



NRC RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN DIGITAL TWINS

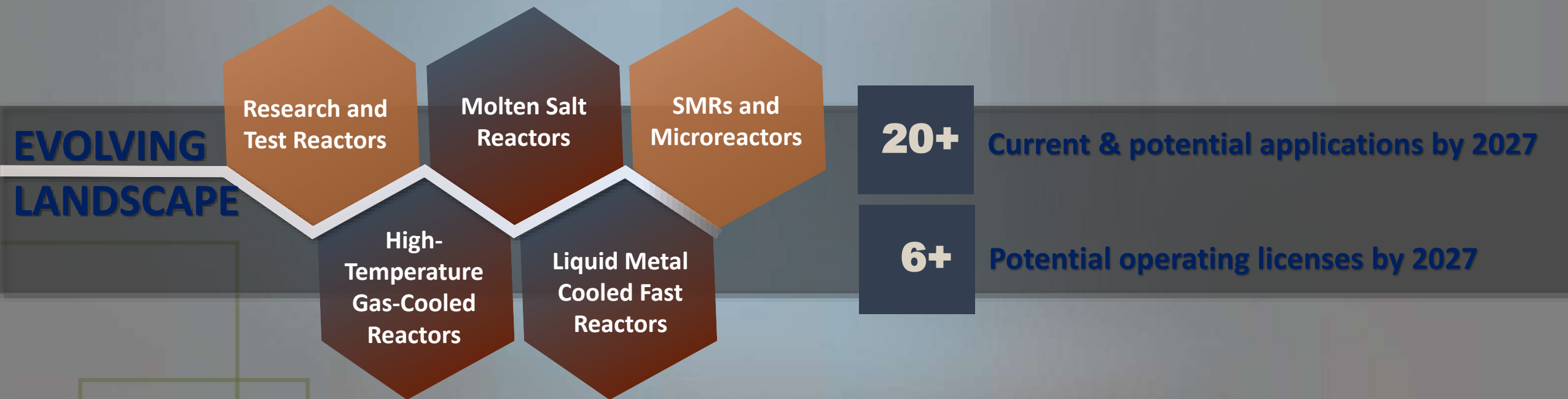
Raj Iyengar
Reactor Engineering Branch
Division of Engineering
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

DOE-NE WORKSHOP ON ADVANCED REACTORS AND NEED FOR ADVANCED CONTROL SYSTEMS
ARGONNE, IL
July 12-14, 2023

“The views expressed in this paper are those of the authors and do not reflect the views of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

This material is declared a work of the U.S. Government and is not subject to copyright protection in the United States. Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.”

