

• **Delft University of Technology**

# **Faculty of Aerospace Engineering**



**EWAD 2011 - Gianfranco La Rocca ([g.larocca@tudelft.nl](mailto:g.larocca@tudelft.nl))**

A satellite map of the western Netherlands, showing the North Sea to the west. The land is a mix of green fields and brown urban areas. The city of Amsterdam is in the upper left, The Hague is in the middle left, and Rotterdam is in the lower left. A yellow square highlights a coastal area between The Hague and Rotterdam, with a yellow line pointing to it from the label 'Delft' on the right.

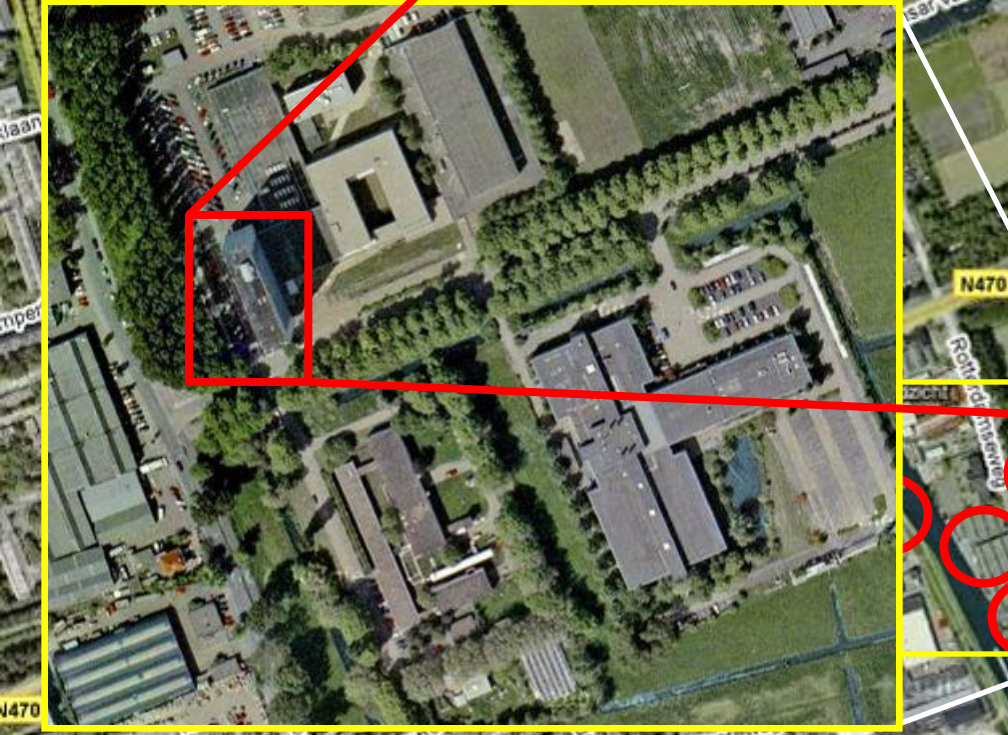
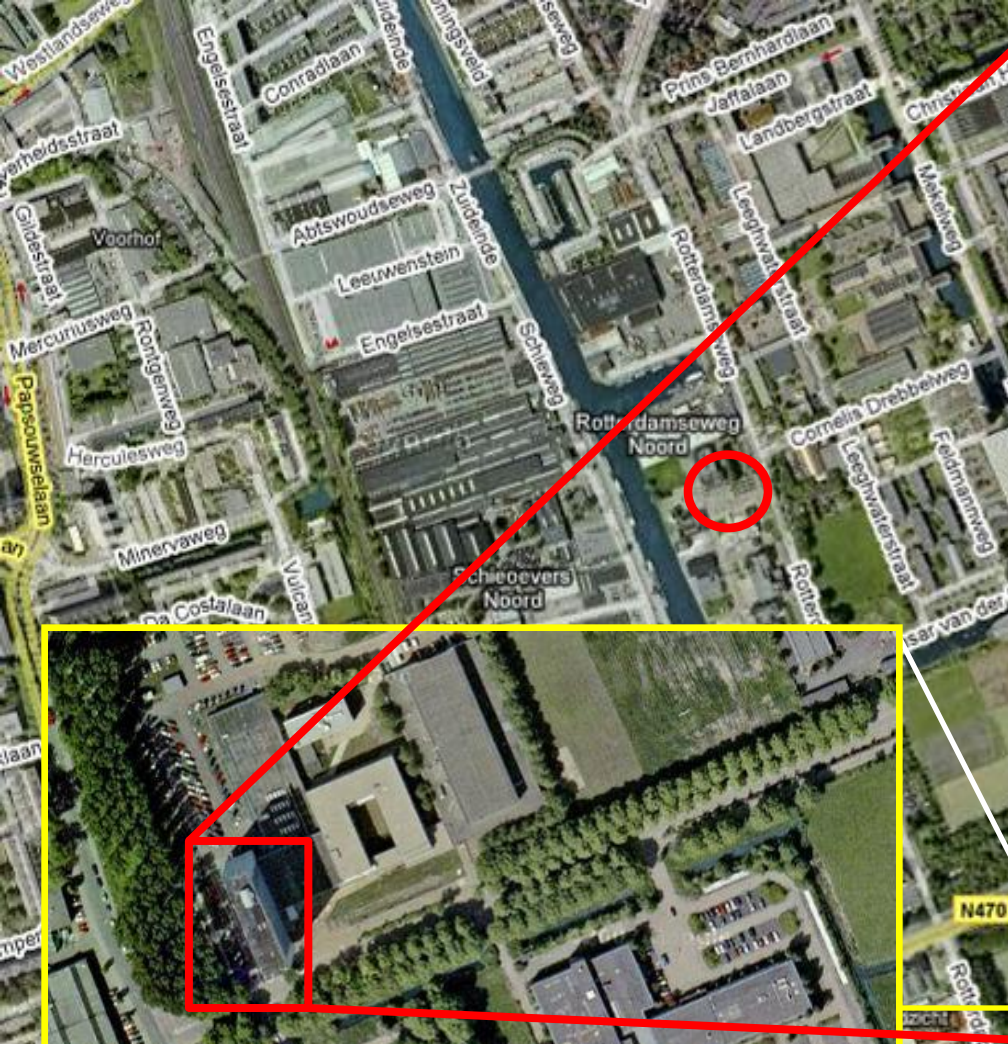
Amsterdam

