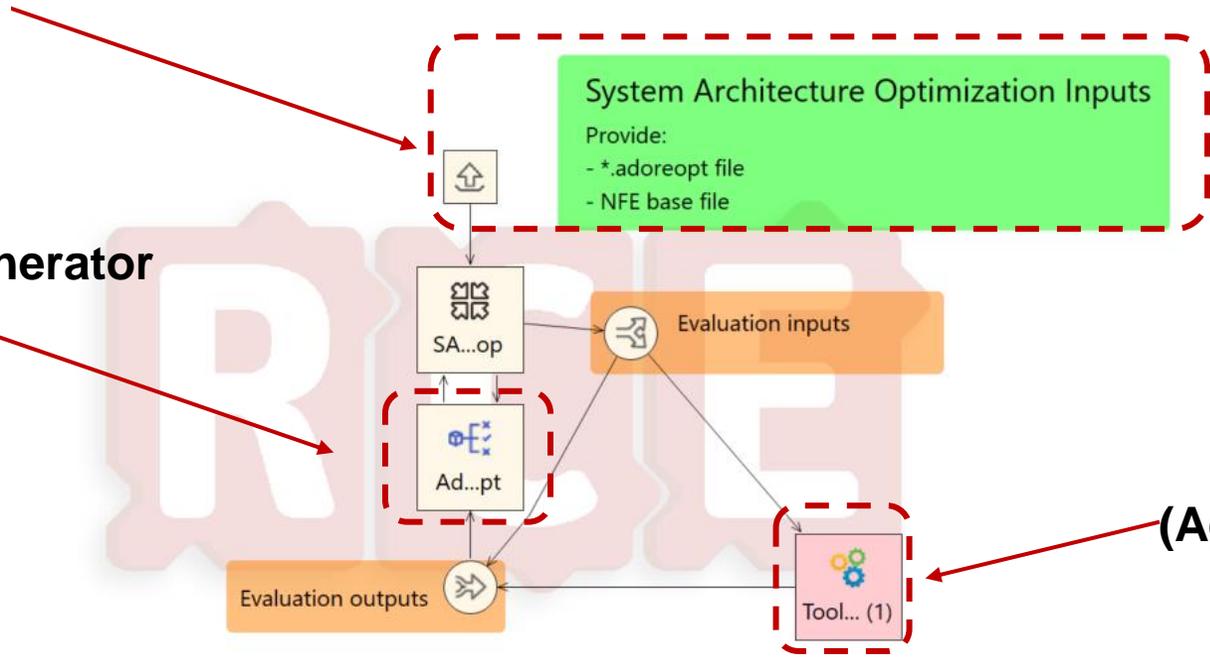
Automated Design Space Evaluation

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<Inputs>
<Airports>
<!-- Airport nodes will be created by NFE -->

