

# Ensuring a successful FPSO start-up by phased lifecycle approach of process Digital Twins

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inprocess 



- **Who we are**
- **What could go wrong in an FPSO?**
- **Our Lifecycle Digital Twin vision to achieve Operational Excellence**
- **Inprocess Lifecycle Digital Twin Method**
- **Bad Actors Detector with online Digital Twins**
- **Benefits, references and Inprocess added value**
- **Your takeaways, Q&A**



# Who we are



**independent** from any ICSS or simulation software provider

our **core business** is Process Simulation

keen to **share its knowledge** with clients



**2006**

founded in Barcelona by domain experts



**48 countries**

worldwide presence



**50+**

simulation engineers



**250+**

years experience



**400+**

executed projects



**320+**

training courses

**Mission:** accompany our clients in their success in achieving safer, greener, more reliable and more profitable industrial operations





## Lifecycle Modelling

- Feasibility studies, Selection of alternatives
- Dynamic simulation studies before plant construction
- Validation of control philosophy
- Operational procedures development/enhancement
- Process trainer - Emulated OTS - Early OTS
- DCS check-out
- OTS for operators' initial and continuous training
- Support during commissioning and start-up
- Operations & Maintenance support (Digital Twin)



## Process Simulation Studies

- Steady State Analysis
- Dynamic Simulation Studies
- Integrated Flare Systems Analysis
- Flow Assurance Studies with OLGA
- Utilities Network Models
- On-line models
- Operations Staff Training
- O&M Support



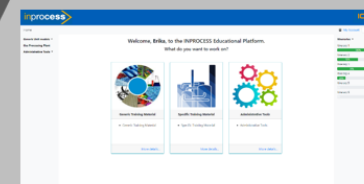
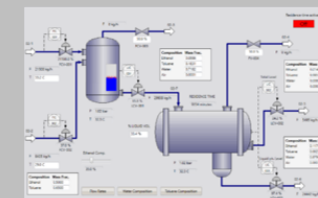
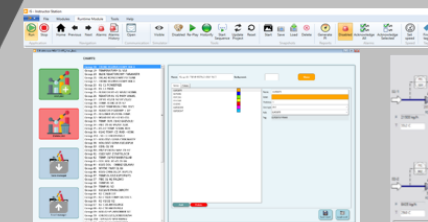
## Training / Knowledge Transfer

- Process simulation courses
- Technology courses
- Knowledge Improvement Program – KIP
- Training for plant operators / technicians

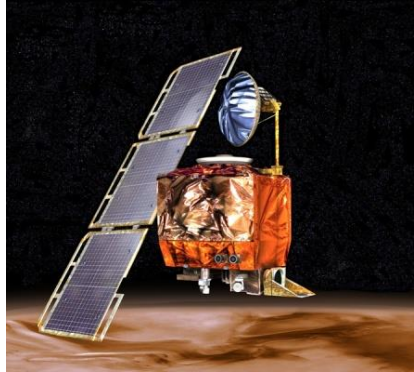


## Applications / Software Development

- **IIS:** Inprocess Infrastructure Suite
- **IPSV:** PSVs database
- **ITOP:** Inprocess Training for Operators
- **ICOM:** Inprocess Competence Management System
- **IFLOW:** to link process simulators with OLGA®
- **IPSA:** Pressure Swing Adsorption simulator
- **OTS Web Access:** e-learning options
- Extensions for process simulators



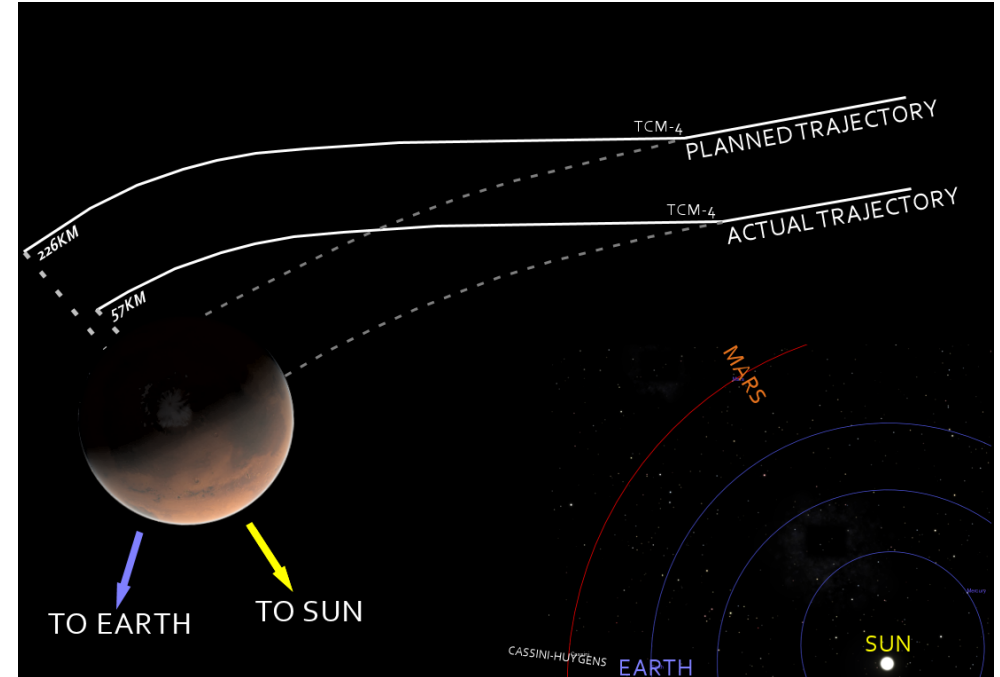
**What could go wrong in an FPSO?**



1999: Mars  
Climate Orbiter  
vanished



A NASA review board found that the problem was in the software controlling the orbiter's thrusters, which calculates the force the thrusters needed to exert in **Pounds**. A separate piece of software took in the data assuming it was in **Newtons**.



*“People sometimes make errors”*

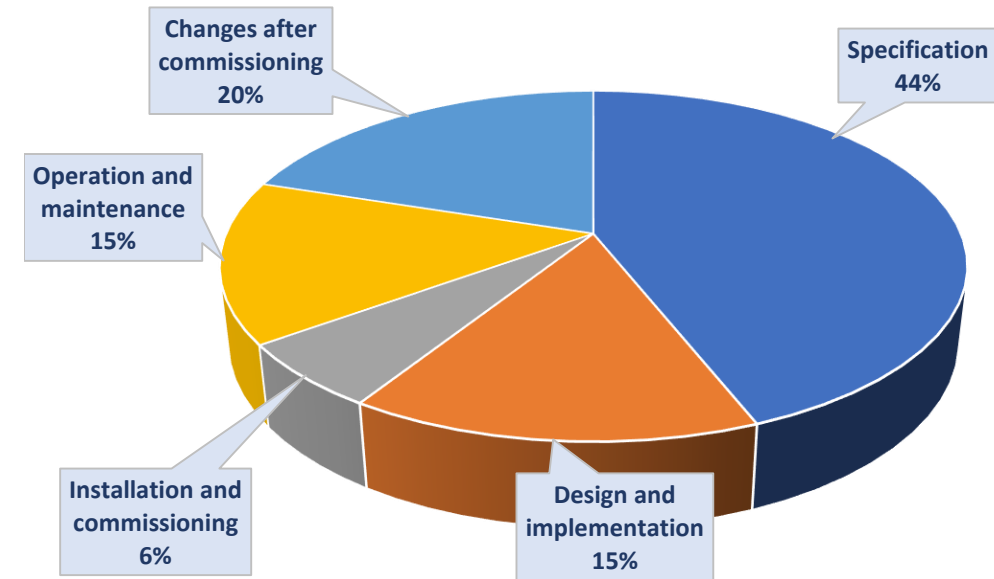
*“The problem here was not the error, it was the failure of NASA's systems engineering, and the checks and balances in our processes to detect the error”*

said Dr. Edward Weiler, NASA's Associate Administrator for Space Science.

*“Our inability to recognize and correct this simple error has had major implications”*

said Dr. Edward Stone, director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

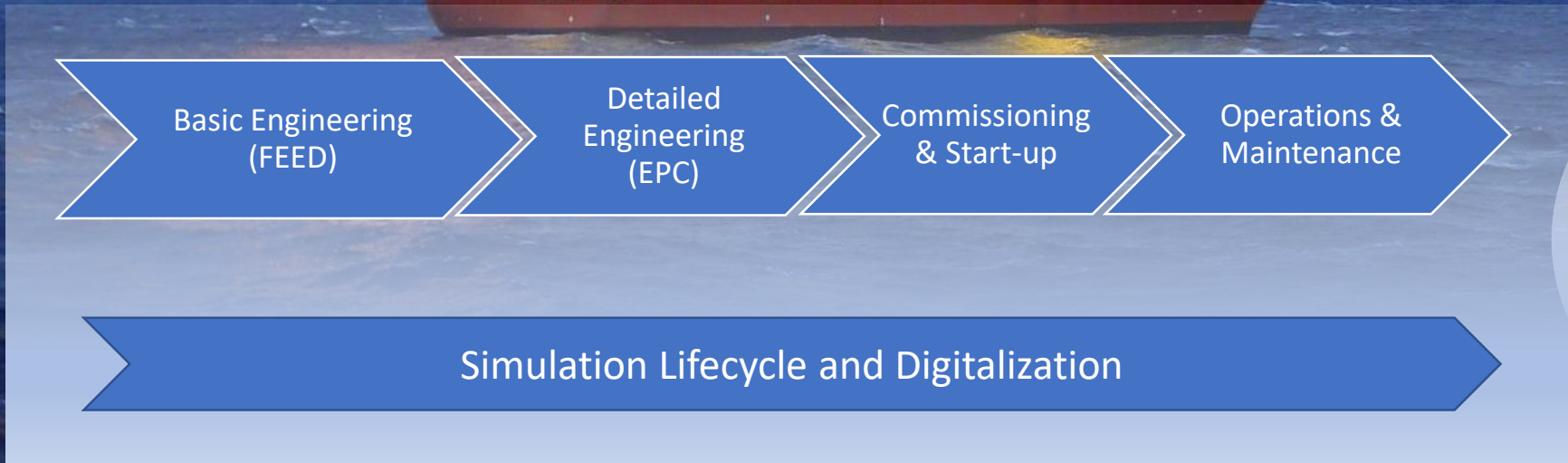
Analysis of 34 incidents and 56 causes identified.  
The graphic shows the primary causes attributable to each lifecycle phase.