NRC PREPARING FOR ADVANCED REACTORS



15+ Entities actively engaged in pre-application activities

79 Topical reports and white paper reviews completed for 7 vendors

42 Topical reports and white papers under evaluation from 8 vendors

NRC ADVANCED FUEL CYCLE LICENSING READINESS



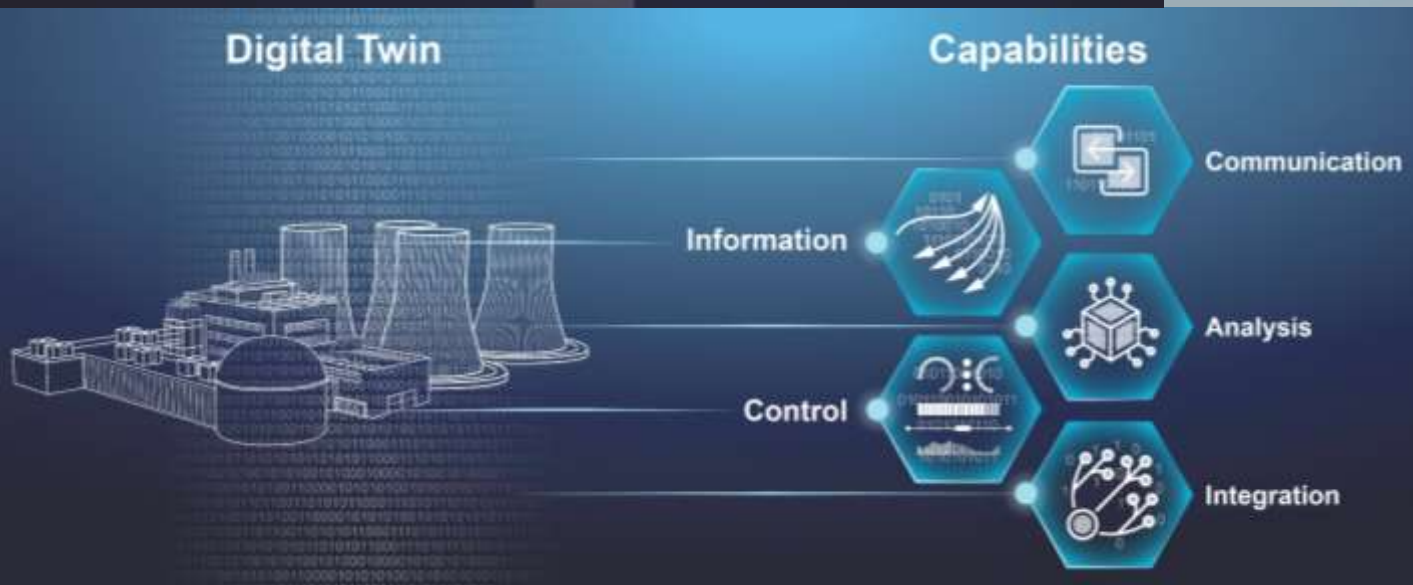
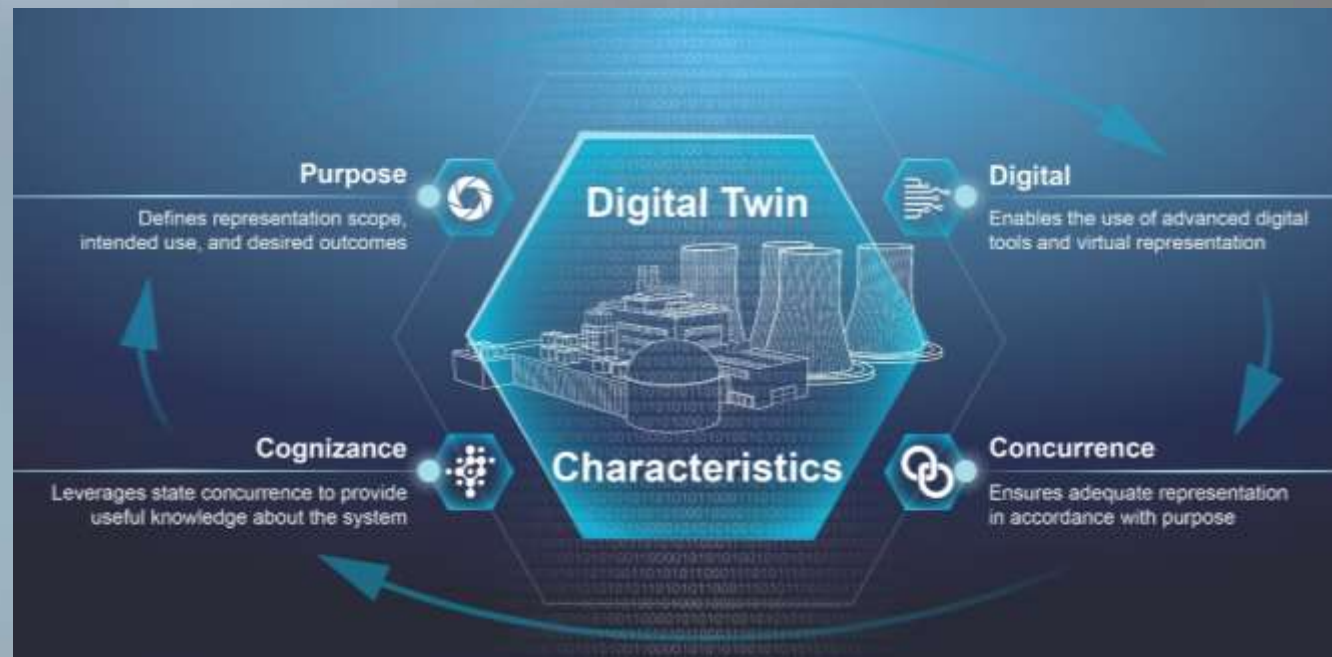
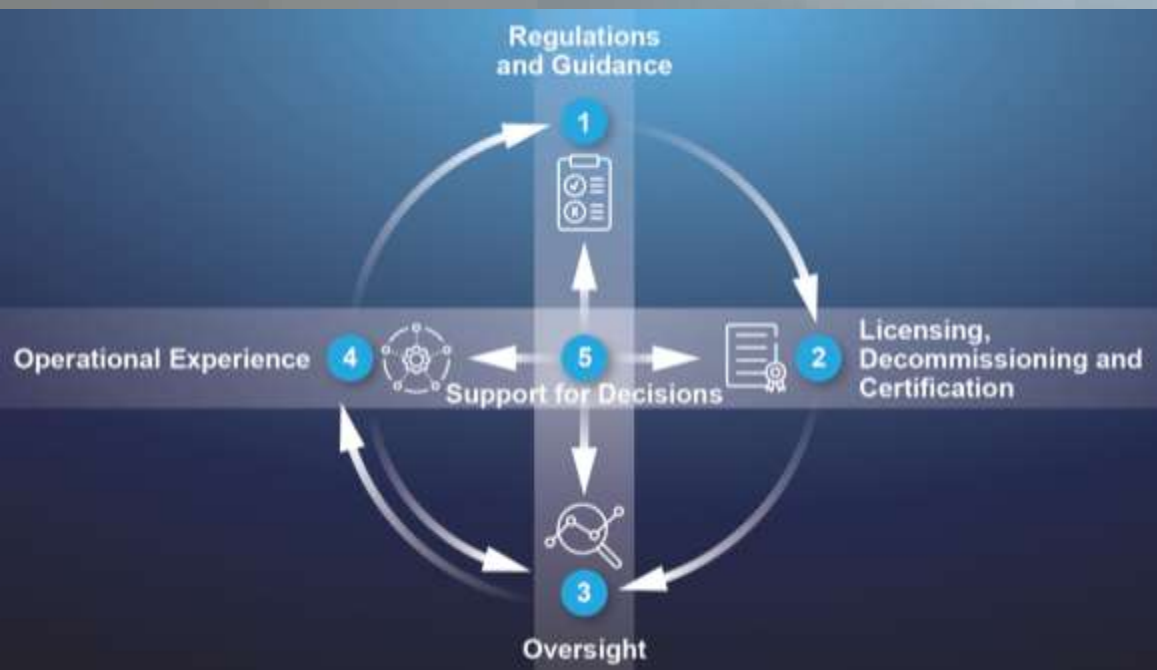
New Fuels

