



# OpenMBEE

Open Model-Based Engineering Environment

## Connected engineering information for a connected world

**Robert Karban, Chris Delp**  
*Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology*

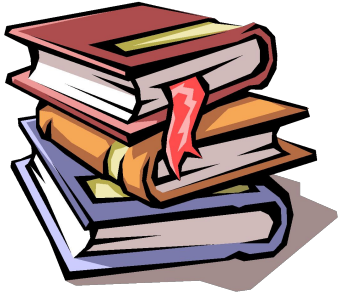
[OpenMBEE.org](https://openmb.ee.org)

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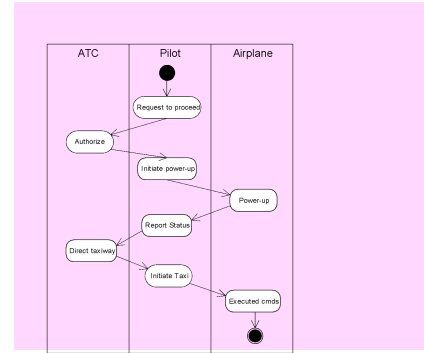
# Vision from early 2000's

## Present



- Specifications
- Interface requirements
- System design
- Analysis & Trade-off
- Test plans

## Future



Moving from Document centric to Model centric

# 20 years later - Connected Information



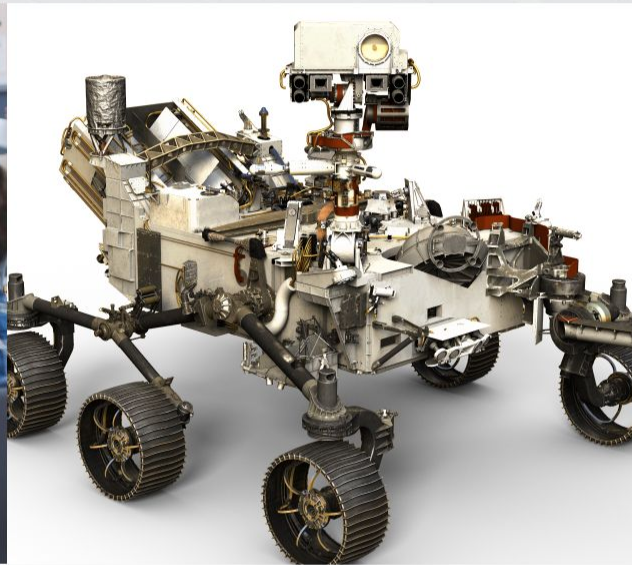


**JPL**

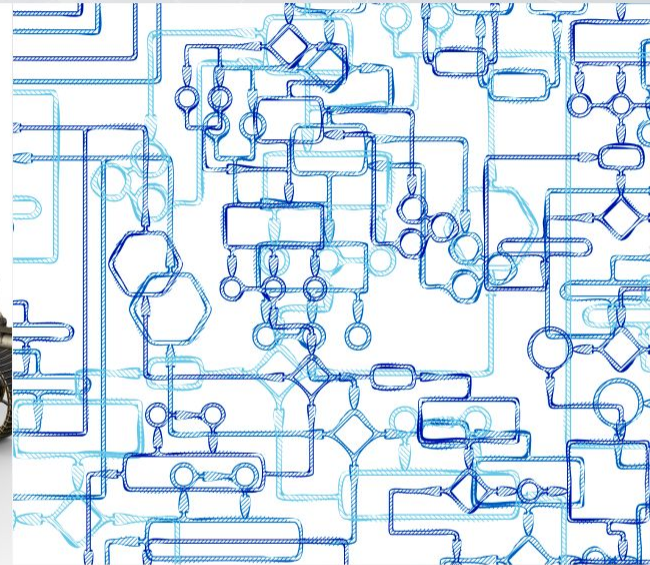
**Systems Engineers guide the  
concurrent collaborative design  
of complex technical systems**