Source: Out of control, HSE

**44% of cases the root causes is in the specification phase of a project**





**Inherently Safer Design**

**Operational Excellence**



## PROCESS DESIGN

- Recycles valve sizing
- Hot Gas Bypass req.
- Compressor driver constraint
- GT constraint
- Set points consistency among process areas
- Trip value settings

## OPERATING PROCEDURES

- Transition conditions
- Not feasible in real
- Excessive flaring
- Not safe Emergency procedures

## CONTROL NARRATIVES

- Modules interaction
- Wrong parameters for loops, alarms, timing
- SIS definition

## ICSS CODE

- Wrong Tags, Units, Ranges, modules...
- Errors in sequences
- Wrong loops tuning
- Alarms overload
- SIS implementation

## HUMAN ERROR

- Insufficient quality training
- Unseen abnormalities
- Lack of monitoring, diagnose and operation support tools

## LONG TERM IMPACT

Compromise the production along the whole FPSO life

## SHORT TERM IMPACT

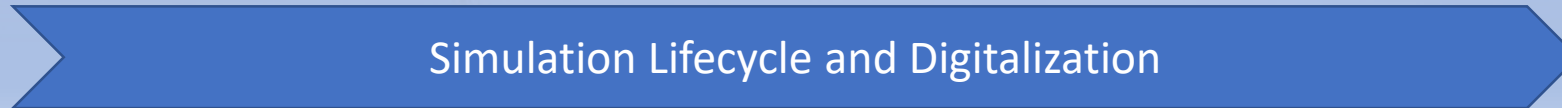
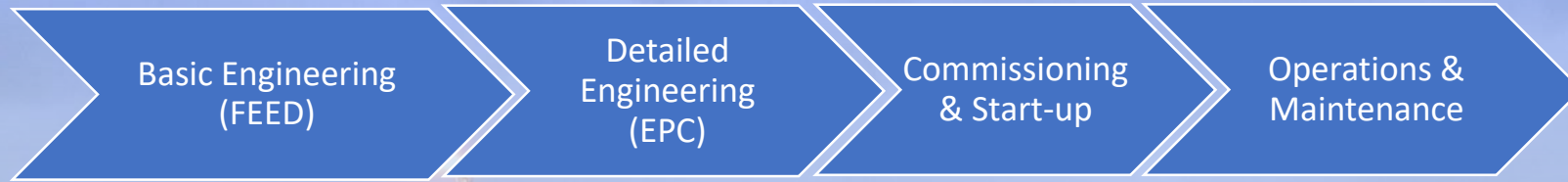
Causes spurious trips, equipment damages and delays in start-up in the order of 10-20 days

## LONG TERM IMPACT

Decrease the %uptime along the whole FPSO life



# What could go wrong in an FPSO?



## PROCESSES

- Recycle valve sizing
- Hot Gas Bypass req.
- Compressor driver constraint
- GT constraint
- Set points consistency among process areas

## OPERATING PROCEDURES

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## LONG TERM IMPACT

Compromise the production along the whole FPSO life

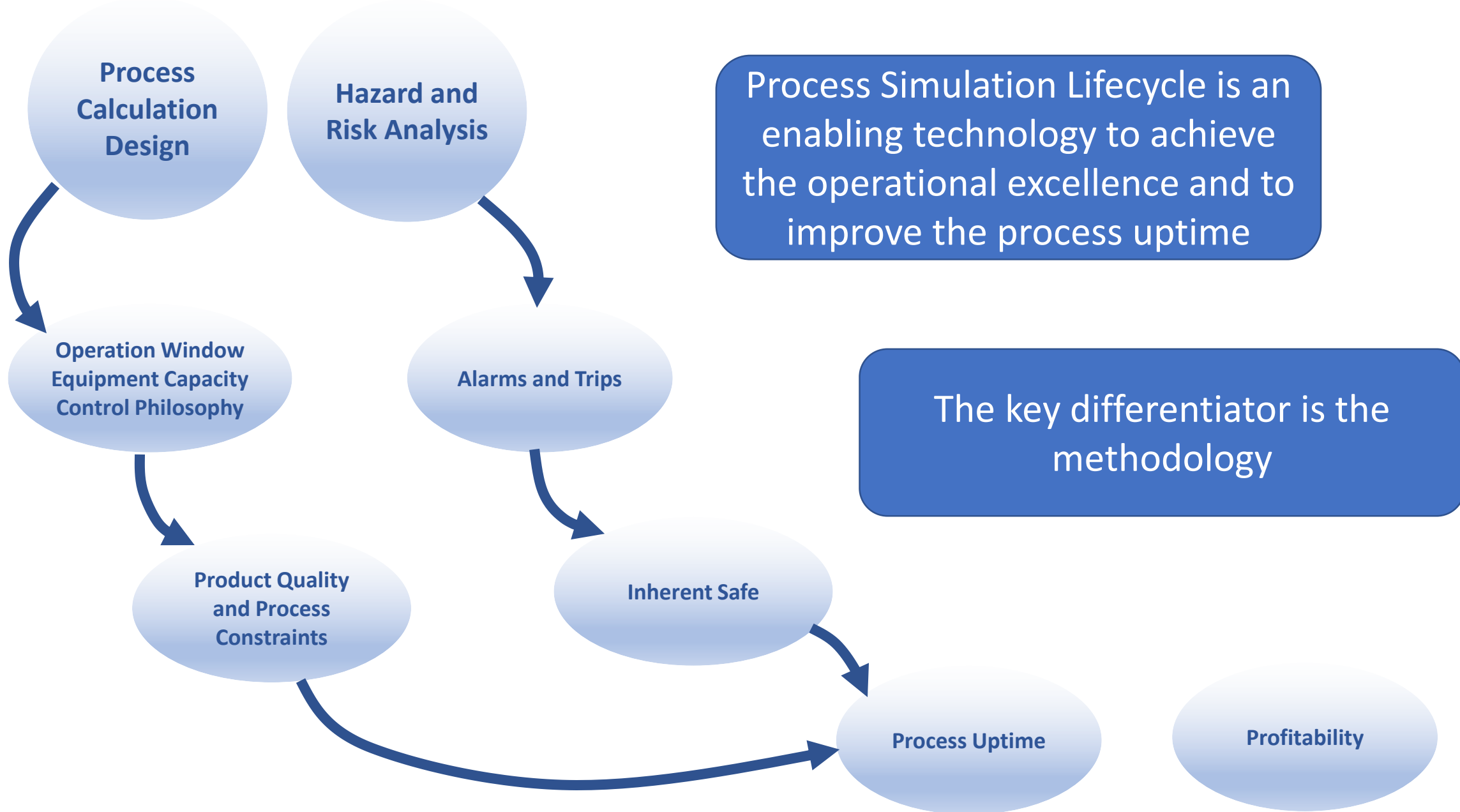
## SHORT TERM IMPACT

Causes spurious trips, equipment damages and delays in start-up in the order of 10-20 days

## LONG TERM IMPACT

Decrease the %uptime along the whole FPSO life





Why is important ?

Where we can see the effect?

How do we know the effect of the interactions?

Which is the margin to trip?

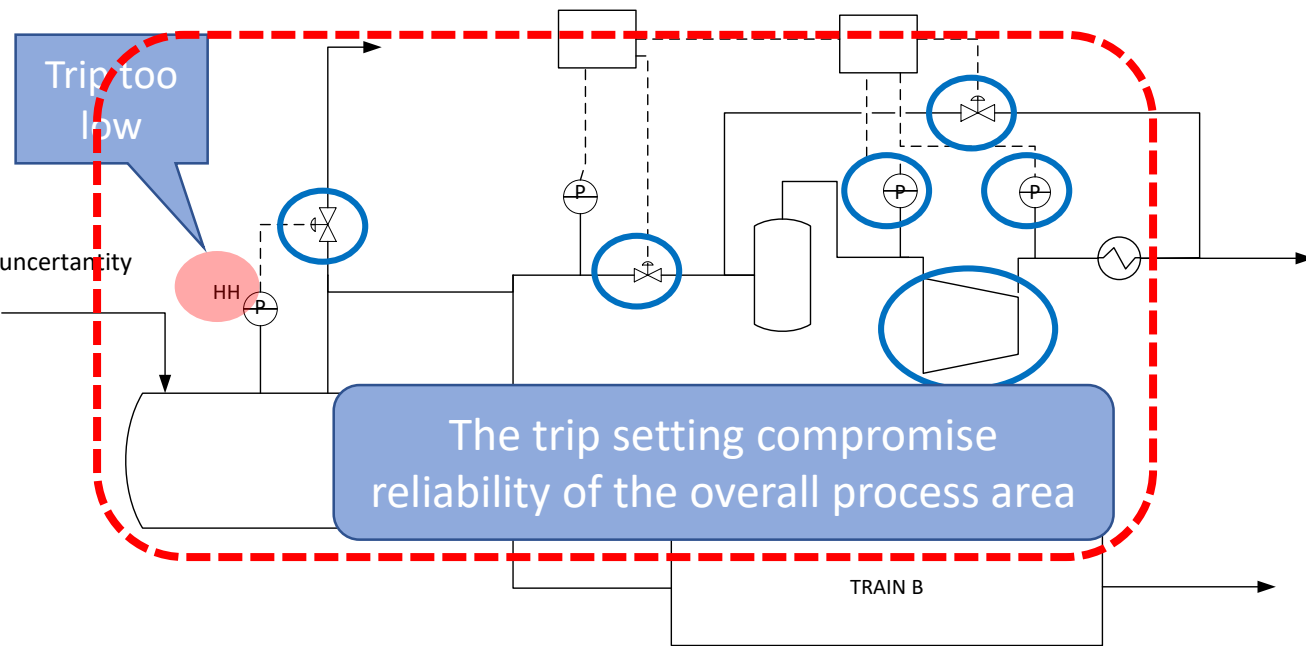
**Hazard and Risk Analysis**

**Alarms and Trips**

Higher level of safety does not necessarily mean higher production regularity. Improving safety without taking the production availability into consideration leads to safety design subject to spurious operations / activations.

## Dynamic analysis

- increase the knowledge
- allow calculating the margin to trip
- and assess how significant are the interactions

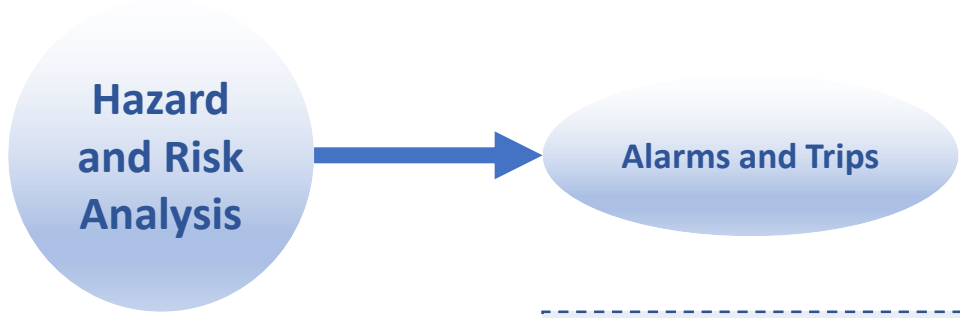


► Why is important ?

► Where we can see the effect?

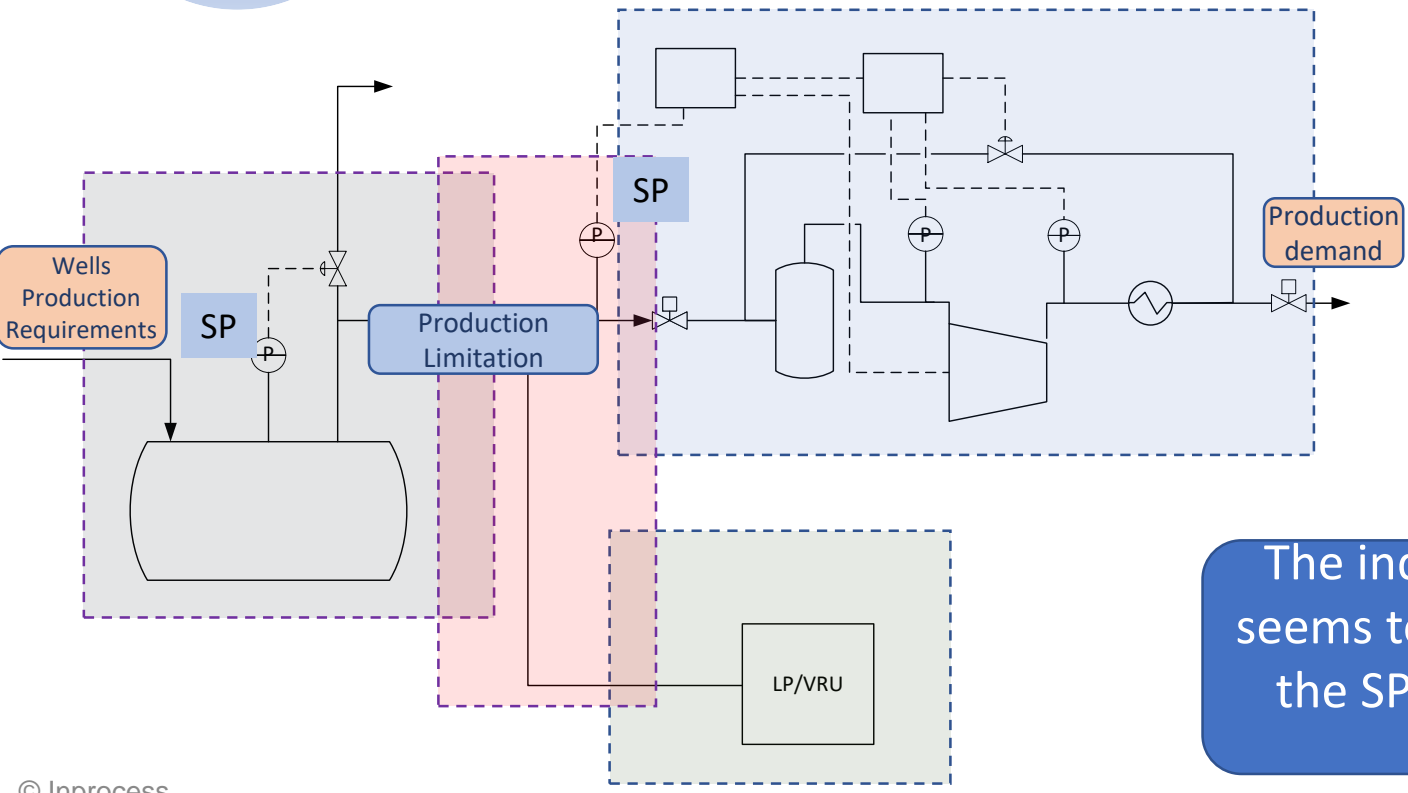
How do we know the effect of the interactions?