- TRISO
- Metal
- HALEU
- Molten Salt Fuel

Current Licensing Activities

- Research Support
- Generic Technical Assessments
- Accident Tolerant Fuel
- High-Assay Low-Enriched Uranium (HALEU)
- NEIMA Review Schedules
- Hearing Opportunities
- Public Involvement

DIGITAL TWIN CHARACTERISTICS & CAPABILITIES



DIGITAL TWINS: CHALLENGES & GAPS



Enabling Technology	Key Challenge
Advanced Sensors & Instrumentation (ASI)	Building adequate ASI infrastructure
Data and Information Management	Developing user interfaces for data and information
Data Analytics	Implementing scalable, integrable data analytics
AI/ML	Establishing AI/ML trustworthiness and explainability
Modeling and Simulation	Constructing real-time, high-fidelity physics-based simulations
	Developing real-time, data-informed models
	Verifying and validating integrated models



Regulatory Consideration	Opportunity
Information Reporting	Data and report generation
Operator Licensing	Up-to-date and validated simulator model
Component Performance	Real-time condition-based monitoring and preventative maintenance
Event Assessment	Virtual environment event replay
Safety Analysis	Integrated modeling and simulation to support decision making

ADVANCED SENSORS AND INSTRUMENTATION

Challenges inherent to ASI and CT

Meeting the requirements for environmental qualification, performance, reliability, and maintainability