The Hague

**Delft**

Rotterdam







# Aerospace Engineering

- 1842: TU Delft founded by King Willem II
- 1946: **Department** of Aeronautical Engineering founded by Prof. Van der Maas
- 1961: Start of Space technology
- 1975: **Faculty** of Aerospace Engineering



# Aerospace Engineering

## Complete

Research & education covering almost all areas of aerospace engineering, both with expertise and laboratory equipment



## Largest aerospace engineering faculty in Western Europe

- International scientific reputation
- Unique facilities
- Large student body



## Internationally oriented

- **Fully English taught programme**
- **34% International students**
- Member of IDEA League, PEGASUS university networks
- Bilateral international agreements
- Working in multinational research teams



# Aerospace Engineering

## Number of staff:

- 59 support staff
- 228 academic staff
- 100 Ph.D. students

## Number of students:

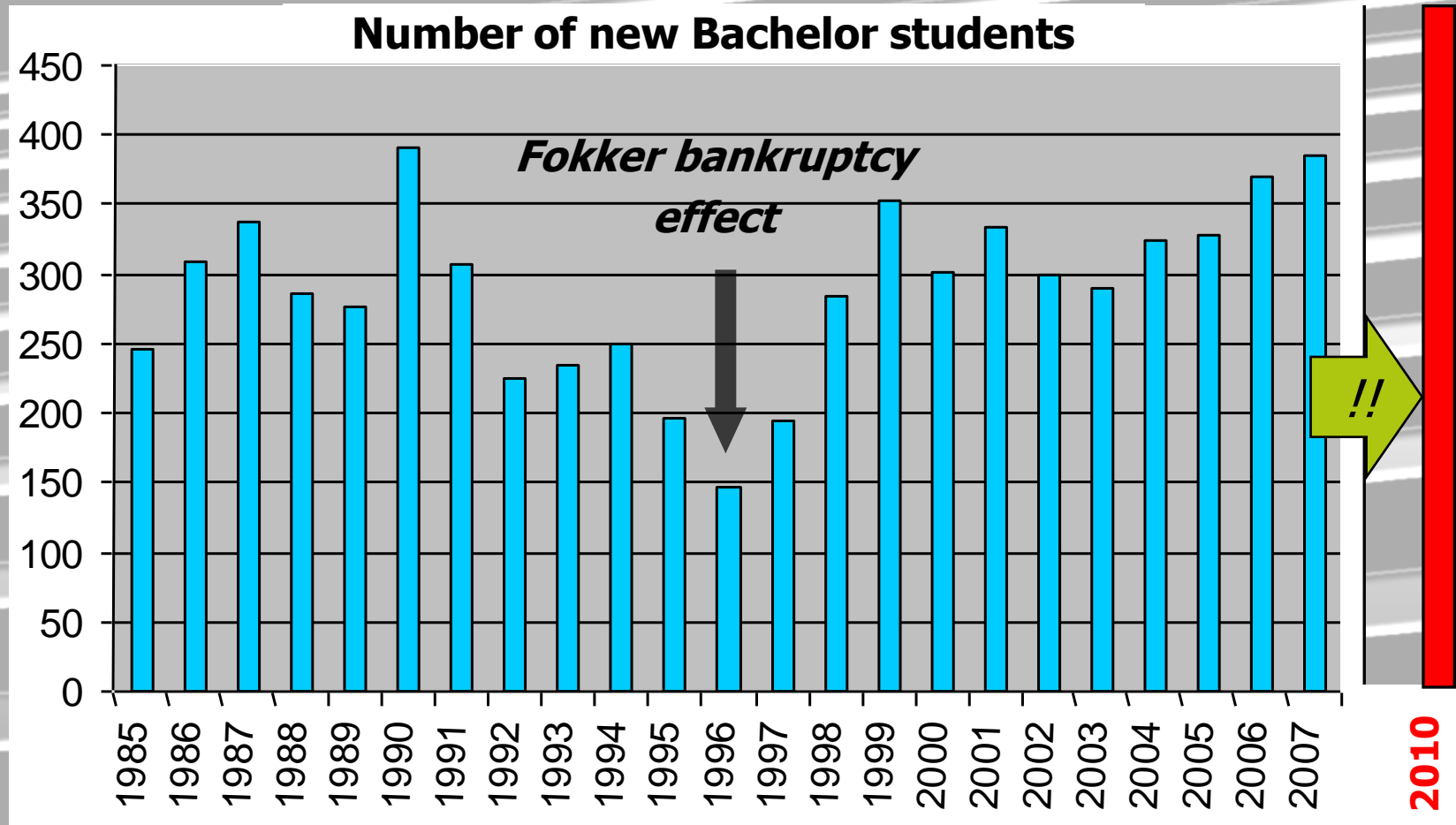
- 2000 students (BSc & MSc)
- 509 first year students

## Funding:

- 22 M€ - Governmental funding
- 7 M€ - External funding



# Aerospace Engineering



# Aerospace Engineering

- **SIMONA**

Advanced moving base flight simulator

- **Cessna Citation II**

Flying classroom research facility

- **Space certified satellite clean room**

Class 100000 (ISO 8)