Which is the margin to trip?



**Dynamic analysis**

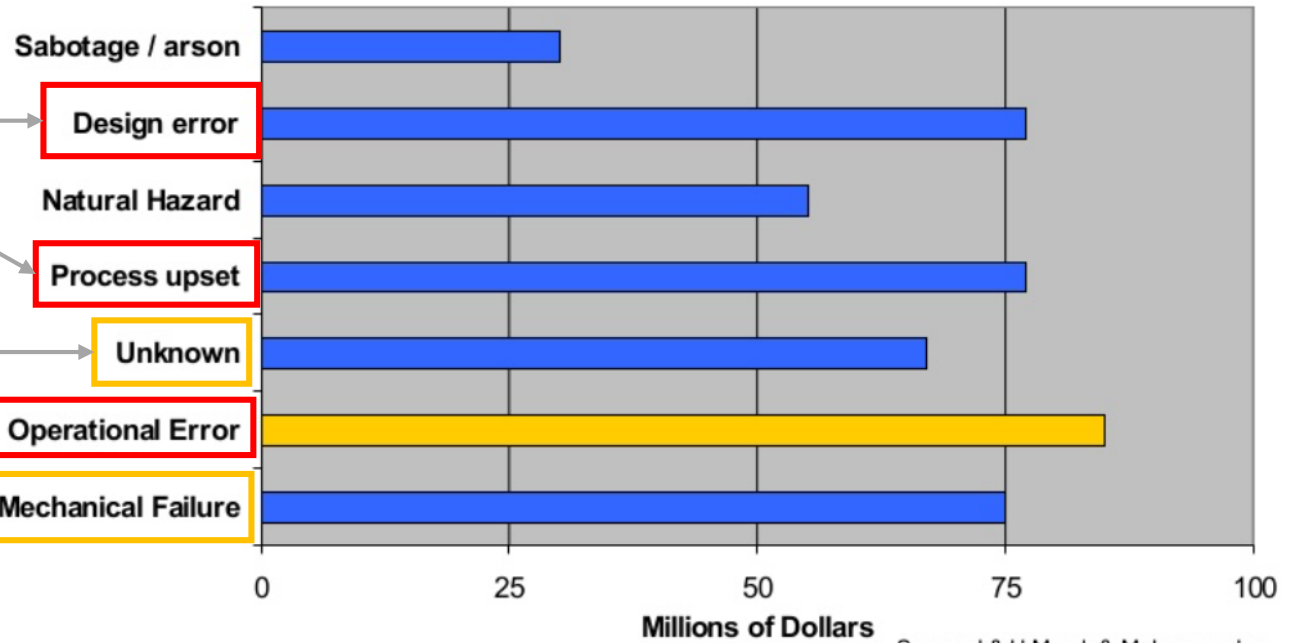
- increase the knowledge
- allow calculating the margin to trip
- and assess how significant are the interactions



The individual setpoints of each package seems to be correct but when put together the SP are not consistent, this results in production limitation



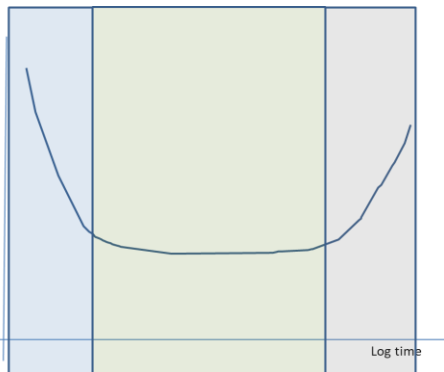
**Average Dollar Loss per Major Incident by Cause**



Source J & H Marsh & McLennan, Inc.

We address these with **Life-Cycle Digital Twin**

And also these with **Online Digital Twin**



*In the first 10 years of a plant's operation, most losses are caused by operations-related failures. As plant operations experience develops, the number of losses reduces, until age takes its toll and there is a steep rise in both loss frequency and magnitude in plants more than 30-years-old. In plants older than 30 years, mechanical-integrity-related failures account for 65% of losses.*  
 Source J&H Marsh & McLennan

# **Our Lifecycle Digital Twin vision**

**Also called:**

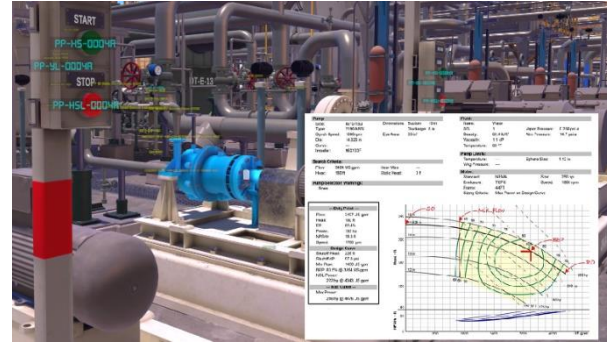
**Lifecycle Operator Training Simulator (LC OTS)**

**Or**

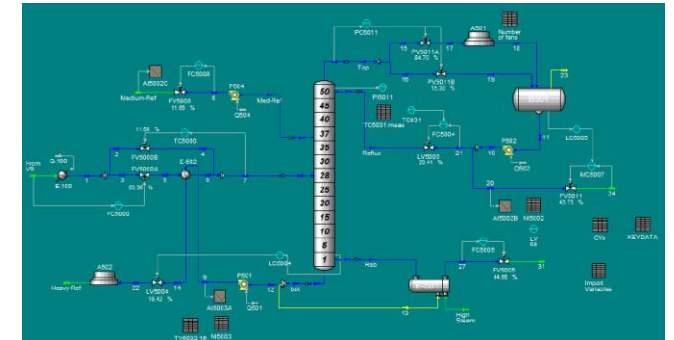
**Multi-Purpose Dynamic Simulator (MPDS)**

- ▶ **Digital Twins are virtual copies of physical assets and their operating behaviours**
- ▶ **This definition has several points of view which are complementary to each:**

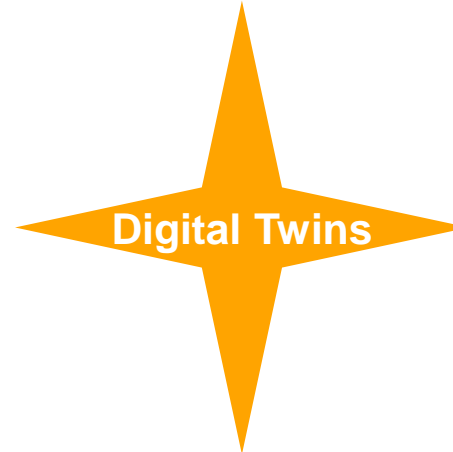
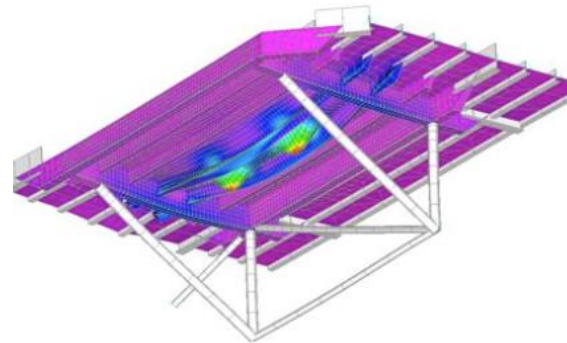
## Contextualized 3D models



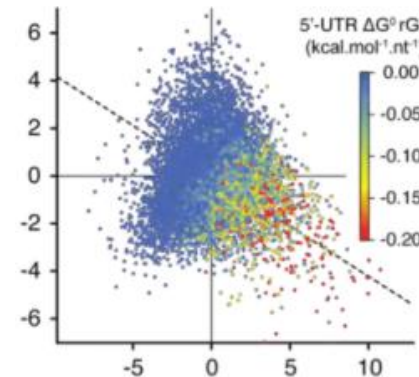
## First-Principles Models



**Mechanical and structure models**

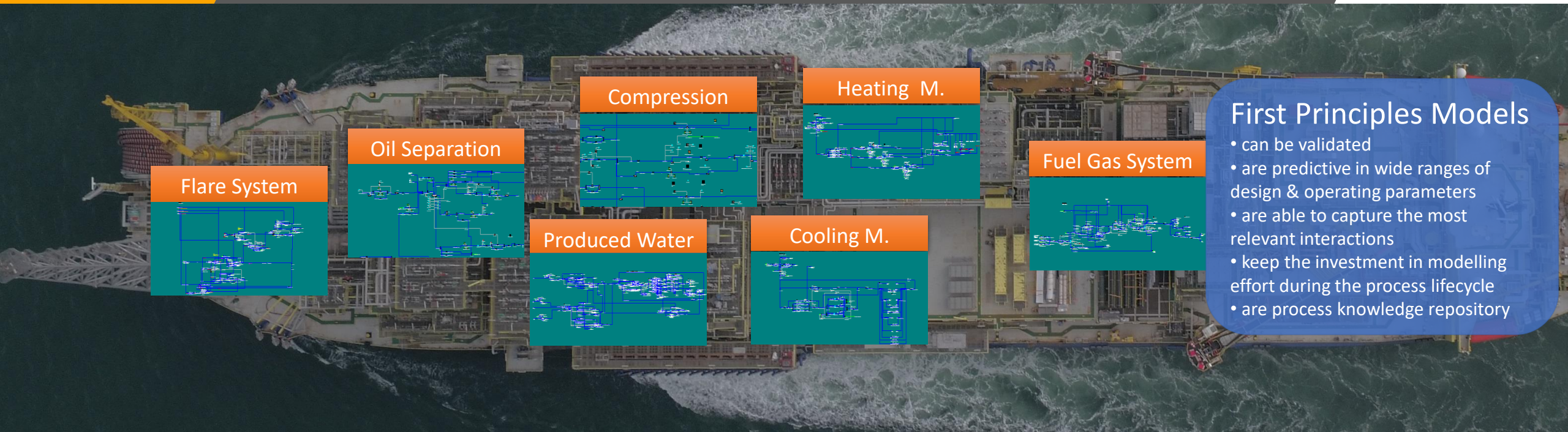


**Empirical Models (data fitting)**



**Centuries of Physics, Chemistry and Thermodynamics knowledge are consolidated here!**





## First Principles Models

- can be validated
- are predictive in wide ranges of design & operating parameters
- are able to capture the most relevant interactions
- keep the investment in modelling effort during the process lifecycle
- are process knowledge repository

The Process Digital Twin is a **first-principles** dynamic model with:

Use of thermodynamic models for properties calculation

All the process streams (P, T, Flow, Composition, properties)

All the equipment geometric data (dimension, elevation, sensor location)

All equipment manufacturer performance data (pump curves, compressor curves, heat exchanger rating data, etc)

All valves (size, pressure drop, characteristic, timings, PSVs, ESDVs)

All controllers and instrumentation (ranges, PID algorithms, logics, tuning)

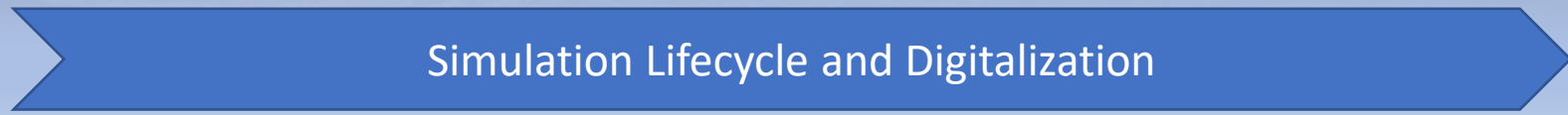
Technicians can **safely** explore **what-if scenarios without** putting people or the asset at risk

It is a valuable **model of asset health**, forecasting and recommending action to avoid degradation and asset failure events.

