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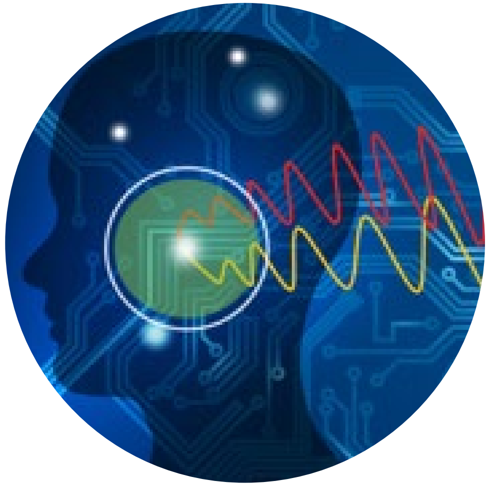

NASA Digital Twins

Jacqueline Le Moigne

LCLUC Science Team Meeting

April 03, 2024

Why Digital Twins in Earth Science?

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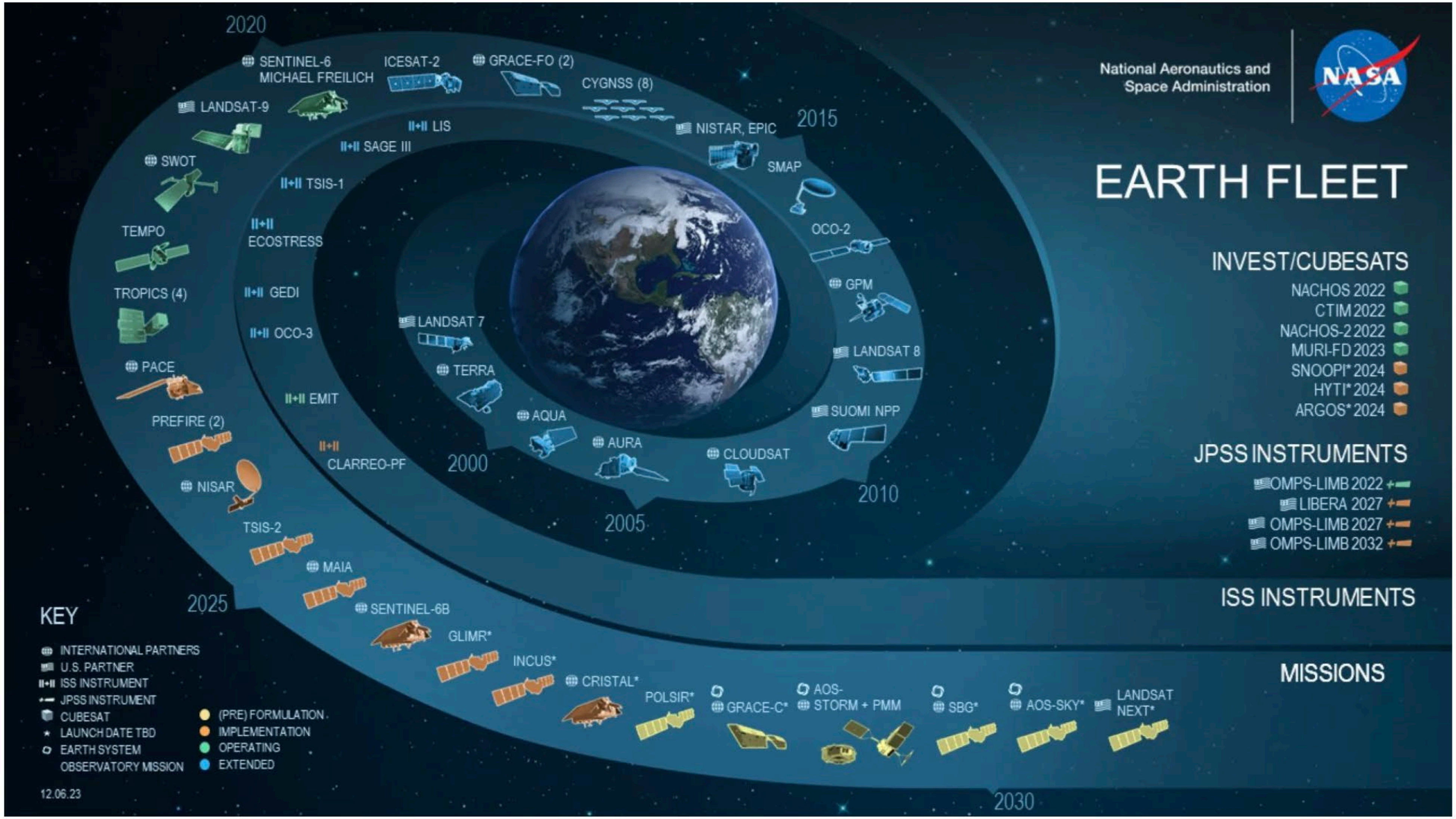
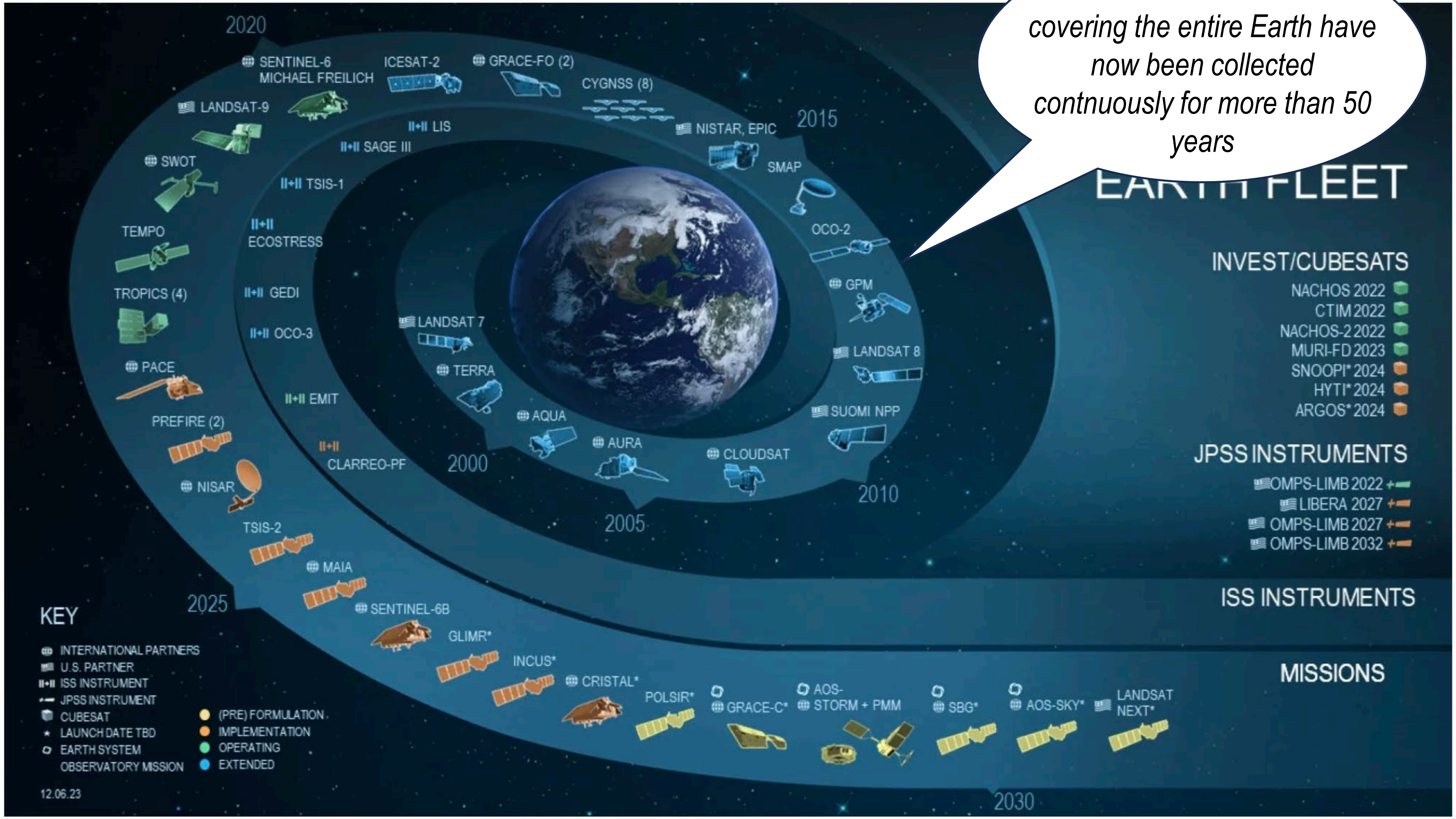