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Rule-based translation

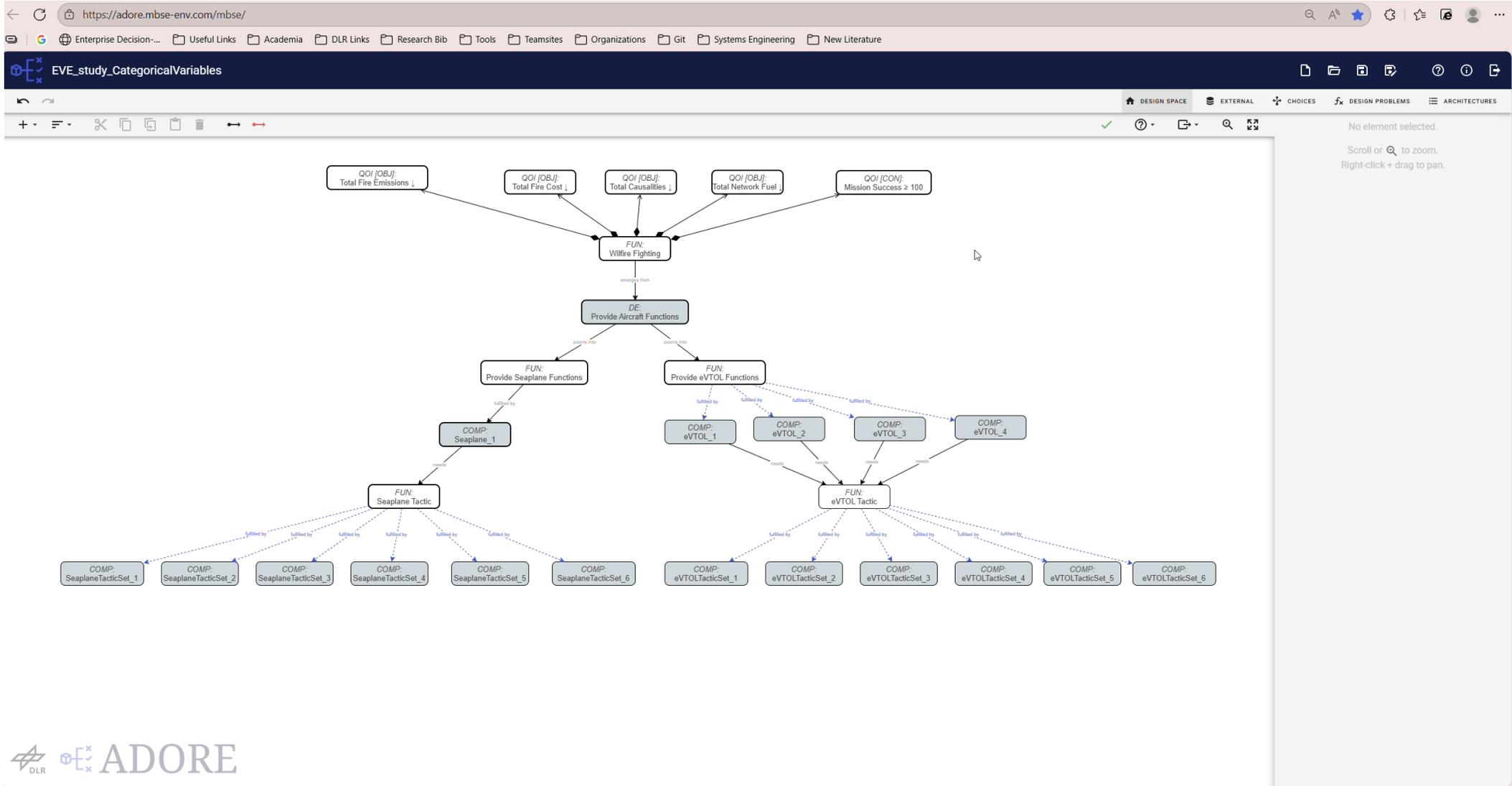
Architecture Generator



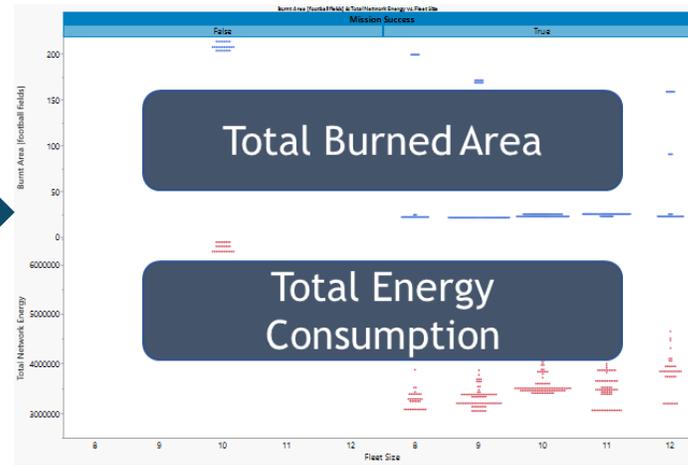
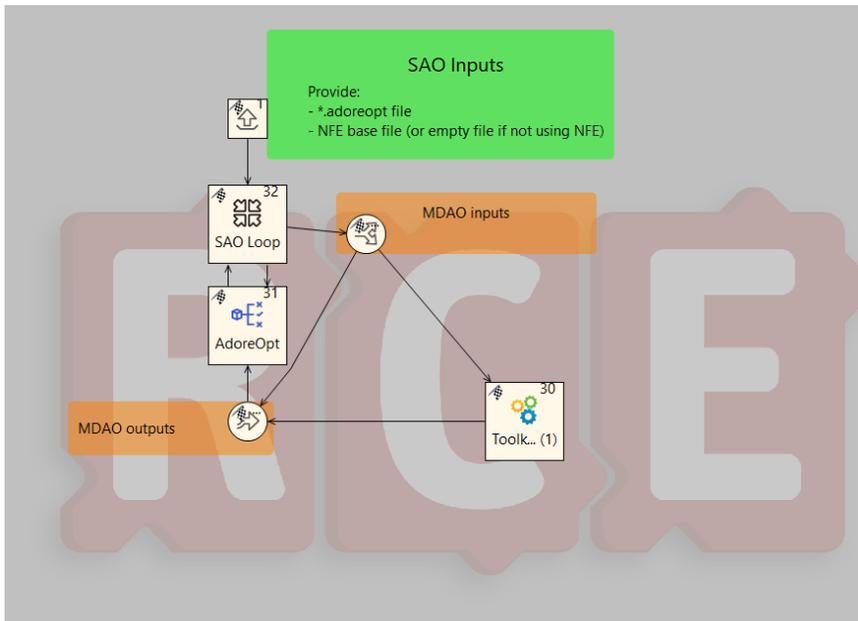
Evaluation Tool
(Agent-Based Simulation Tool
„SoSID Toolkit“)

SoS Architecting

Automated Design Space Evaluation (DEMO)



SoS Architecting Architecture Selection



Choices on the vehicles involved in firefighting and the chosen tactics

Conclusion and Outlook

Challenge of System-of-Systems



Summary

How can established **MBSE processes** be adapted and scaled to support the development of **System-of-Systems**?

- **Solution-agnostic processes** for SoS problem definition and SoS architecting
- **Implementation** with selected MBSE tools and evaluations tools

Next Steps

- Shift to System-of-Systems Engineering requires **evolutionary thinking** in SoS architecting (in contrast to SE)
- **Decision-making** requires consideration of **distributed ownership** of constituent systems



*COLLABORATIVE SYSTEM OF SYSTEMS
EXPLORATION OF AVIATION PRODUCTS,
SERVICES & BUSINESS MODELS*

Akbari, Jasamin^{1,*}; Knöös Franzen, Ludvig²; Jouannet, Christopher²; Nagel, Björn¹

¹ German Aerospace Center (DLR), Institute of System Architectures in Aeronautics, Hamburg, Germany

² Linköping University (LiU), Department of Management and Engineering, Linköping, Sweden

* Correspondence: jasamin.akbari@dlr.de



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