- **Wind tunnels**

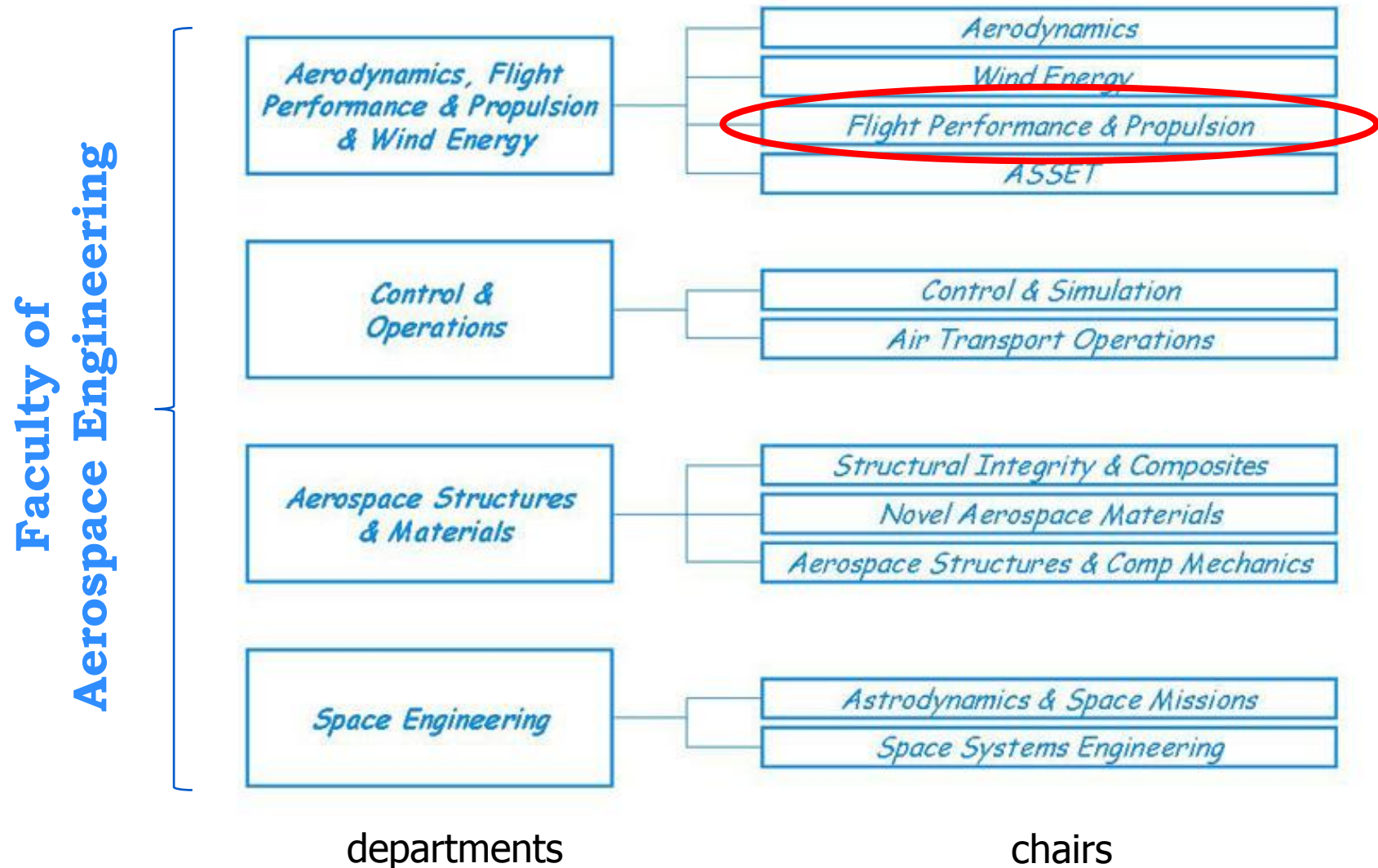
Subsonic, Transonic up to Hypersonic (M6.0-M11)

- **Laboratories for testing & manufacturing  
aerospace materials and aerospace structures**



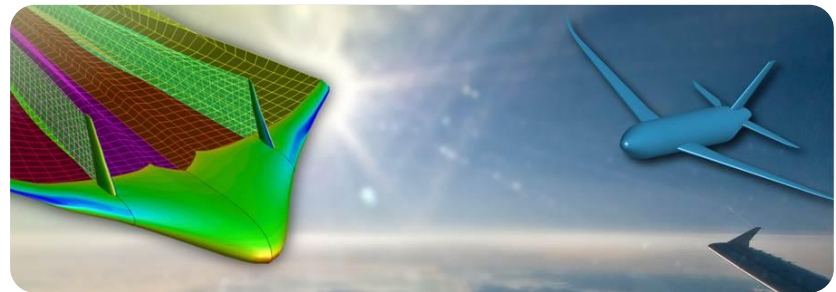


# Aerospace Engineering



# On the Flight Performance & Propulsion (FPP) chair

- Aircraft design related **education** (BSc & MSc courses)
- Focus, motivation and organization
- Aircraft design **research** programs
- A brief overview on the **design support systems** research area