NASA's Earth observing satellite fleet (as of December 6, 2023)

Why Digital Twins in Earth Science?

Well documented data covering the entire Earth have now been collected contnuously for more than 50 years



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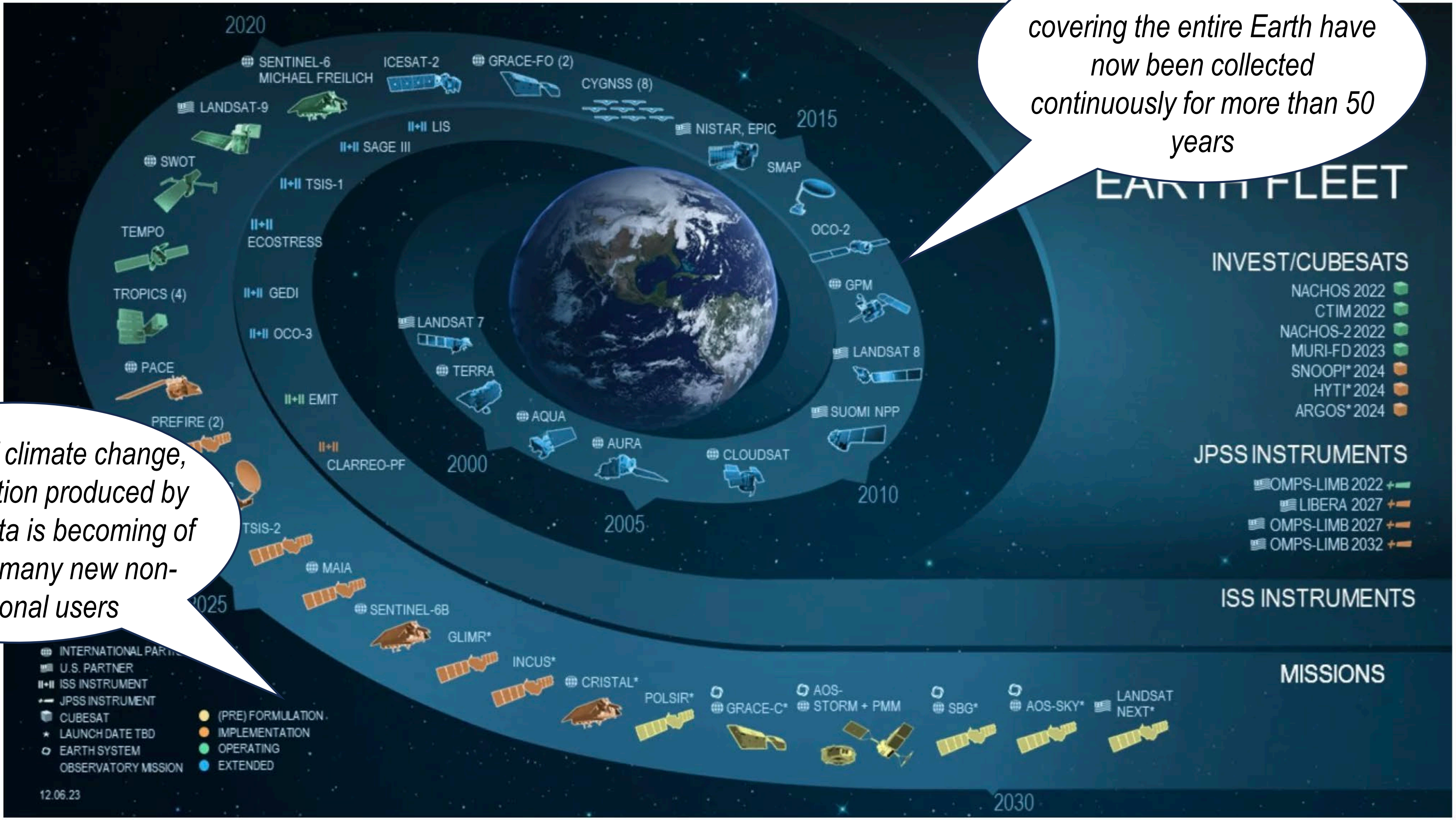
Because of climate change, the information produced by all of this data is becoming of interest to many new non-traditional users