**Leadership**



**Architect and Design  
Cyber-Physical Systems**



**Manage Complexity**

# Flight project teams are large



# A project starts simple



# Engineers iterate on their models





**Systems engineers enter this data into their rollup**



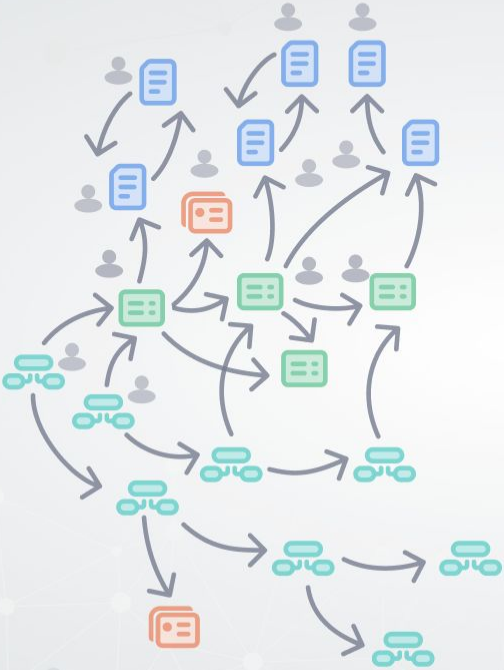
**They add it to a document and get inputs from others**