All data is contained in a Process Model, built in the first principles commercial simulation tool used during design stage of the process

**Software Component  
Inprocess Infrastructure Suite**

**Methodology  
Lifecycle Digital Twin Method**



**Inherently Safer Design**

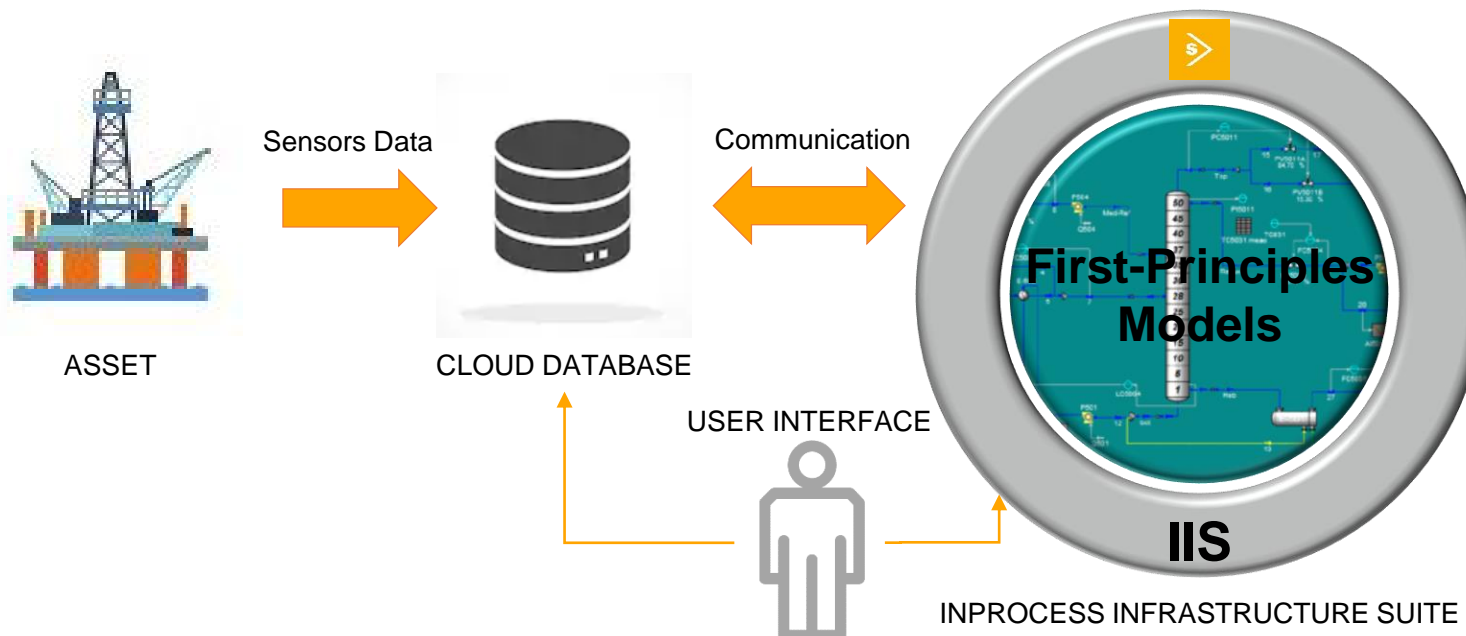
**Operational Excellence**



Process Simulation Model + Inprocess Infrastructure Suite = Inprocess' Digital Twin

➤ **Inprocess Infrastructure Suite (IIS) expands the rigorous, first-principles model into a Digital Twin, by adding a software layer that allows to incorporate:**

- **Connectivity** to any external data source,
- **HMI builder**, to develop user-friendly interfaces
- **Ad-hoc functionalities:** OTS instructor functions, online digital twin functionalities, etc.
- **Cloud-based** installation, allowing for remote access

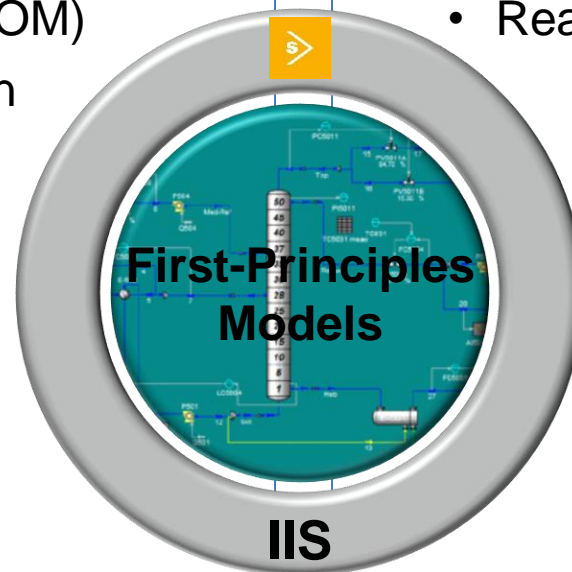


**Off-line**

- Engineering Design Support
- ICSS Validation
- Operator Training Simulators
- Competence Management (ICOM)
- Process & Control Optimization

**On-Line**

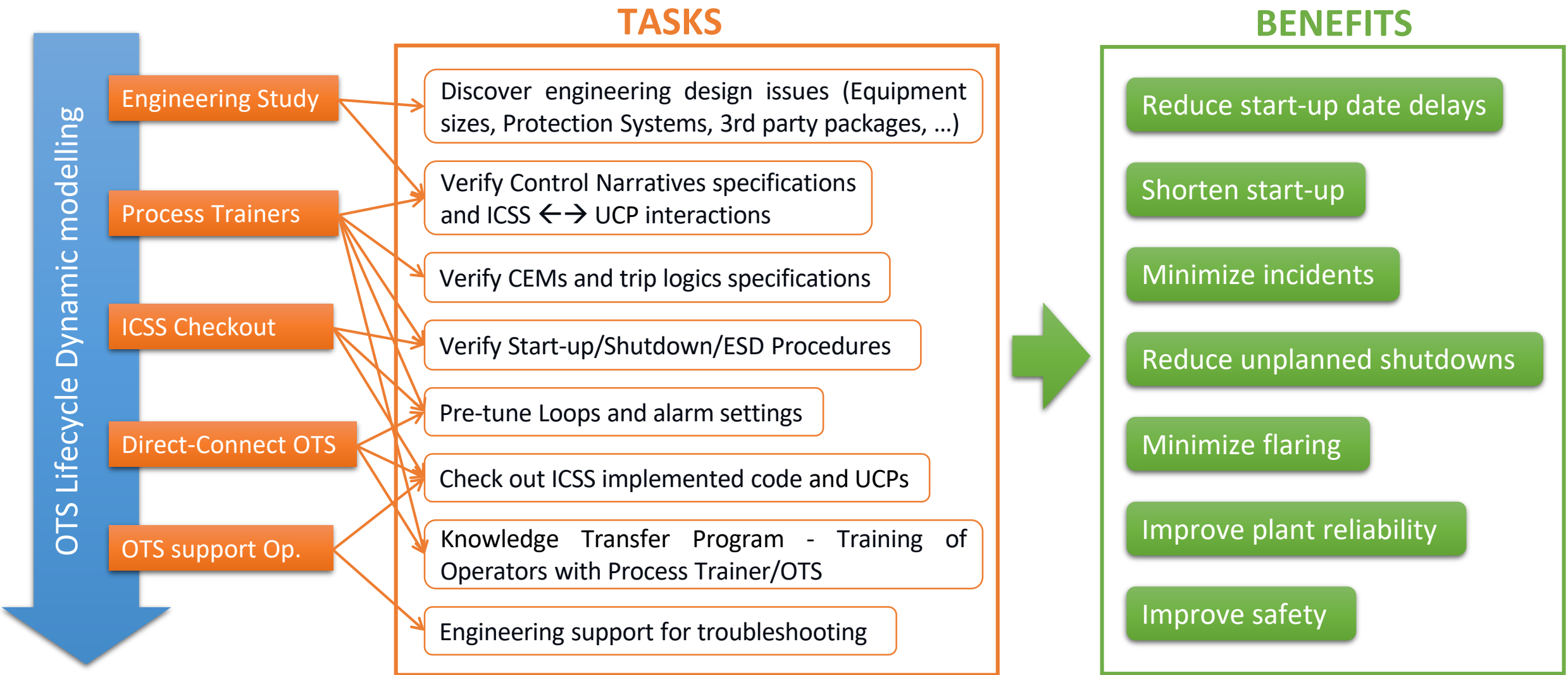
- Equipment Load & Efficiency Monitoring
- Bad Actors Detection
- Look-ahead & What-if
- Real Time Optimization