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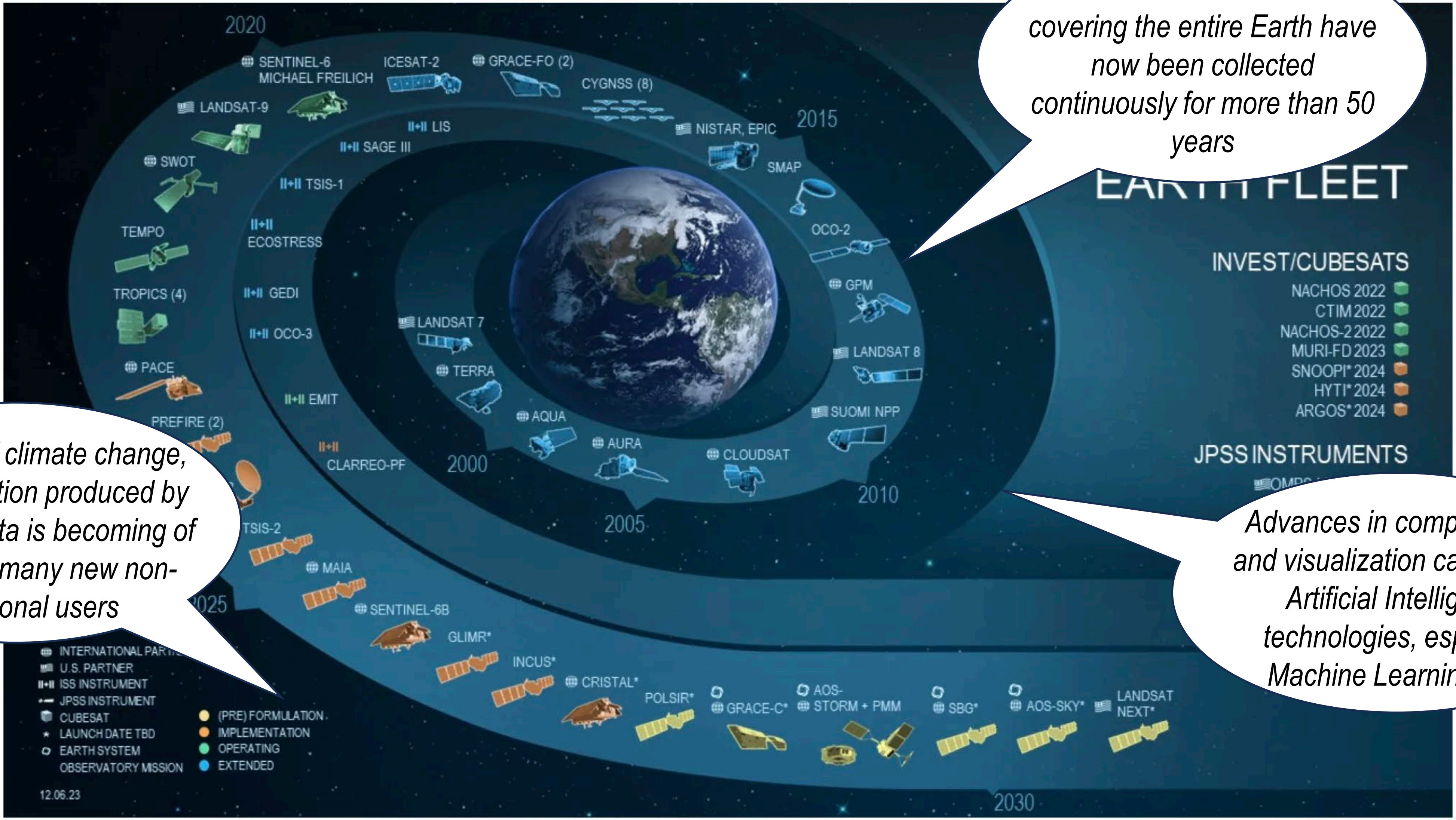
Advances in computational and visualization capabilities, Artificial Intelligence technologies, especially Machine Learning (ML)



NASA's Earth observing satellite fleet (as of December 6, 2023)

Earth System Digital Twins (ESDTs) Components

Earth Systems Digital Twins (ESDTs) are an emerging capability for understanding, forecasting, and conjecturing the complex interconnections among Earth systems, including anthropomorphic forcings and impacts to humanity.

What now?

Digital Replica . . .

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

What next?

Forecasting . . .

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

What if?

Impact Assessment . . .

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

An Earth System Digital Twin or ESDT is a dynamic and interactive information system that first provides a digital replica of the past and current states of the Earth or Earth system, as accurately and timely as possible, second allows for computing forecasts of future states under nominal assumptions and based on the current replica, and third offers the capability to investigate many hypothetical scenarios under varying impact assumptions.

=> What Now? What Next? What If?

An ESDT includes:

- Continuous observations of interacting Earth & human systems
- From many disparate sources
- Driving inter-connected models
- At many physical and temporal scales
- With fast, powerful and integrated prediction, analysis & 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

What is different about Digital Twins?

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1. **Continuous integration** of timely data (real- or near-real-time for some applications, “timely for others)

2. **Interactivity** with users => “playing with the models and the data” for policy/decision making and conjecturing/planning

3. Integration of anthropomorphic forcing and **impact models**

4. Heavy use of **Machine Learning**
   - Data Fusion and Data Assimilation
   - Super-Resolution/Downscaling
   - Speeding up models => higher spatial and temporal resolution possible
   - Causal Reasoning

Digital Twins for Connecting Earth Science to Earth Action (ES2A) – *From Observations to Solutions*

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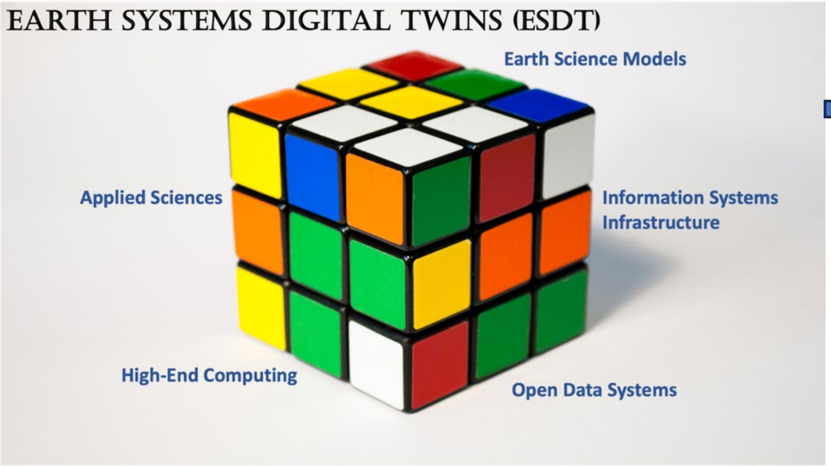
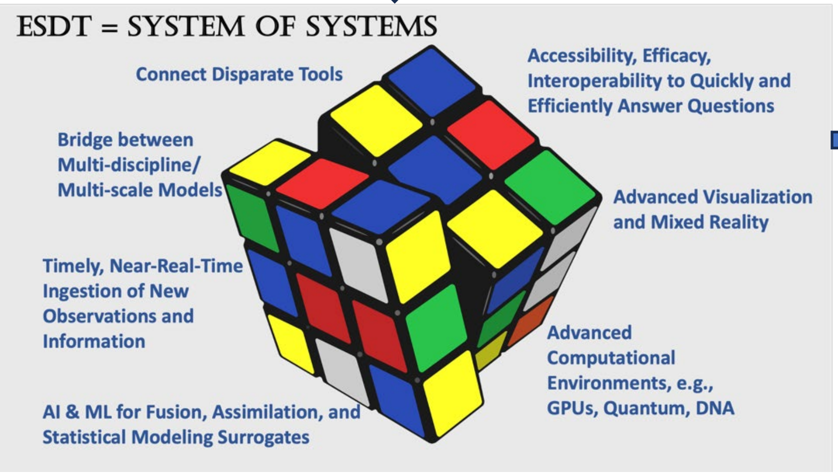
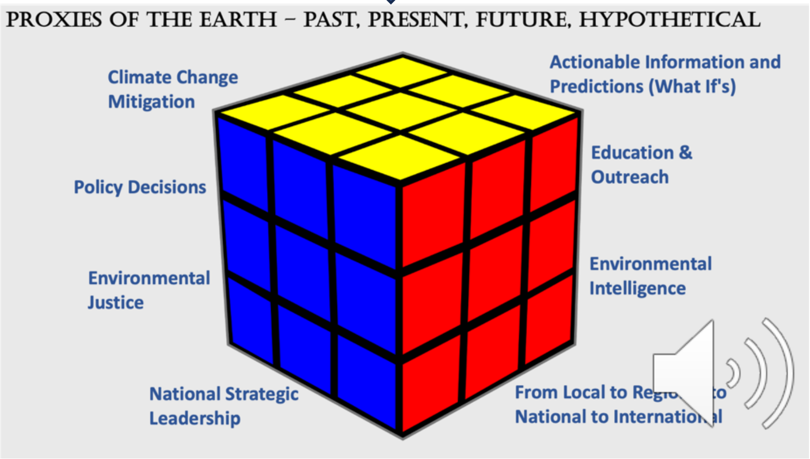