Ability of communication technology to evolve as scalable, agile, and modular

Enabling the implementation of multimodal sensors

Supporting edge computing and smart sensors

Cyber Security

Integration of ASI and CT with DT

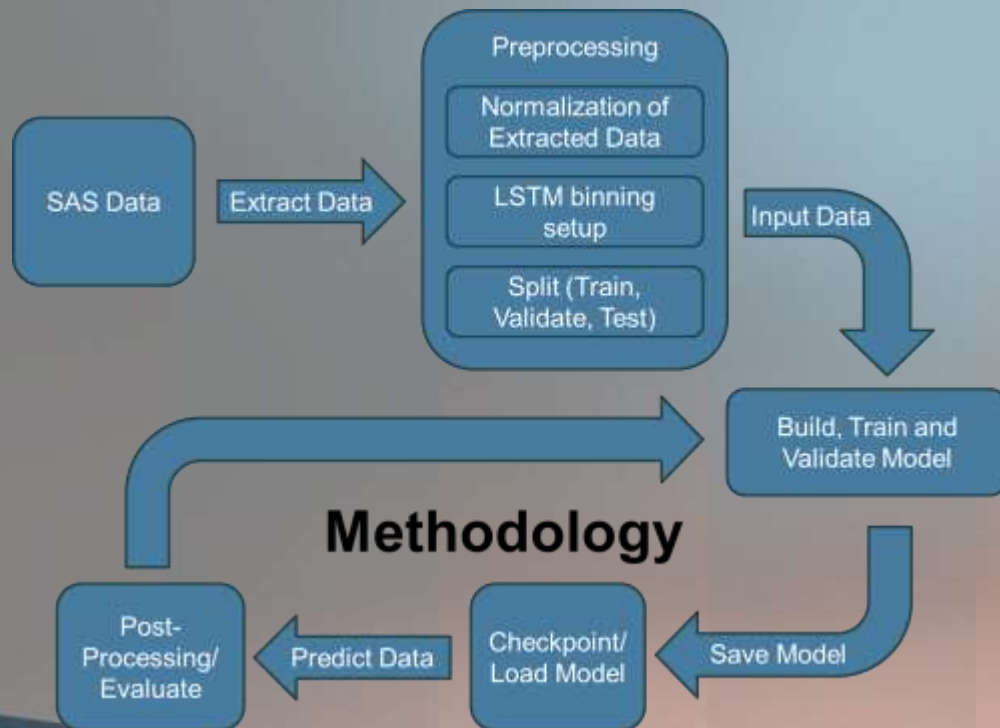
Supporting real-time integration of advanced sensors and instrumentation and communication technology with a digital twin for state concurrence

Ensuring adaptability of a digital twin to accommodate different technological advancements in advanced sensors and instrumentation and communication technology

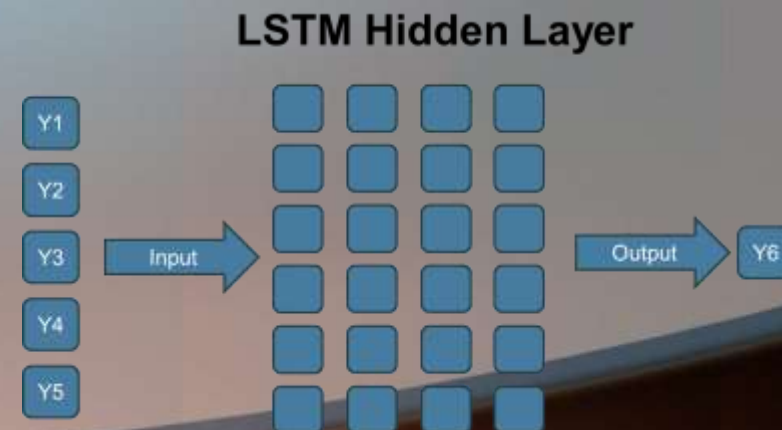
Developing a digital twin for performance and reliability of advanced sensors

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVANCED MODELING

- Enhanced Data-Informed Modeling using AI/ML or Multiphysics
 - Improved Verification and Validation
 - Realtime Data for Training AI/ML Models
 - Reduce uncertainties
 - Improved Explainability of Predictions using AI/ML



- Case Studies
 - Equipment Performance Monitoring using ML and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) Forecasting
 - Nuclear Materials Safeguards



DIGITAL TWINS TO INTEGRATED CYBER-PHYSICAL SYSTEMS

EMBEDDED SYSTEMS

MULTI SENSORS FUSION

SENSORS – ACTUATORS INTEGRATION

SMART COMPONENTS

EDGE COMPUTING

LAYERED DATA SPACES

Future Planned Activities

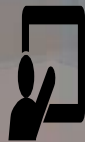


Assessment of Standards –
Stakeholder Engagement



Demonstration of
Applicability/Predictability

Develop Regulatory Guidance



Communication and
Knowledge Management

THANK YOU

<https://www.nrc.gov/reactors/power/digital-twins.html>