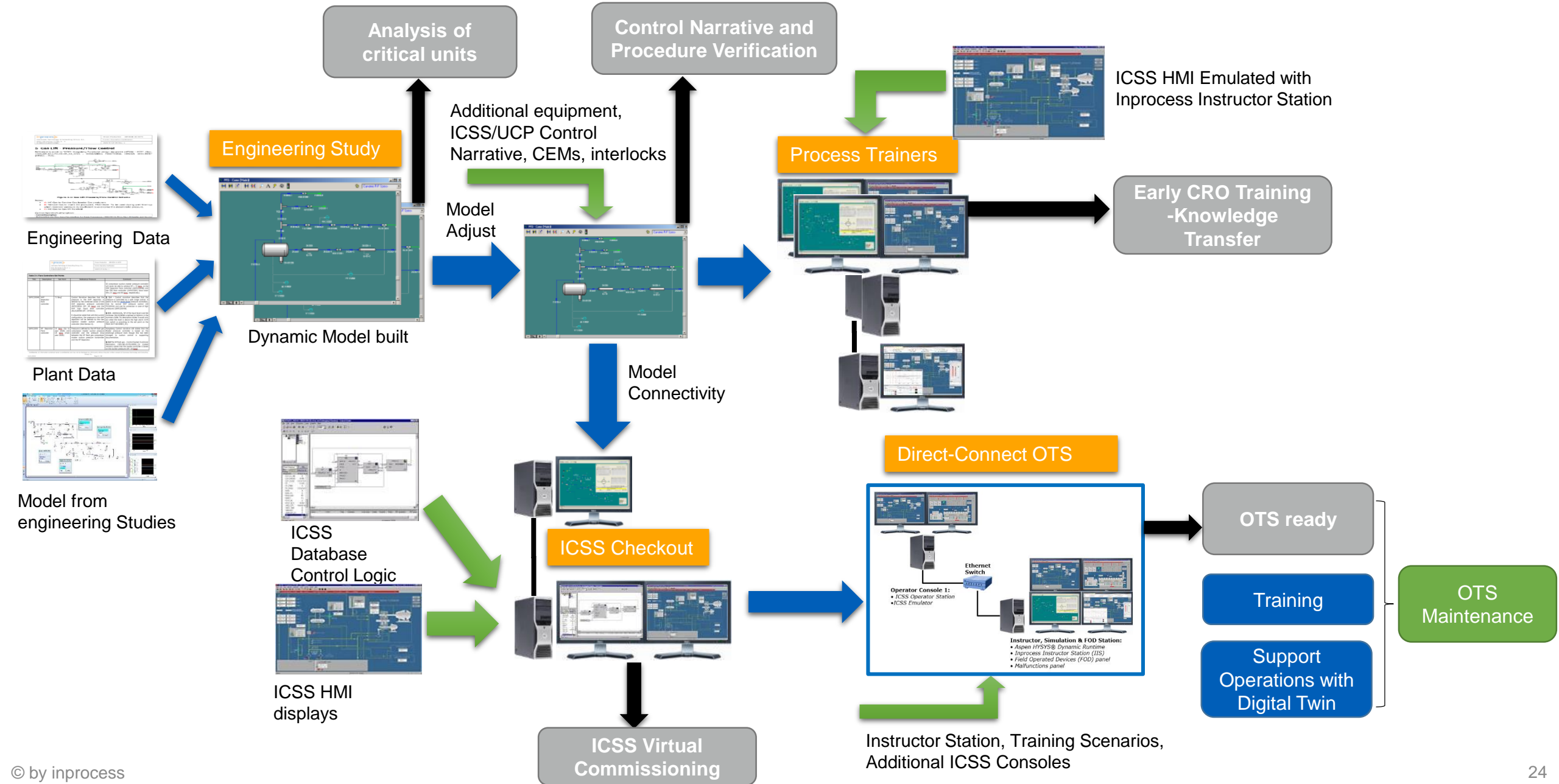




# **Inprocess Lifecycle Digital Twin Method**

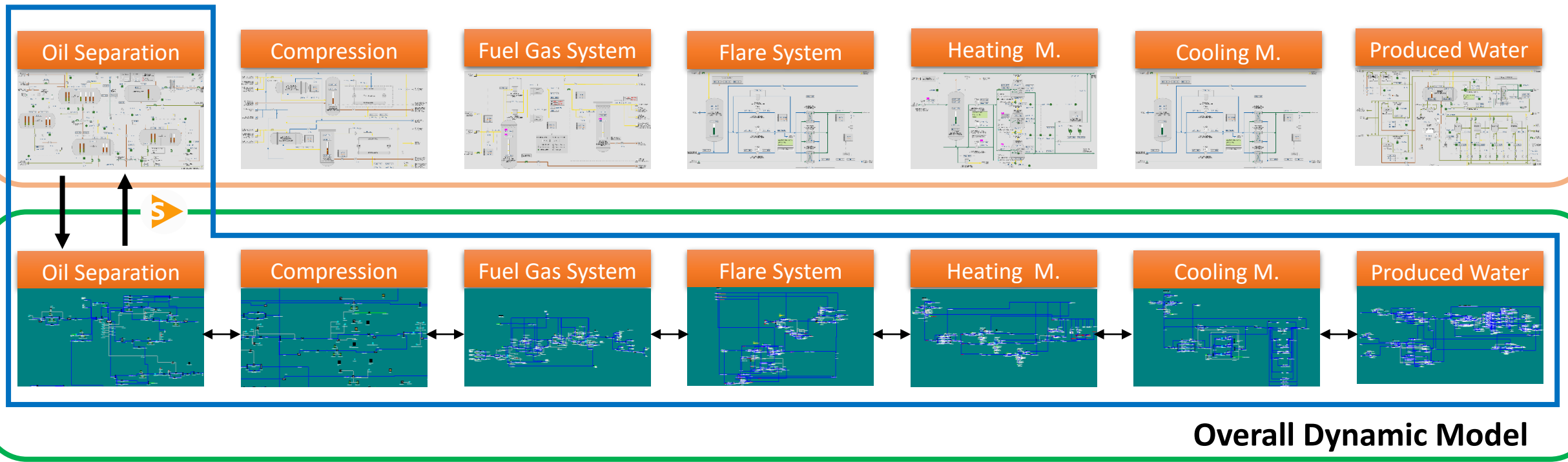
The phases are aligned with the specific needs of the project, to provide the necessary information to the engineering team and solve any issue encountered, which assists the project's success.





- Initially the overall dynamic model is running and the process simulator controllers are controlling the plant.
- Afterwards, during the validation of the individual units we start connecting the Input and Output signals to the selected modules and start transferring the control from process simulator to the ICSS emulator.

## ICSS Emulator



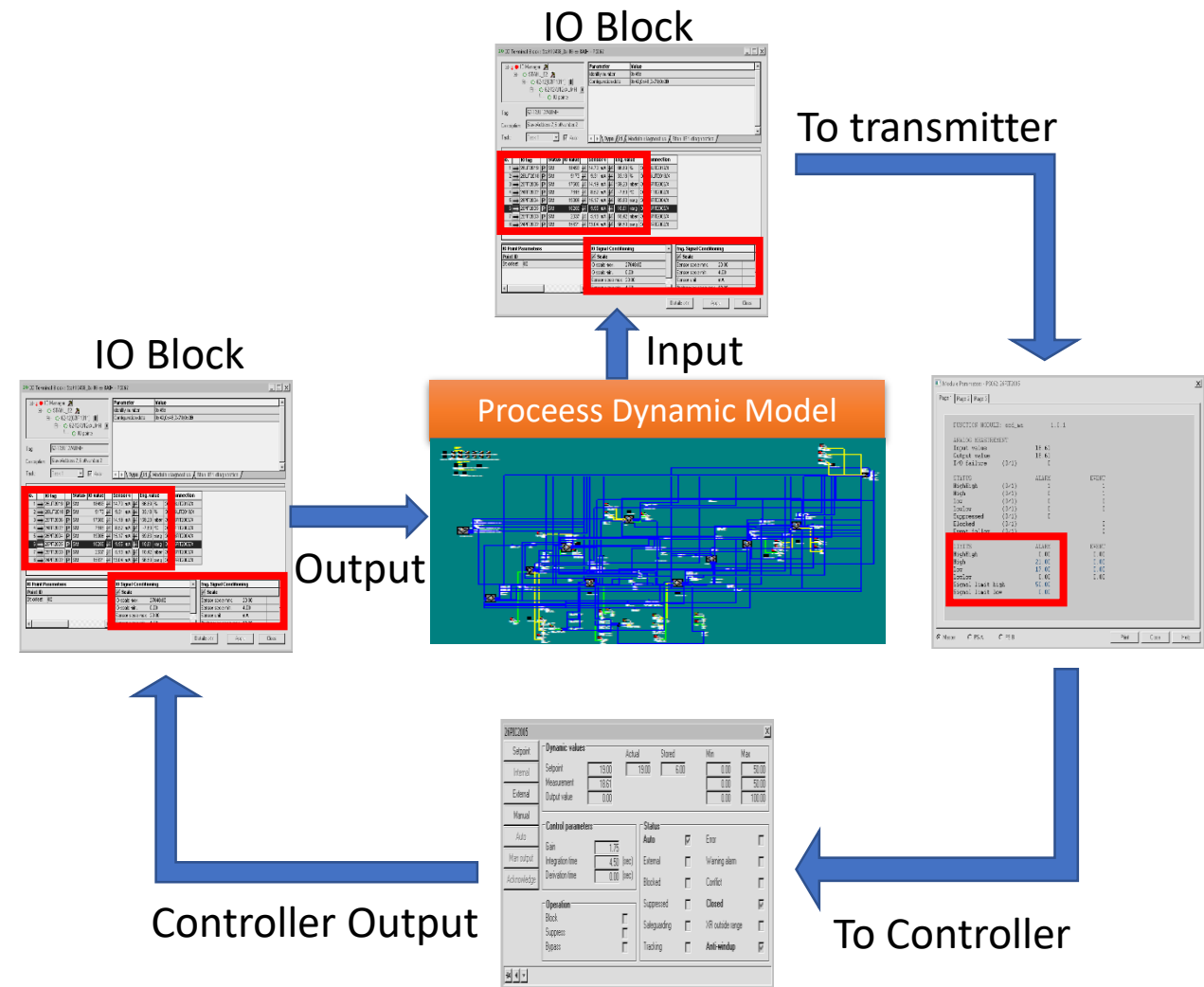
**Overall Dynamic Model**



## Benefits of the ICSS Standalone Unit Validation

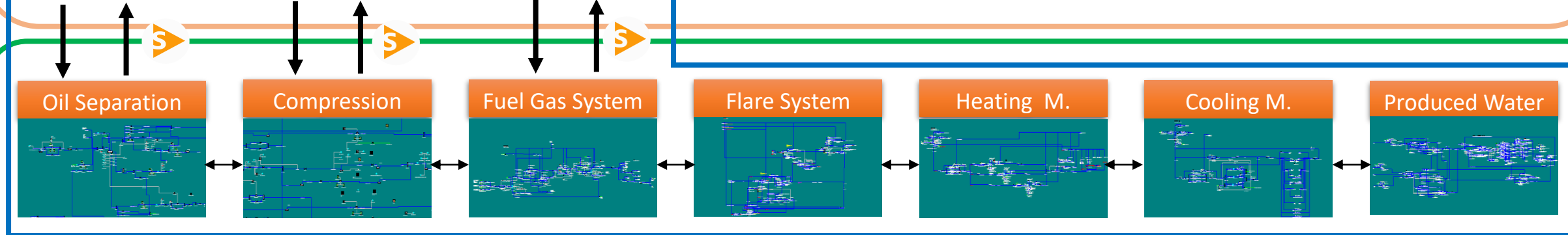
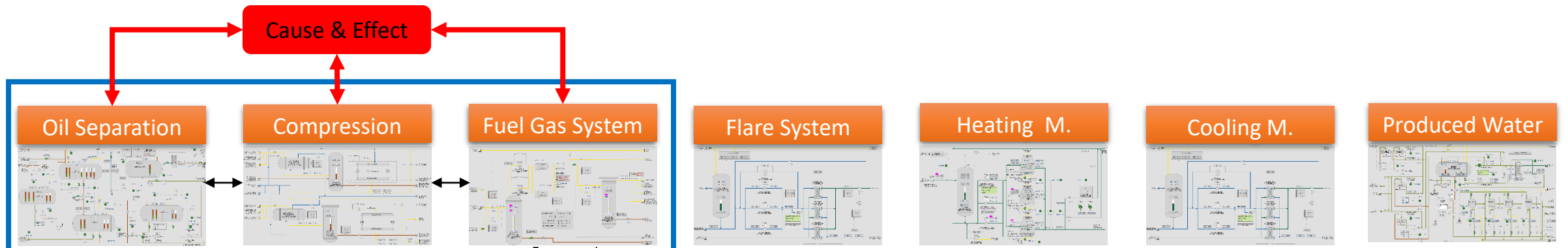
- Early Database checkout: ICSS modules don't need to be finalised to start its validation.
- Parallel Debugging: The different modules can be tested in parallel.
- IO signals and transmitters verification: Ranges, Units, Alarm & Trip settings, missing or wrong connections.
- Controllers & Logic:
  - Implementation according to the latest control philosophy
  - Controllability and operability
  - SP, PV, OP Ranges and additional functionalities

## DCS Controller validation cycle



- After performing the ICSS validation of the standalone units. The next step is connecting several units with significant interaction between them. The Cause & Effect is enabled.