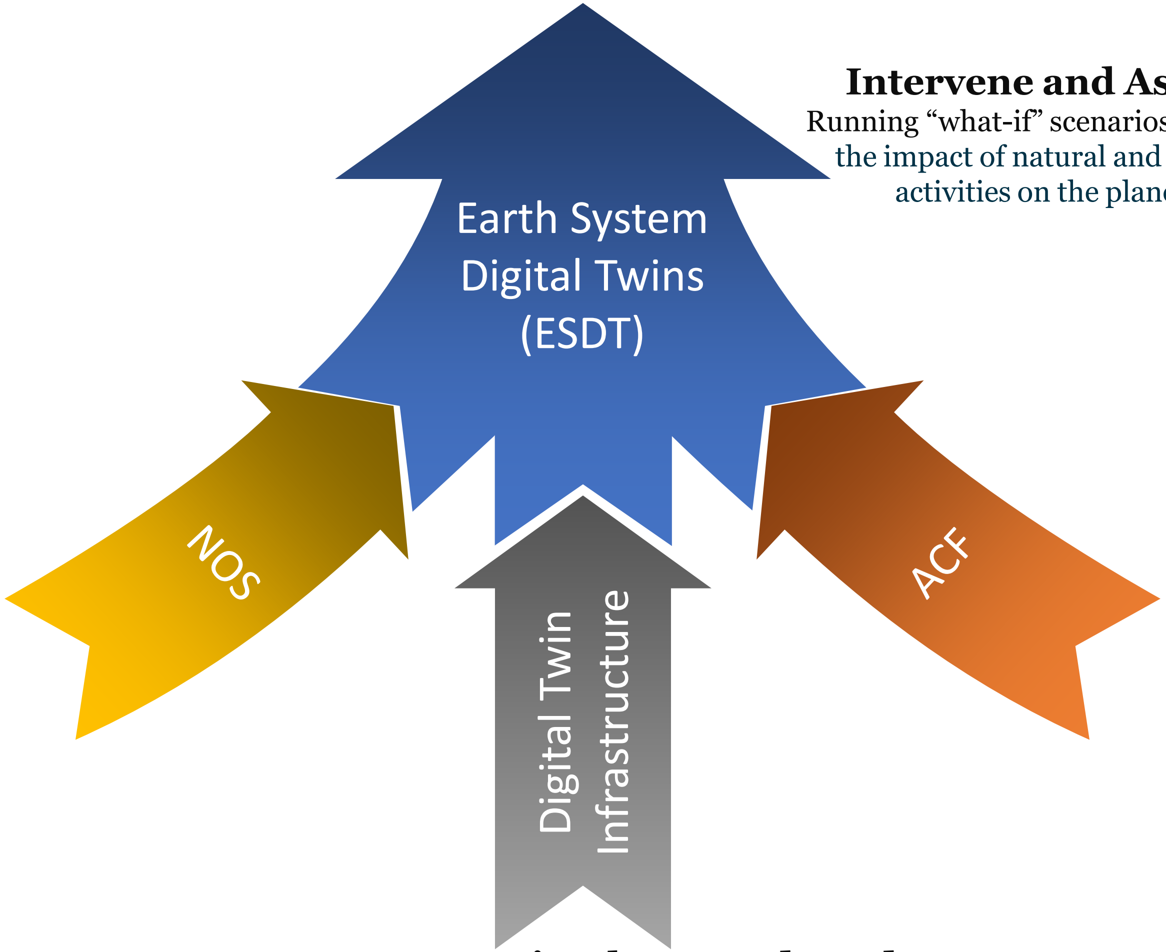




Three AIST Thrusts – *From Observations to Solutions*

Intervene and Assess
Running "what-if" scenarios to assess the impact of natural and human activities on the planet.

Observe, Target and Coordinate
Edge and on-the-ground intelligent planning, evaluating, coordinating and operating collections of diverse and distributed observing assets



Fuse, Analyze, Share and Collaborate
Simplify access to diverse and large amounts of data, analytics & modeling tools and advanced computational resources for collaborative science

Interrogate, Simulate, Trade and Visualize
Robust tools for interrogating, assessing uncertainties & causality, and for visualization, leveraging diverse data, models and products