**And add it to a spreadsheet to track it over time**



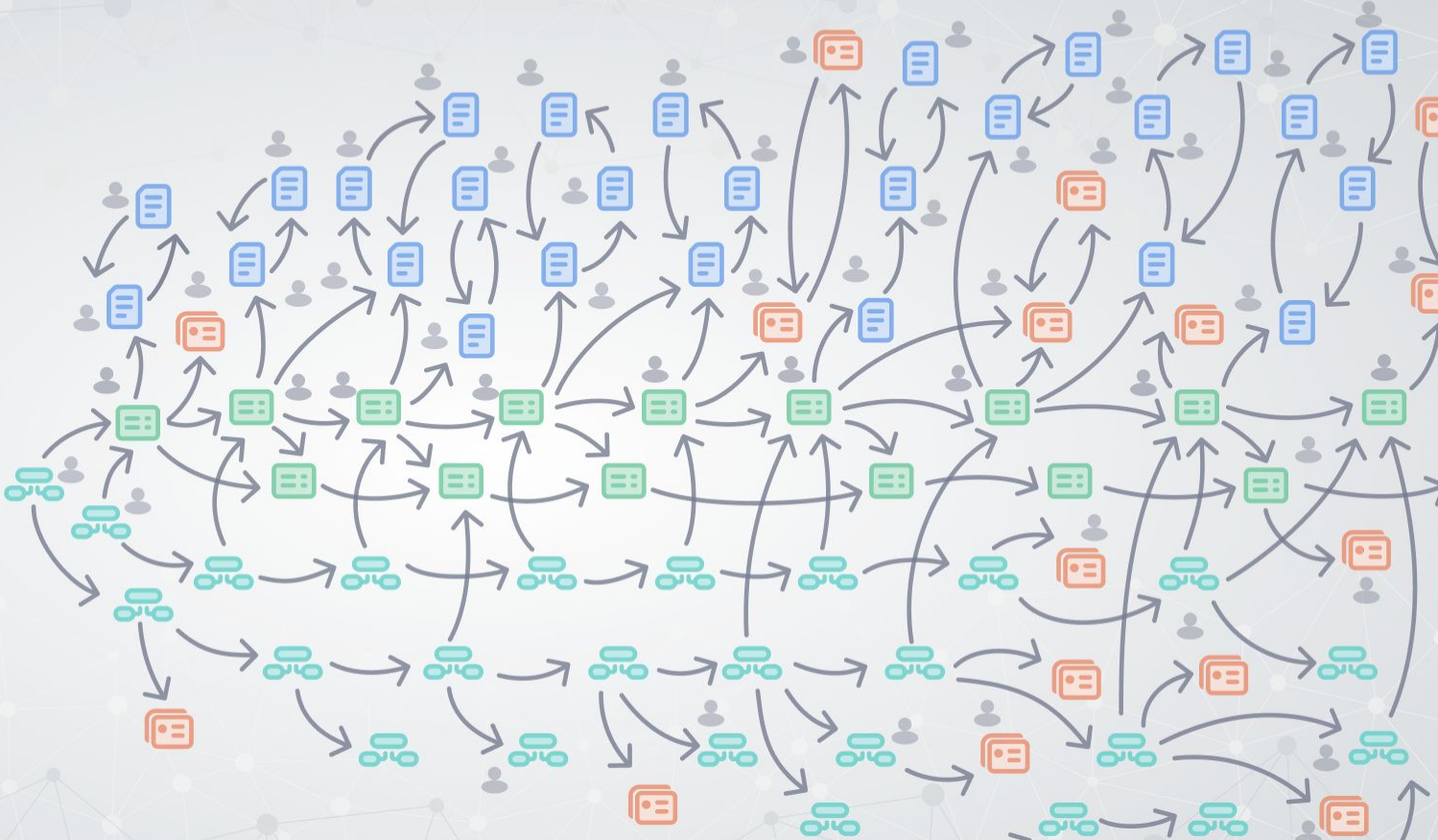
# It can get complicated quickly



# It can get complicated quickly



**It can get complicated quickly**



**And become overwhelming...**





**Most of my job is data entry.  
I want to do REAL ENGINEERING.**

JPL Systems Engineer





**Using engineers as information janitors isn't the best use of their skill.**

JPL Systems Engineer

# Real engineering vs. overhead



**Repetitive Data Entry**

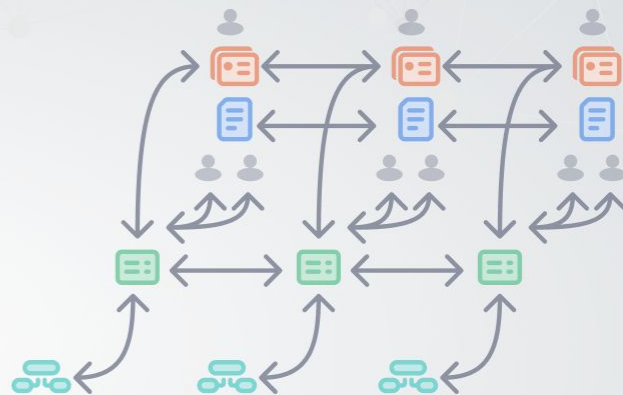


**Version Confusion**

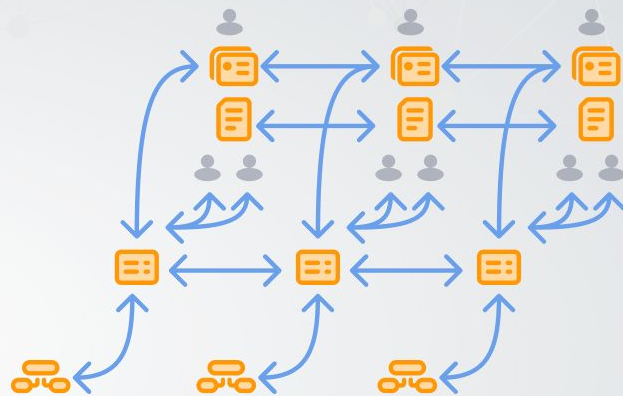


**Constant Searching**

A better way...



A better way...



# Connected information, connected engineers





Note: Aerospace MTIP contribution currently being integrated



**Model Management System**



**View Editor & Platform for Model Analysis**



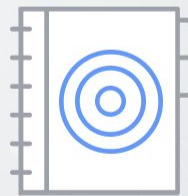
**Model Development Kits**



**Documentation and Training**



**Thirty Meter Telescope Model**



**OpenSE Cookbook**

Thirty Meter  
Telescope  
Model



  
Model Management  
System

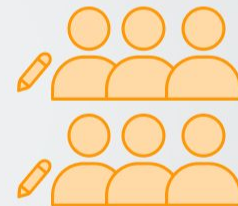
Authoritative  
Source

  
OpenSE  
Cookbook



Model Development  
Kits

Engineering Modeling



View Editor & Platform  
for Model Analysis

Document Authoring

# Master Equipment List



**Model Management  
System**

**Authoritative  
Source**



**Flight System Engineer**

**Master Equipment List  
analysis**



**Subject Matter Expert**

**Master Equipment List  
document report**





# Demo Roundtrip

A background graphic on the left side of the slide featuring a network diagram. It consists of numerous small, semi-transparent nodes (circles) in shades of grey, white, and light green, connected by thin, light grey lines. The nodes are scattered across the left half of the slide, creating a sense of interconnectedness and data flow.

# Demo Confluence



## NASA

Mars 2020  
Europa Clipper  
ARRM  
Mars Sample Return  
MAIA  
SWOT  
NASA Pathfinder  
Europa Lander



## Science & Engineering

Thirty Meter Telescope  
Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency  
Stevens Institute of Technology  
Systems Engineering Research Center  
Georgia Tech Research Institute  
Georgia Tech Aerospace Systems Design Laboratory



## Industry

Boeing  
Ford Motor Company  
Lockheed Martin Corporation



## Standards

Object Management Group  
INCOSE



## Vendors

Dassault Systemes  
IncQuery Labs  
Capella  
Intercax  
Tom Sawyer  
Phoenix Integrations  
Maplesoft