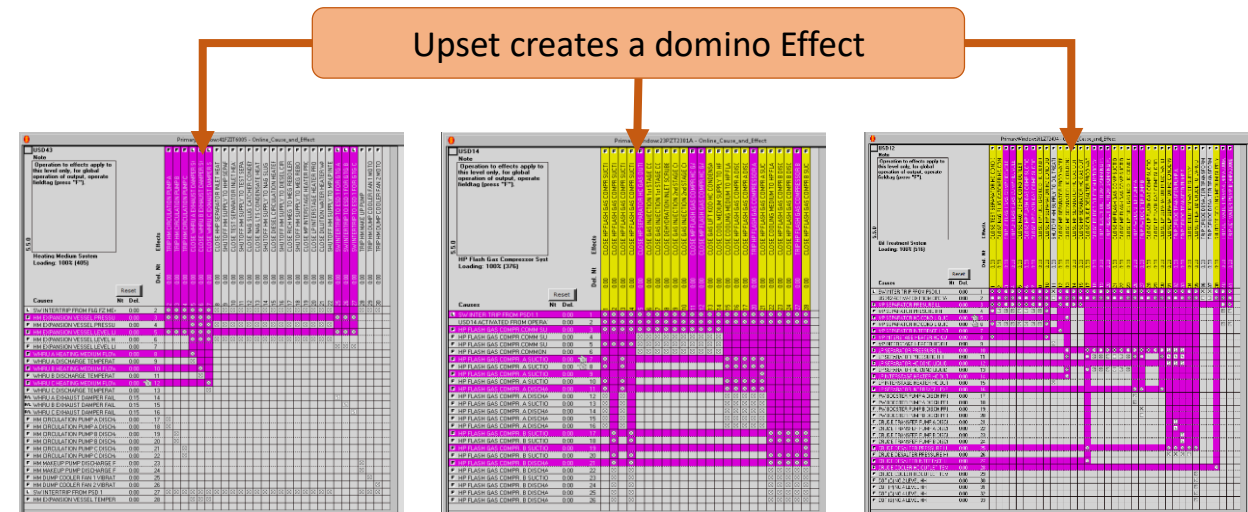
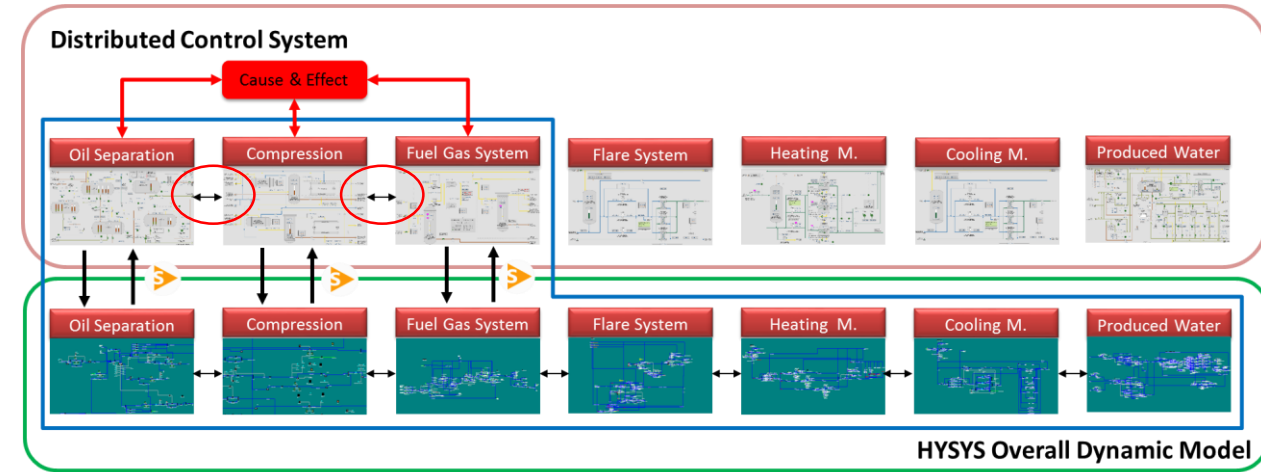
## ICSS Emulator



## Overall Dynamic Model

## Benefits of the ICSS Partial Integration Validation

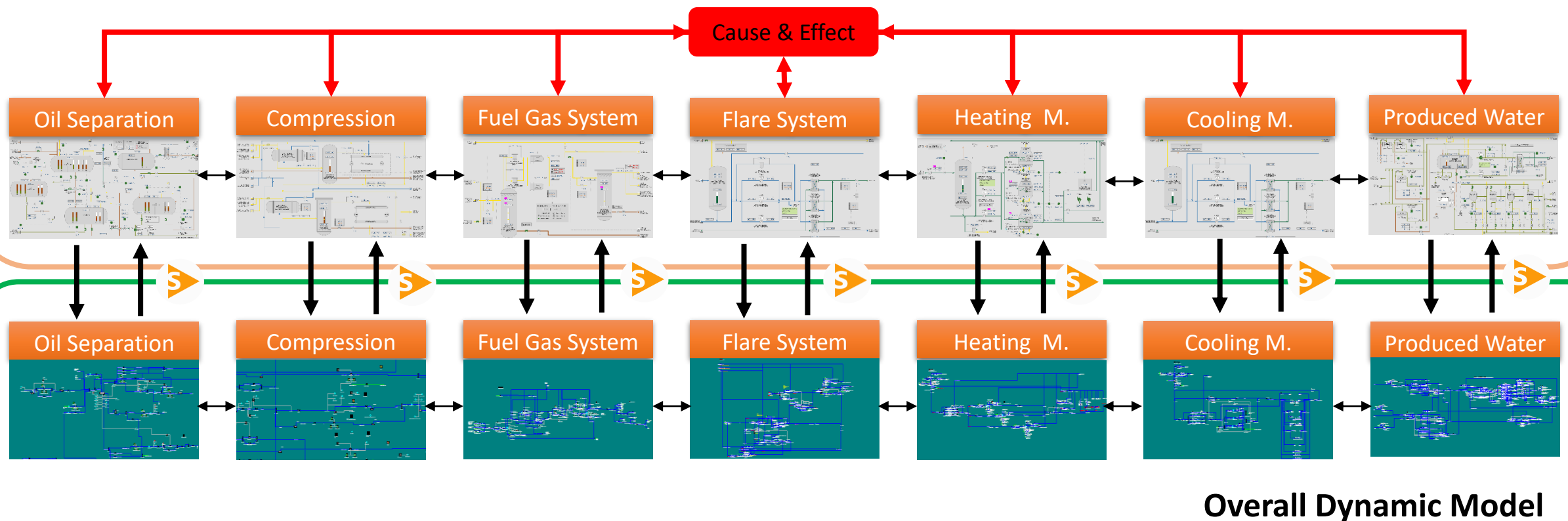
- Evaluating the performance of control loops or logic blocks which require signals from other Units.
- Prioritizing the connectivity of areas which have significant control interactions to evaluate its controllability and operability at an early stage.
- Evaluating the Unit's transient dynamics and control response due to:
  - The control interactions between the nearby units
  - The execution of sequences or specific procedures
    - Unit Start-Up
    - Unit Normal Shutdown
    - Backwash Sequences
- Evaluating the effectiveness of the cause and effect matrix to keep the plant safe during its activation:
  - Involving Several Units.
  - Analysing the possibility of domino effects





- The final phase consists in performing a direct connect OTS solution, where the distributed control system is controlling the plant as in the real operator control room.

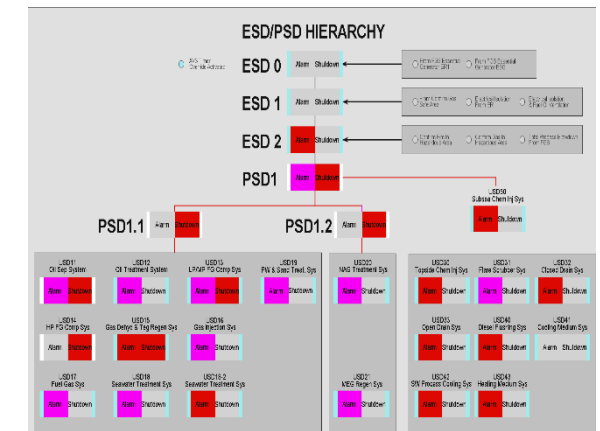
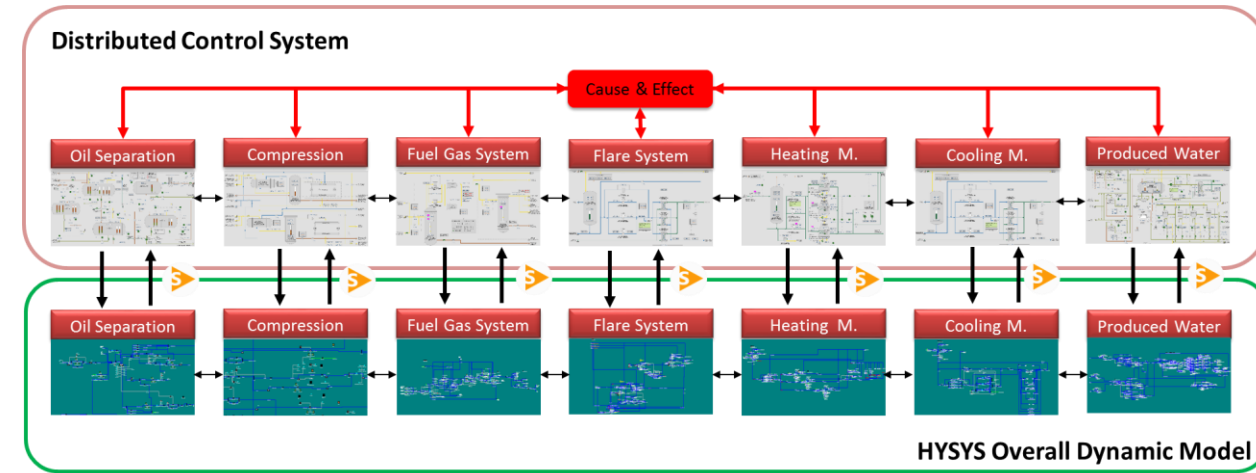
## ICSS Emulator



**Overall Dynamic Model**

## Benefits of the ICSS Full Connection Validation

- Evaluating the interactions between all the control loops and logic blocks .
- Evaluating the plant's transient dynamics during the execution of specific scenarios or upset conditions.
- Evaluating all the procedures of the plant and its impact in the transient behaviour.
  - Plant Start-Up
  - Plant Normal Shutdown
  - Plant emergency shutdown
- Evaluating the effectiveness of the cause and effect matrix under all conditions.
- Operators are trained with the same control logic and functionalities they will use in the operator control room.