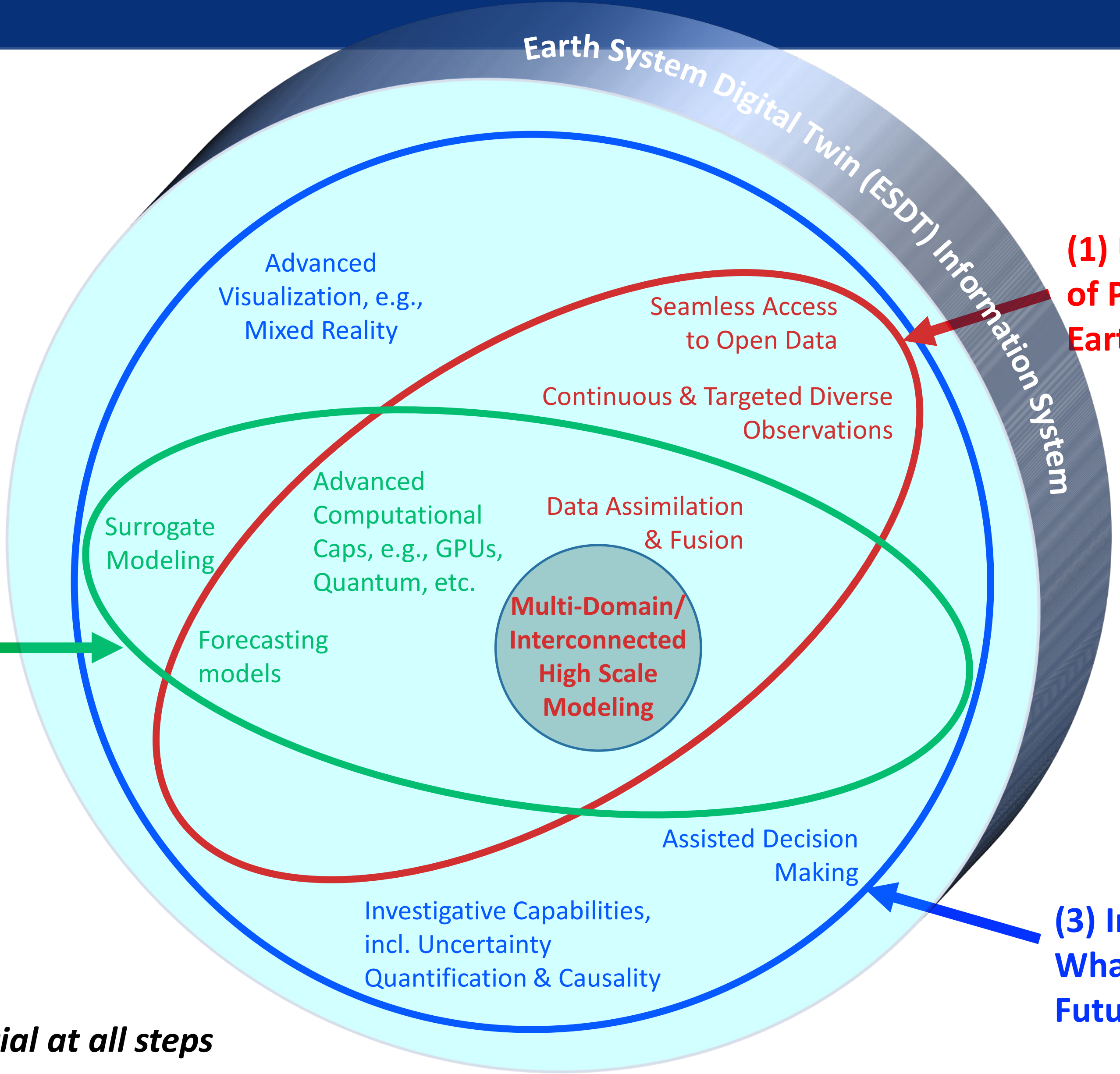
NOS = Novel Observing Strategies

ACF = Analytic Collaborative Frameworks

AIST ESDT Capabilities and Technologies

(1) Up-to-Date *Digital Replica* of Past and Current States of Earth System

(2) Real-Time (RT) or Near-RT *Forecasting* of Future States of Earth System



(3) Impact Assessment by running What-If Scenarios for Hypothetical Future States of Earth System

Note: *Machine Learning essential at all steps*

AIST ESDT Activities
https://esto.nasa.gov/AIST23/

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- **2022:** AIST-21 => 16 ESDT Projects
- **2022:** ESDT Workshop and Report
- **2023:** ESDT Architecture Framework Document
- **2023:** ESDT Standards for Interoperable Digital Twins Workshop
- **2023:** 6 Use Cases (2 additional in development)
- **2023 – 2025:** Inter-agency/International Coastal Zone Digital Twin pathfinder activity
- **2024 – 2027:** AIST-23 => Advanced technologies + 2 or 3 end-to-end prototypes
- **Collaboration** with NOAA, ESA, DestinE/ECMWF and EUMETSAT, CNES
- **Community Outreach:** Invited Sessions at AGU and IGARSS; IGARSS multi-org townhalls

ESDT Science Use Cases/Scenarios

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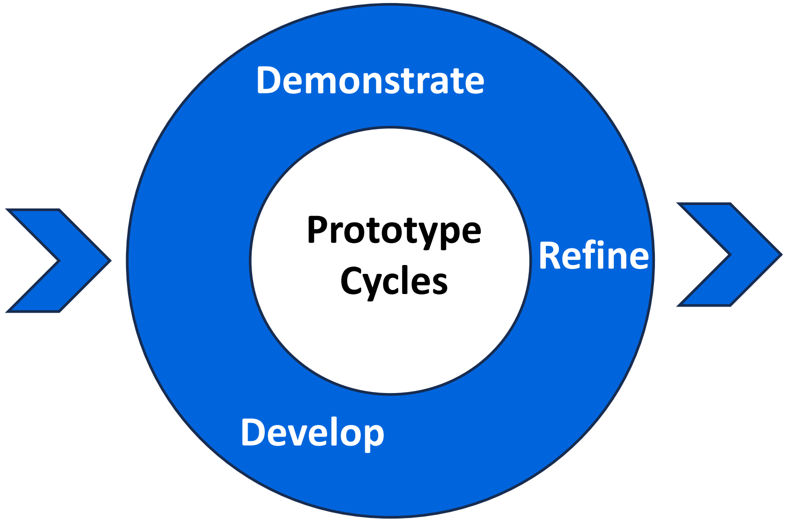
ESDT Use Case	SCOPE
Wildfires	A digital twin of Earth systems involved in wildfires to represent and understand the origins and evolution of wildfires and their impacts on ecosystem, infrastructure, and related human systems.
Ocean Carbon	An Earth system digital twin of ocean, land, atmospheric Earth systems to understand ocean carbon processes such as carbon export and ocean-atmosphere processes and coupling; land-ocean continuum and interactions with human systems; coastal ecological changes and impacts to ecosystem services; feedback processes (e.g., storm intensification and sea level rise) and impacts on coastal communities and the blue economy; assessing feasibility and impacts of 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 *such as* 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 underlying processes and their relationship to climate and air quality, 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.
Coastal Zone Digital Twin	An Earth System digital twin of local and regional coastal zones that considers both natural and human systems to understand changes in coastal flooding severity, land and marine morphology, nutrients and water quality, ecological makeup, sea level, and the short and long-term risks to climate change adaptation, sustainable development, disaster management, tourism and recreation, quality of life, ecosystem management, and coastal infrastructure management.

ESDT Benefits to NASA Earth Science

Mapping ESDT Use Cases to ES2A Focus Areas

Current AIST ESDT Use Cases
Wildfires
Ocean Carbon
Water Cycle
Central Africa Carbon Corridors
Atmospheric Boundary Layer
Coastal Zone Digital Twin



Potential Earth Science to Action Focus Areas
Greenhouse gas measurement and monitoring
Agriculture
Wildfire Risk and Recovery
Sea Level, Coastal Risk and Resilience
Air Quality
Environmental Health, Water Quality and Infectious Disease
Energy and Sustainable Infrastructure
Disasters and Extreme Events
Water Resources
Biodiversity and Ecological Conservation
National Security
Terrestrial Carbon Accounting
Human-Ocean interactions