# Flight Project Impact: Reduction of Overhead



Europa Clipper

**100**

Concurrent users



**230+**

Documents and decision gate deliverables including



**445,000**

Connections between elements





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**The Mass and Power Equipment Lists produced by the model provided crucial support to the key mission architecture trades... A key enabler of this modeling capability came from components of OpenMBEE.**

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Todd Bayer, Flight System Engineer, Europa Clipper/JPL



# Flight Project Impact: Technical Rigor



Mars 2020

# 50

Concurrent users



# 90+

Documents and decision gate deliverables including



Reference Designator List



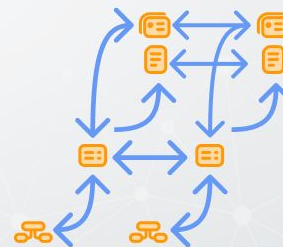
Electrical Function List



Electrical Functional Block Diagram

# 180,000

Connections between elements





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**...documents that were shared with the entire project and were used as the authoritative source of truth for key FSSE deliveries such as the: Reference Designator List, Motor MUX table, Electrical Function List.**

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Elyse Fosse, Mars2020 Flight System and Mission System Systems Engineer



# International Standards Impact: Digital Transformation



Systems Modeling  
Language V2

**60+**

Organizations

**30**

Contributors

**100+**

Consumers

**6**

Documents  
including



SysML v2 RFP



SysML v2 Submission



SysML 1.x Specification

**10,212**

Connections between elements







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**The capability that OpenMBEE provides is helping to dramatically shape the direction of MBSE, and is turning out to be a critical enabler of MBSE as part of the digital transformation.**

---

Sanford Friedenthal, Founder of SysML, INCOSE representative and Systems Engineering domain-specific interest group lead at Object Modeling Group



# Aerospace Industry Impact: Enterprise Scalability



**1,000**

Concurrent users

**50**

Programs



**100**

Concurrent users

**50**

Projects





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**The architecture of OpenMBEE  
proves to be enterprise scalable  
and has so far greatly satisfied our  
operational needs.**

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Brittany Friedland, John Herrold, Barry Overcash  
Systems Engineering Architects  
The Boeing Company

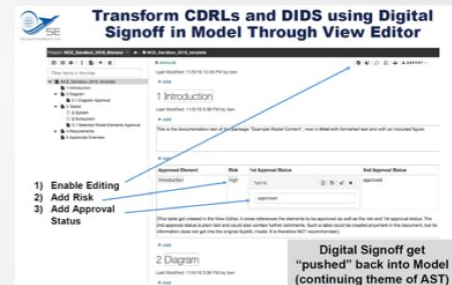


# Academia Impact: Inter-Organizational Collaboration



## NAVAIR Model-Based Acquisition Strategy

- ☰ Surrogate Pilot RFP delivered to NAVAIR
- ☰ Data Item Descriptions (DIDs)
- ☰ Contract Data Requirements List (CDRL)





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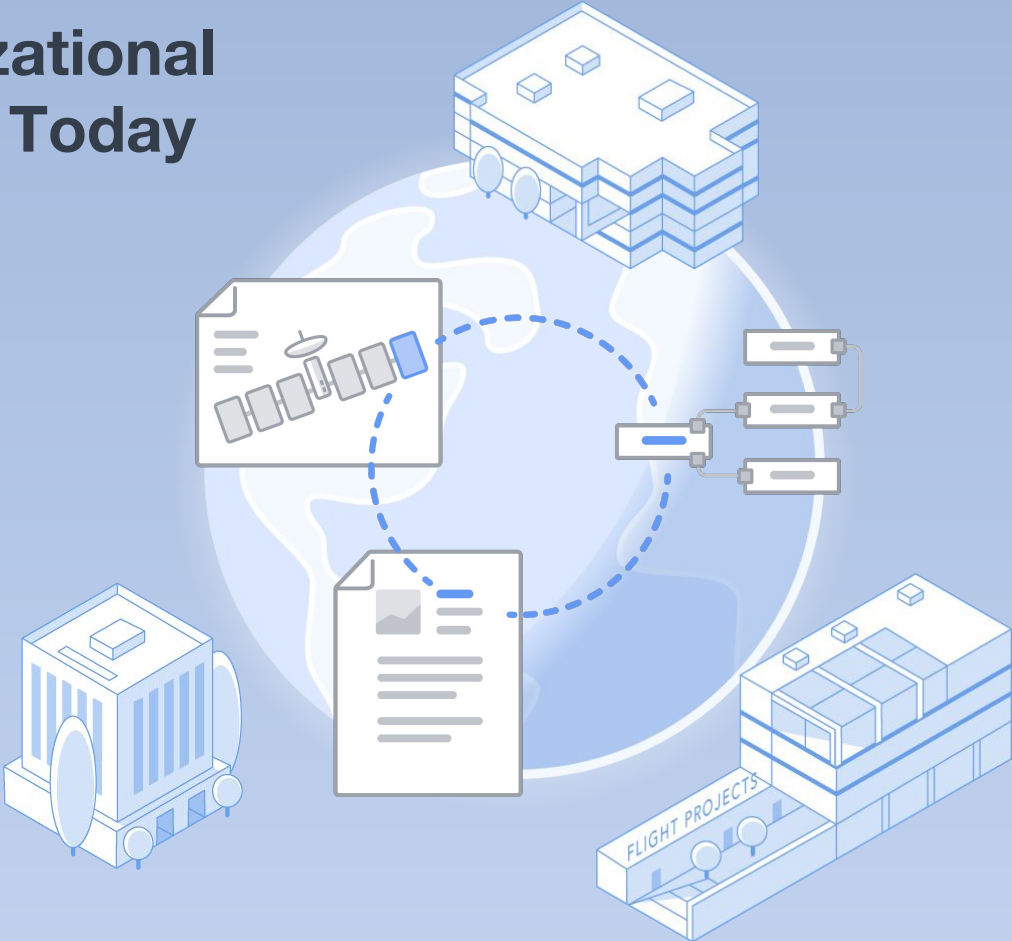
**...use OpenMBEE View and Viewpoints as a means for placing a Digital signoff directly with model information that provides the needed evidence.**