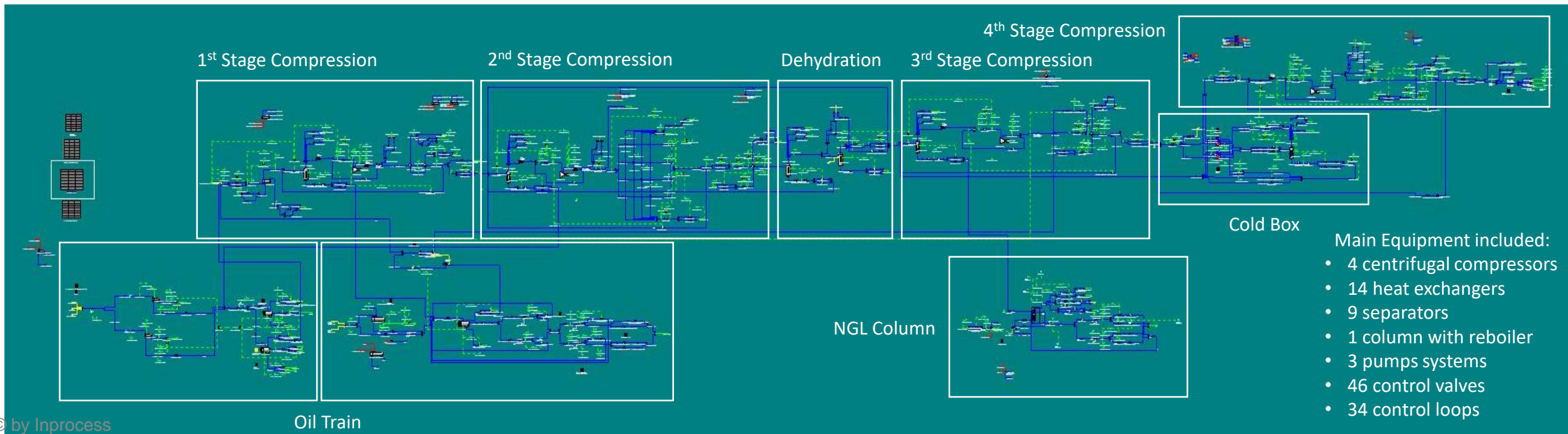


# **Bad Actors Detector with online Digital Twins**

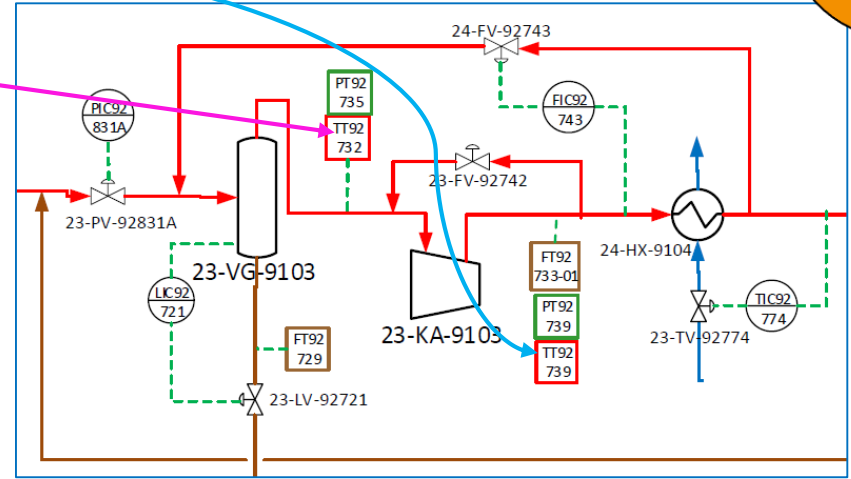
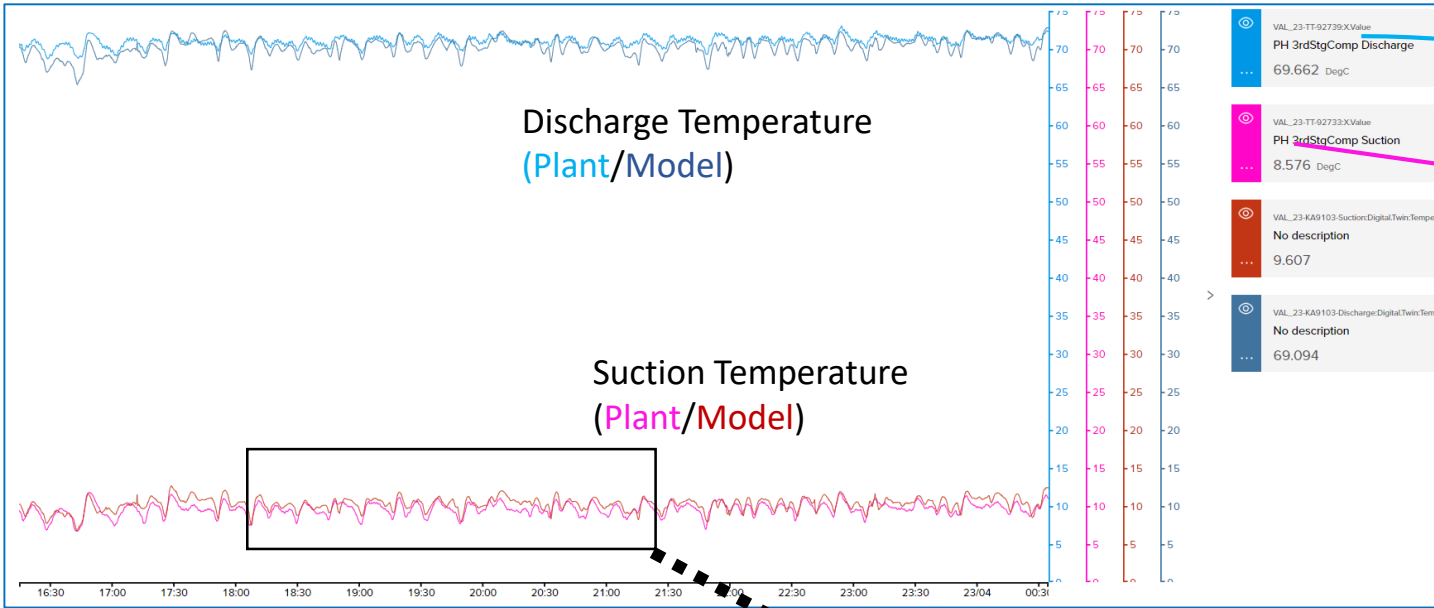


PROCESS  
DIGITAL  
TWIN

- Dynamic model replica of the asset, synchronized online with real-time plant data.
- Tracking of the asset behavior, using client's real-time database to read/write the necessary data.
- Calculation of real-time values for temperature, pressure, flow, composition where no instruments are placed, as well as for products' properties such as MW, Wobbe Index, RVP, density, etc:
  - Easy access to data through the client cloud database or Inprocess IIS.
  - No need to access the simulation case, which can be visible to the user or not.
  - Model Quality Indicators (difference between plant values and model ones).
- Historical Models Repository: Snapshots of the running dynamic model are periodically saved, allowing the DT user to pick up any past plant status and use it for post-incident analysis or What-If.



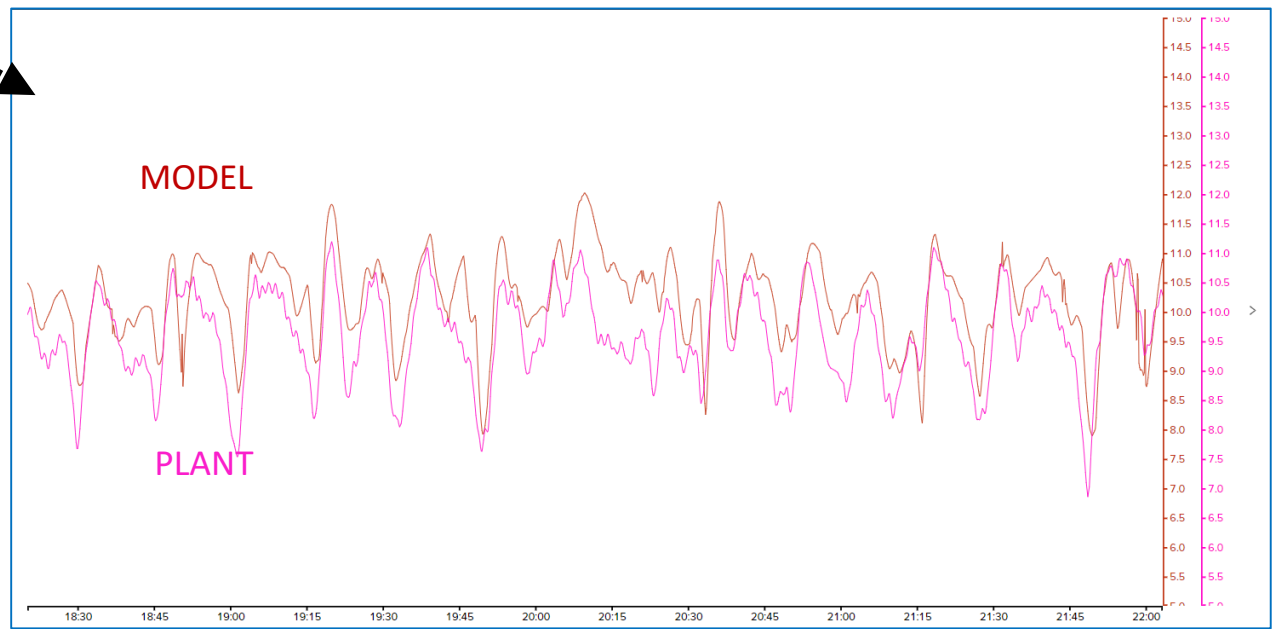




Overall, the Digital Twin is tracking the plant data relatively well, given the severe slug patterns.

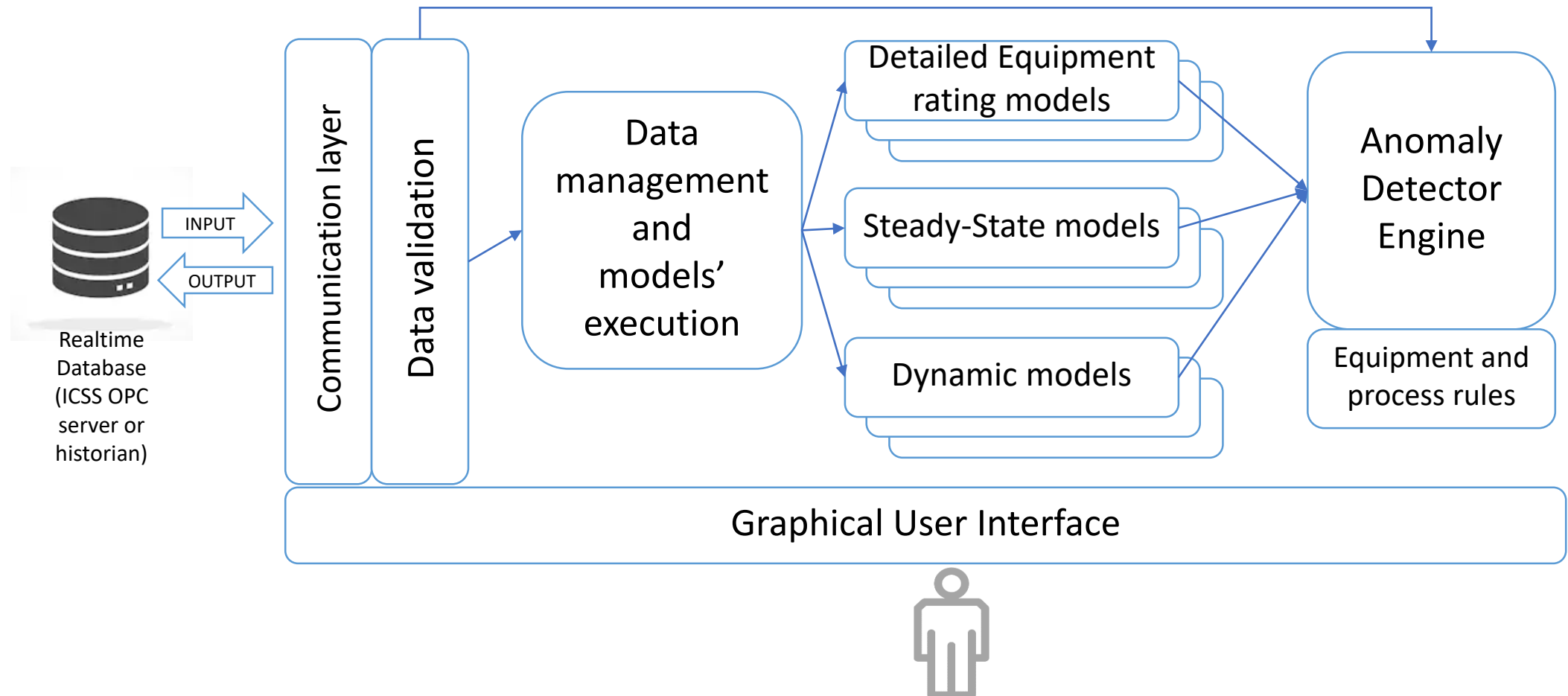
Special attention should be paid to:

- Tuning of the ASC controllers
- Valves characterization
- Location of instruments
- Pipe volumes
- Feed compositions



## ■ Anomalies (Bad Actors) Detection

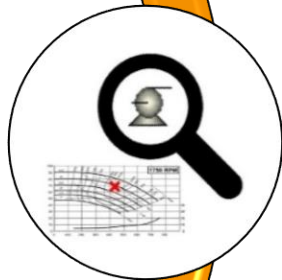
- It provides early warnings of plant anomalies based on detected discrepancies between plant instrumentation (reality) and rigorous models' results (ideality)



## PROCESS DIGITAL TWIN



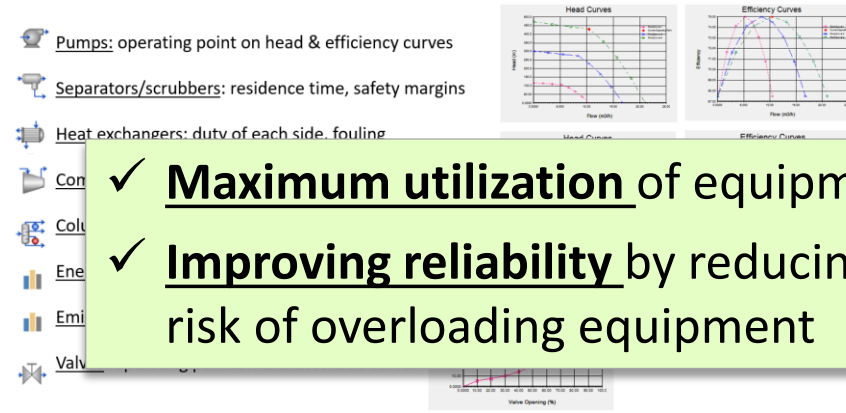
**EQUIPMENT LOAD AND EFFICIENCY CALCULATOR**



**BAD ACTORS DETECTOR**



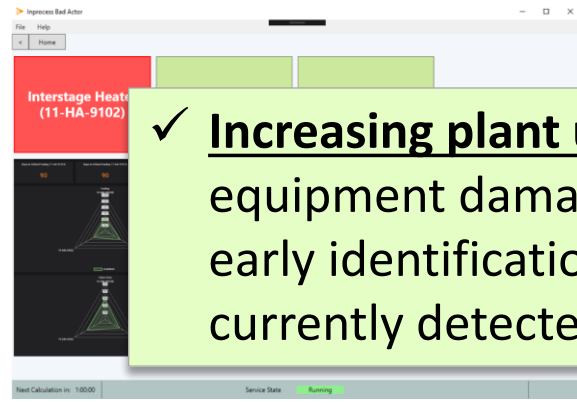
**WHAT-IF & LOOK-AHEAD**



- ✓ **Pumps:** operating point on head & efficiency curves
- ✓ **Separators/scrubbers:** residence time, safety margins
- ✓ **Heat exchangers:** dutv of each side, fouling
- ✓ **Compressors**
- ✓ **Columns**
- ✓ **Energy**
- ✓ **Emission**
- ✓ **Valves**

✓ **Maximum utilization** of equipment

✓ **Improving reliability** by reducing risk of overloading equipment



✓ **Increasing plant uptime:** Avoiding equipment damages or plant trips by early identification of anomalies not currently detected by ICSS alarms



✓ **Safer operation:**

Improved pre-action analysis

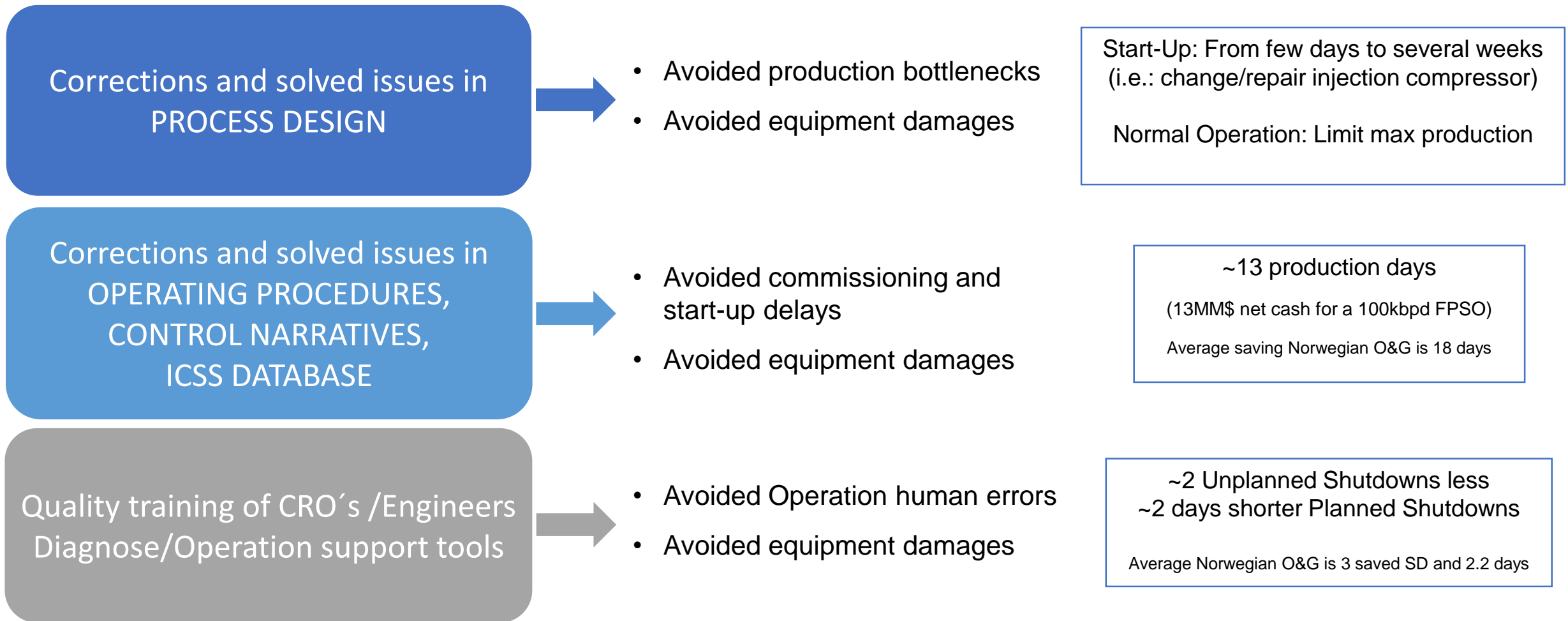
✓ **Better root-causes understanding:**

Improved post-incident analysis

# **Benefits, references and Inprocess added value**



Estimating the economic benefits is a challenging task since it depends on the specific FPSO complexity and project methodology, but it can be categorized in three areas of value:



## Inprocess Lifecycle Digital Twin Method

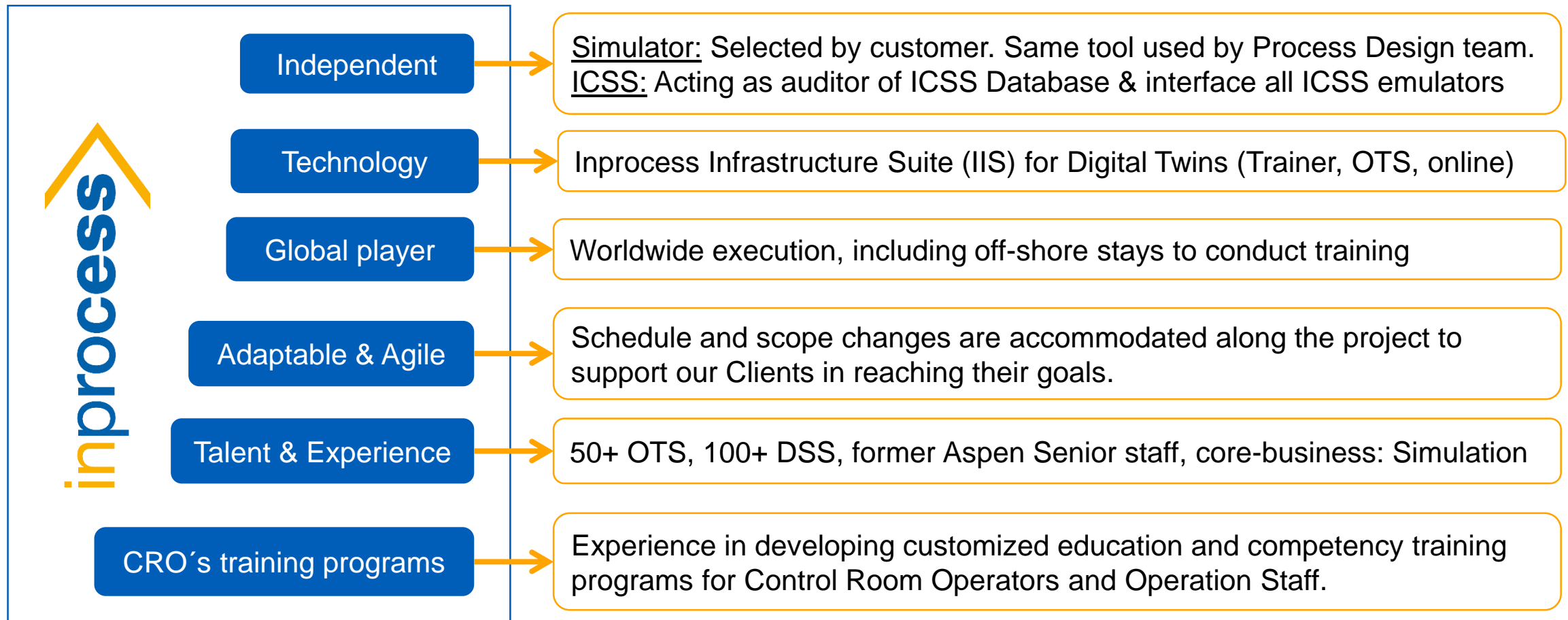
AWARDED	FPSO Location	Dynamic Simulation Studies	Early-OTS Process Trainer	ICSS Checkout	Full Direct Connect OTS	Operation Support & Training
2011	Norway					
2012	Brazil					
2013	Brazil					
2014	Ghana					
2015	Brazil					
2016	Ghana					
2016	Brazil					
2018	Ghana					
2019	Brazil					
2019	Brazil					
2019	Brazil					
2019	Brazil					
2019	Mexico					
2020	Brazil					
2020	Malaysia					
2020	Brazil					

*"I understand better how control loops are link and interact with each other, compressor limits are more clear, transitions procedures were understood and we were able to optimize them"*  
**FPSO CRO**

*"The preparations through the simulator exercises and pre-tuning of the controllers really seems to pay off – basically the operators have been running everything in auto since the start-up 😊. Thank you very much for your effort and dedication to the simulator! Well done!"*  
**FPSO Production Manager**

Customers chose Inprocess as the company to fully exploit Lifecycle Dynamic Modelling for their projects

## INPROCESS VALUE



# Your takeaways





# Thank you!

## Q&A



**JoséMaría Nougues**



**JoséMaría Ferrer**

[www.inprocessgroup.com](http://www.inprocessgroup.com)