Example – *Coastal Zone Digital Twin (CZDT)*

In collaboration with NOAA and CNES

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Scope		An Earth System Digital Twin of local and regional coastal zones that considers both natural and human systems to understand changes in coastal flooding severity, land and marine morphology, nutrients and water quality, ecological makeup, sea level, and short and long-term risks to climate change adaptation, sustainable development, disaster management, tourism and recreation, quality of life, ecosystem management, and coastal infrastructure management. *The CZDT, while global in extent, will initially consider a variety of test locations (e.g., west coast of France, west coast of Africa, the east coast of the United States, selected islands) to provide a range of hydrological, ecological, and sociological conditions.*
Capabilities	**Digital Replica *(What-Now)***	Digital replica of the current state of coastal systems to understand hydrological extremes and flooding; nutrient and pollutant levels including water quality parameters (physical/optical and chemical); topography and bathymetry; terrestrial and marine ecology; near-sea and in-sea infrastructure; and sea level at multiple spatiotemporal scales.
	Forecast *(What-Next)*	• Coastal morphology evolution of coastal morphology without further forced intervention. • How and at what rate will near shore vegetation and, more generally, coastal habitats evolve. • Changes in water quality, including nutrient runoff changes from natural variability and human interventions (e.g., urban, agriculture) that trigger harmful algal blooms (HAB). • Future states of tidal, storm, and combined flood events, and how they interact with human systems. How flooding, nutrient quantity or quality, water quality, ecology will change, and how coastal habitats/communities may shift.
	Impact Assessment *(What-If)*	What-if scenarios where human interventions are incorporated into responses to various environmental (sea-level and wave) forcing scenarios (e.g., relocate coastal settlements) • Effect/impact of changing climate on coastal environment under various sea level and storminess scenarios. • Water quality changes under different water management structures/policies. • Shifts in phytoplankton types under different natural/human forcings with improved HAB forecasting. • Impacts of management on blue carbon ecosystems to support climate mitigation and adaptation and improve resiliency to climate impacts. • Support cities to mitigation if flood risk increased. • Which flood risk changes if global temperature goals were met? Not met?. • Economic health changes if flood risks were lowered? Increased?. • Changes in ecological makeup if cities reacted to increased flood risk?. • Economic outlook be if biodiversity changed as a result of city or industry change?

Example – *Coastal Zone Digital Twin (CZDT)*

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Earth Systems	• Hydrodynamics (e.g., water levels, waves, river run-off), nearshore bathymetry and topography, 3D LCLU (land cover use) • Water color and quality, bathymetry, seabed, algae, foreshore vegetation, biodiversity, LCLU near the coast. • Land surface, hydrology, lakes, rivers, ocean, estuary, water quality models and products • Ocean (sea-level, water quality, tides), atmosphere (storms and extreme rainfall), and land (vertical land movement, LCLU, and shoreline change) • Ecology; Climate; Weather; Hydrology; Socio-economic
Human Systems	• Human systems involved in the CZDT (infrastructure, agriculture, power, etc.) • In-situ observations, socio-economic data, local/governmental data, model outputs
Resources	• Remote sensing missions/instruments : Landsat 8-9, Copernicus/Sentinel-1-2-3, Harmonized Landsat/Sentinel (HLS), SWOT, CFOSAT, Optical Very High Resolution (VHR) (Pleiades, Pleiades-NEO, MAXAR, Planet,…), ICESat 2, GEDI, VIIRS, DESIS, Airborne systems (e.g., NAIP, GLiHT, UAVSAR, AVIRIS-NG), etc. • Variables LCLU (built-up area, vegetation, natural habitat), precipitation, groundwater, streamflow, soil moisture, snow, water (quality, temperature, seabed, land surface), Bathymetry-Topography continuum (Bathymetry, shoreline, OER - topographical data, IGN LIDAR-HD, digital elevation model, digital terrain model), ecological (marine and terrestrial biodiversity, habitats), • In-situ : IoT flood sensors, tidal gages, networks, Surface truth • Socio-economic and local/governmental data : social (population), infrastructures (ports/harbors/seawalls), in situ assets, protected areas, building-parcel fabric • Models and derived data : sea level rise/change and flood models, climate/weather data and projections (precip/wind speed/temp/storm surge), oceanographic (tide, current, wave height), agriculture, forest, marsh, blue carbon ecosystem models/ changes in species, biodiversity, biomass, productivity . • Future-focused decision support systems (e.g.,Geodesign)

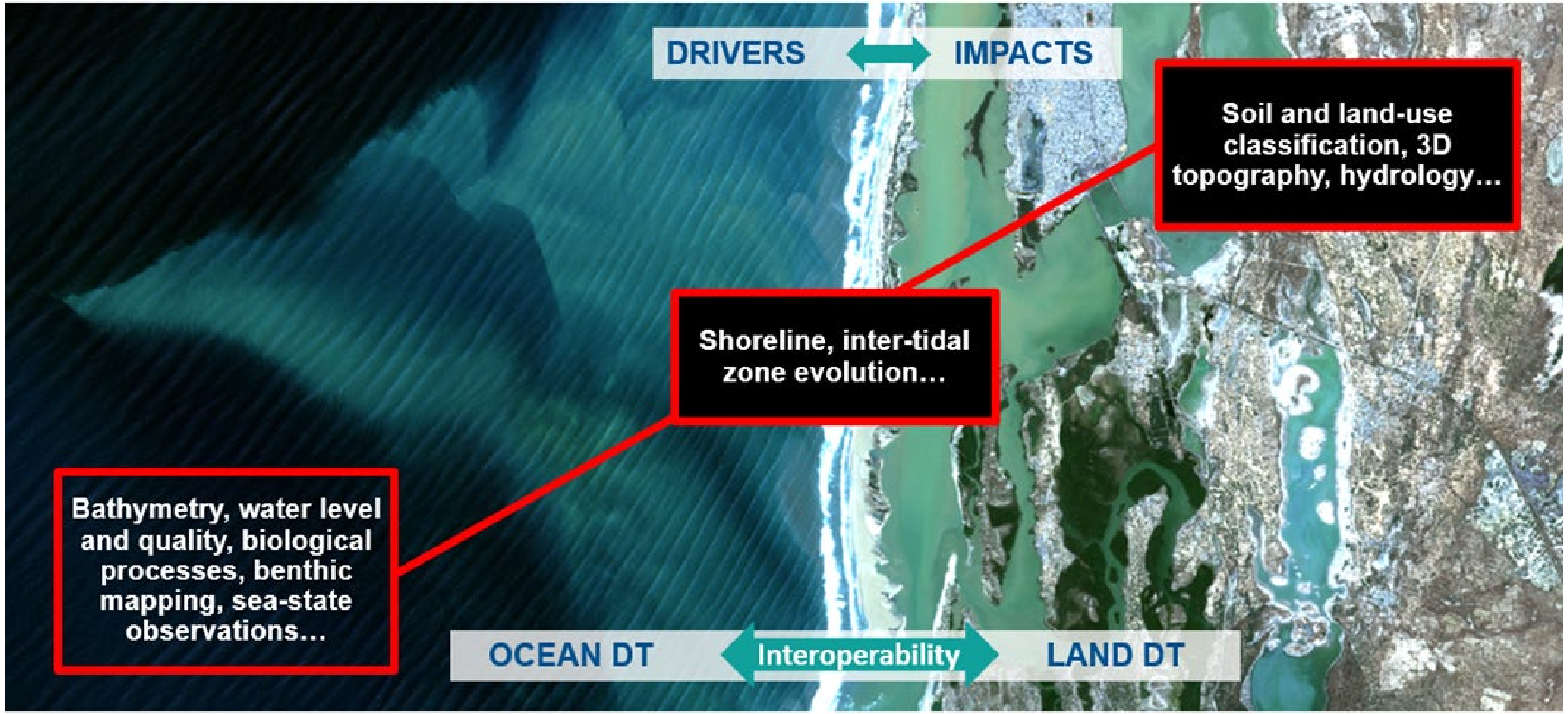
Example – Coastal Zone Digital Twin (CZDT)

SCOPE: An Earth System Digital Twin of local and regional coastal zones considering both natural and human systems to understand changes in coastal flooding severity, land and marine morphology, nutrients and water quality, ecological makeup, sea level, and short and long-term risks to climate change adaptation, sustainable development, disaster management, tourism and recreation, quality of life, ecosystem management, and coastal infrastructure management.