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Mark Blackburn, Senior Research Scientist at Stevens/SERC,  
Key enabling research on proving MBSE and MBEE for US Navy



# Intra-Organizational Environment Today



# Inter-Organizational Concept



# Mars Sample Return Concept





# Global Engineering Ecosystem Vision

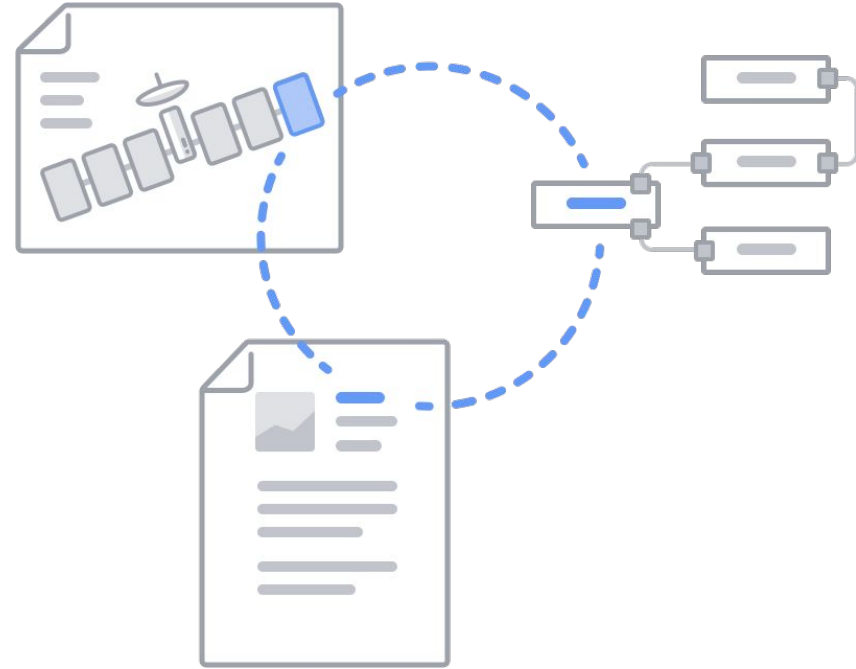


**Connected engineering information  
for a connected world**

# Open Model-Based Engineering Environment

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- OpenMBEE is a **community** for open source modeling software and models
  - Open source software activities
  - Open source models
  - Open source exchange of ideas
- Participants and adopters:  
JPL, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, OMG, NavAir, Ford, Stevens, Georgia Tech, ESO, ...
- > 500 members



Linked Data Documents with OpenMBEE

# OpenMBEE Updates

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- Home with NumFOCUS
- Recent 9th INCOSE IW OpenMBEE Workshop
- 2023 NASA Honor Award: Group Achievement Award
- Upcoming: Workshop at INCOSE IS 2023



OpenMBEE is now a NumFOCUS Sponsored Project



# OpenMBEE

Open Model-Based Engineering Environment

**Questions?**