What is the effect/impact of changing climate on coastal environment under various sea level and storminess scenarios?

What would be the economic health changes if flood risks were lowered? Increased?

What are the shifts in phytoplankton types under different natural/human forcings with improved HAB forecasting?



What would be the water quality changes under different water management structures/policies?

What are the impacts of management on blue carbon ecosystems to support climate mitigation and adaptation and improve resiliency to climate impacts?

What would be the changes in ecological makeup if cities reacted to increased flood risk?

What would the economic outlook be if biodiversity changed as a result of city or industry change?

How can we support cities to mitigation if flood risk increased?

What would be the flood risk changes if global temperature goals were met? Not met ?

ESDT Architecture Framework Considerations

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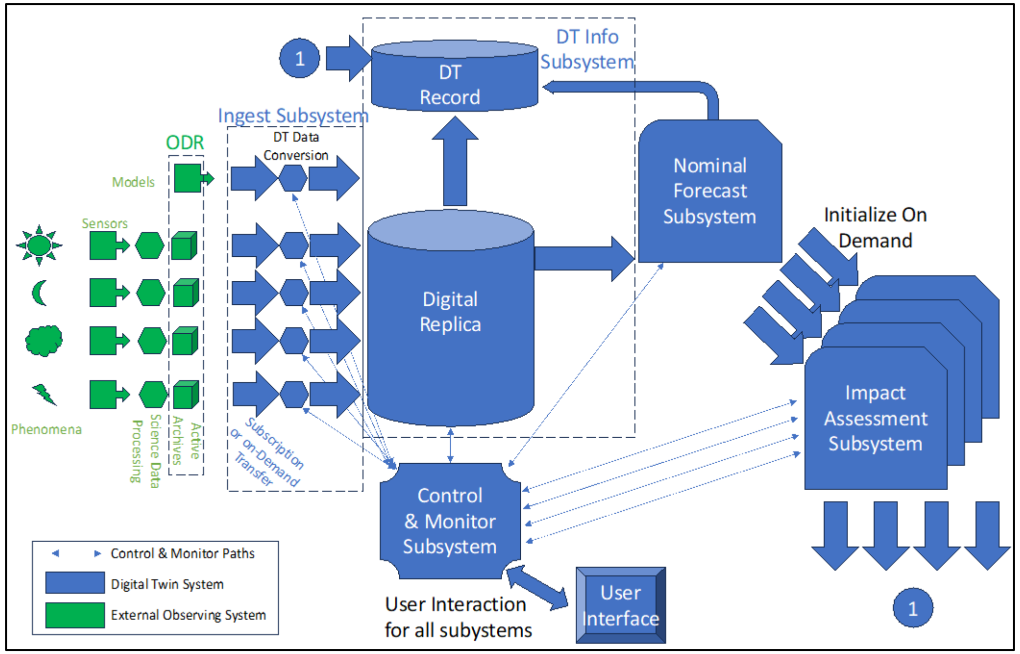
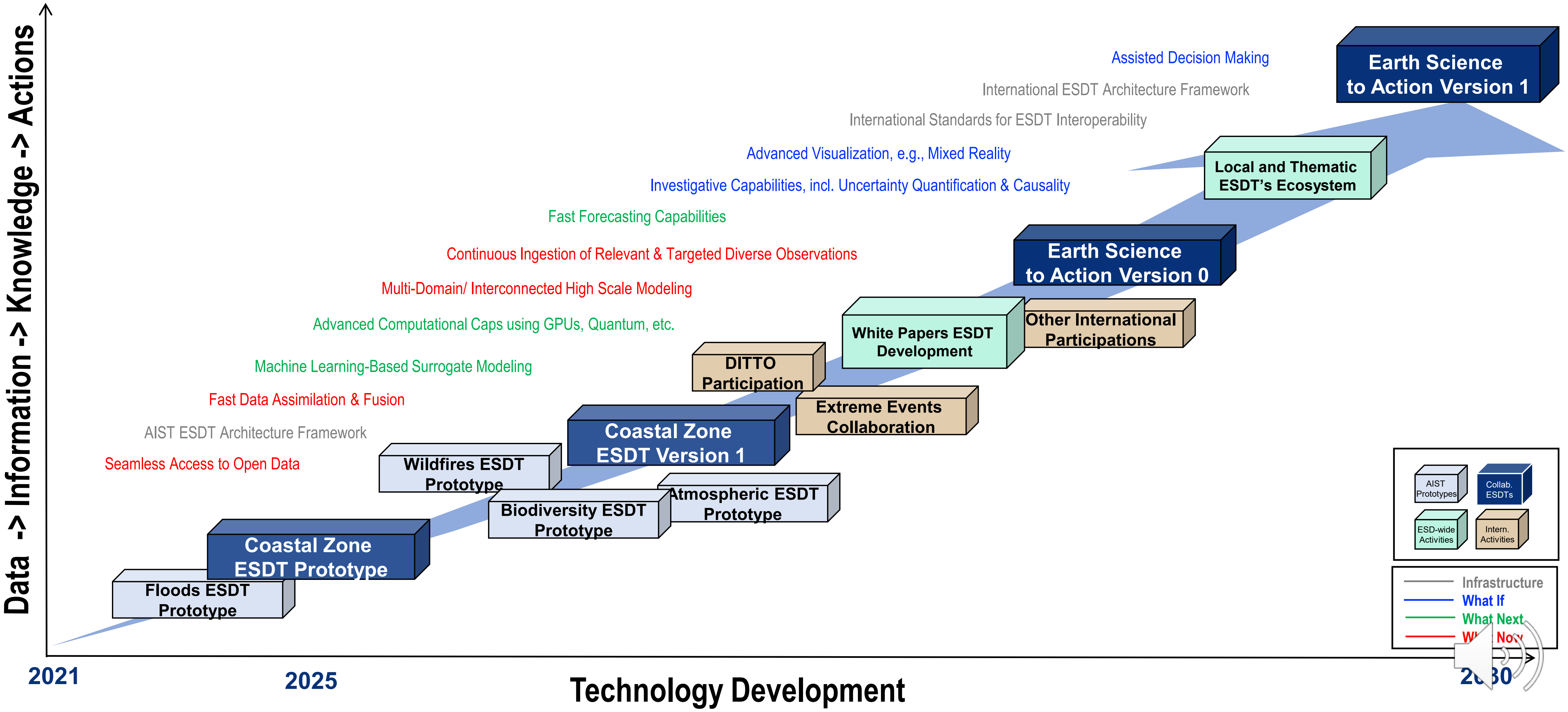
- **Consider architecture principles**
  - Modularity
  - Process automation and error checking
  - Comply with Open Source Science principles from SPD-41A
  - Permit evolution of concepts and uses and reasonable addition of new components
  - Provide the Glue to stitch together all ESD capabilities
  - Open-standard interfaces enabling opportunities for broader use
  - Interfaces for federation with other ESDTs
  - User interfaces for a range of skill levels and interests (i.e.,"from farmer to scientist")



- **Enable component technology developers to consider their place in the overall architecture**
  - Re-use beyond a single architecture
  - Identify technology gaps and what is required to fill them

Earth System Digital Twins (ESDT)

AIST Vision



Conclusion/Next Steps

AIST-23 Solicitation Future Selections => 2 or 3 end-to-end ESDT Prototypes (2024-2027)

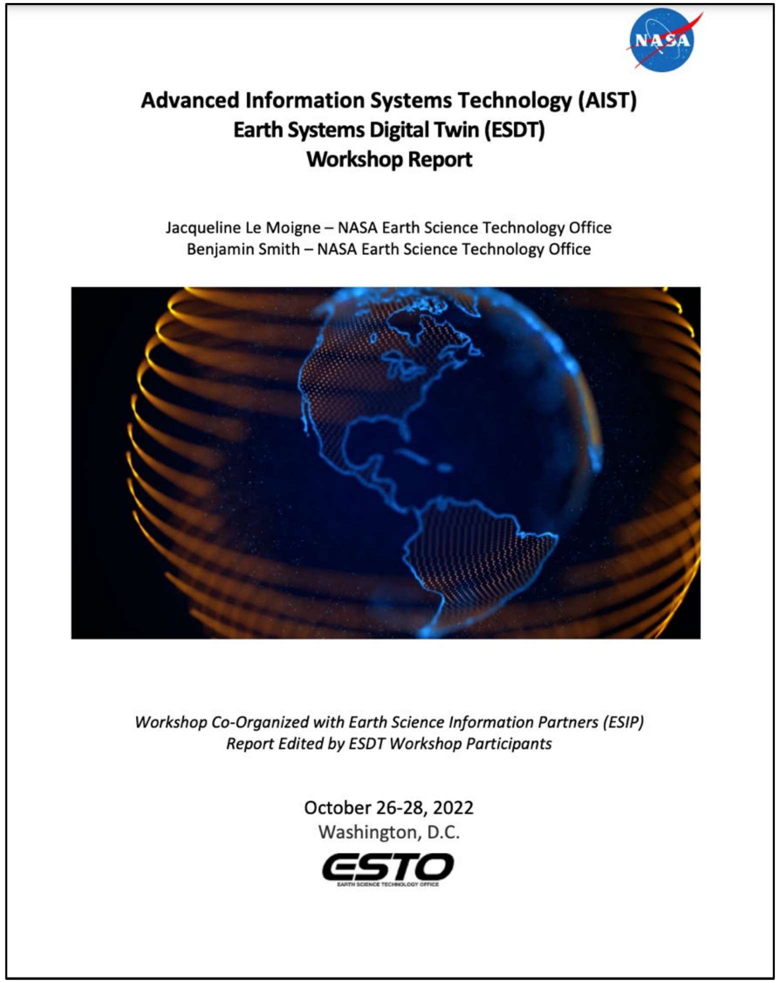
Coastal Zone Digital Twin (NASA, NOAA and CNES) => 1st Prototype expected early 2025

Some Overarching Questions:

- How will various data, models, ESDT interoperate/be federated? Which basic interfaces/standards/protocols will be required? Syntactic, semantic, legal and organizational levels
- What are the main architecture components of an ESDT?
  - 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 continuous data will be integrated? How often will digital replica be refreshed? Which user interfaces?
- How do we validate ESDT (e.g., using historical data, etc.)? How to quantify uncertainty?
- Which sustainable digital twin governance model should be adopted to address software configuration changes, security and full life cycle management?

ESDT References on AIST Website

ESDT Workshop Report available
on AIST Website:
https://esto.nasa.gov/files/ESDT_Workshop_Report.pdf



Advanced Information Systems Technology (AIST)
Earth Systems Digital Twin (ESDT)
Workshop Report

Jacqueline Le Moigne – NASA Earth Science Technology Office
Benjamin Smith – NASA Earth Science Technology Office

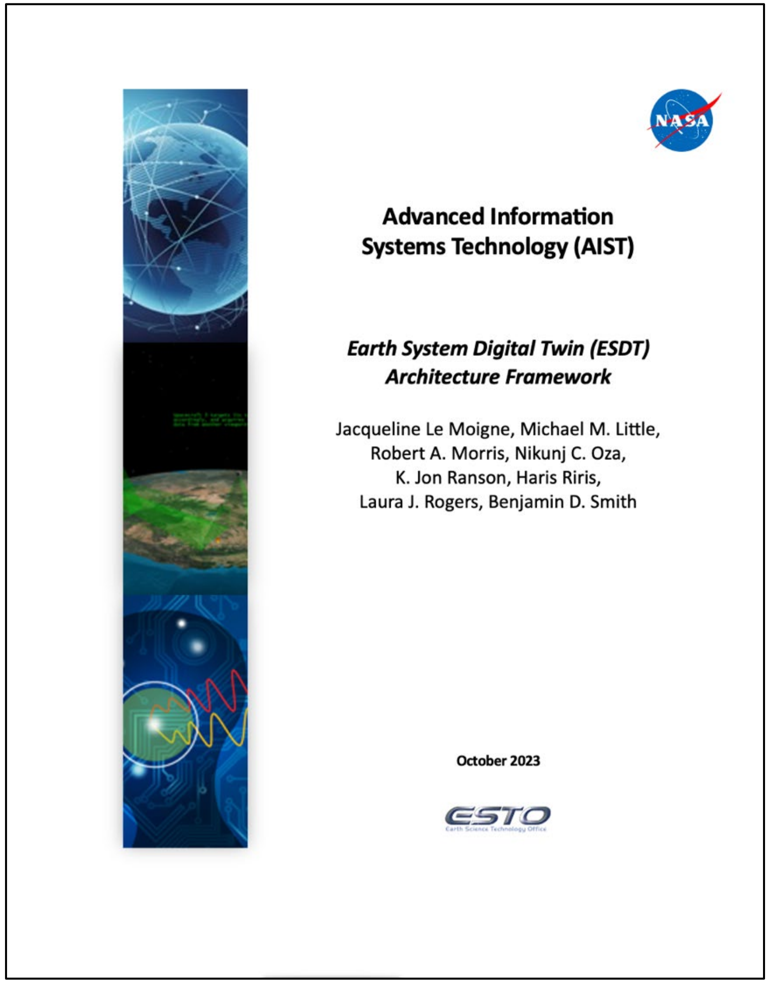
Workshop Co-Organized with Earth Science Information Partners (ESIP)
Report Edited by ESDT Workshop Participants

October 26-28, 2022
Washington, D.C.

Standards for Interoperable Digital Twins Workshop
September 18, 2023

- Presentations: https://esto.nasa.gov/files/AIST/ESDT%20Standards%202023.pdf
- Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qdpL0Ui-jqc

Document available
on AIST Website:
https://esto.nasa.gov/files/AIST/ESDT_ArchitectureFramework.pdf



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Earth System Digital Twin (ESDT)
Architecture Framework

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October 2023


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