# FPP contribution to AE education\*

- BSc:

1. Aerospace Design and Systems Engineering elements I - II
2. Systems Engineering and Aerospace Design
3. Flight Mechanics
4. Aircraft Design (now redistributed across 3 BSc course)

- MSc:

- Advanced Aircraft Design I
  - on the aerodynamic design of transport aircraft
- Advanced Aircraft Design II
  - on the aerodynamic design and performance of combat aircraft
- Advanced Design Methods
  - on Multidisciplinary Design Optimization and Knowledge Based Engineering



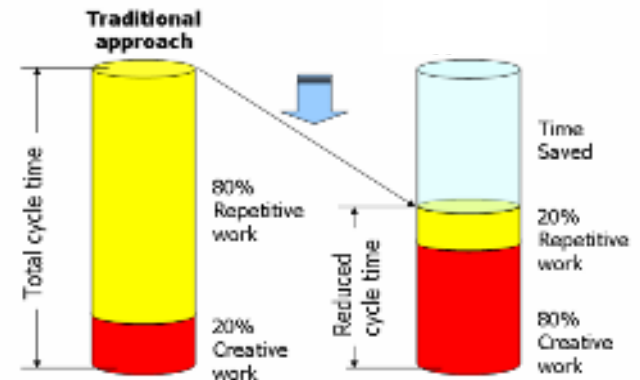
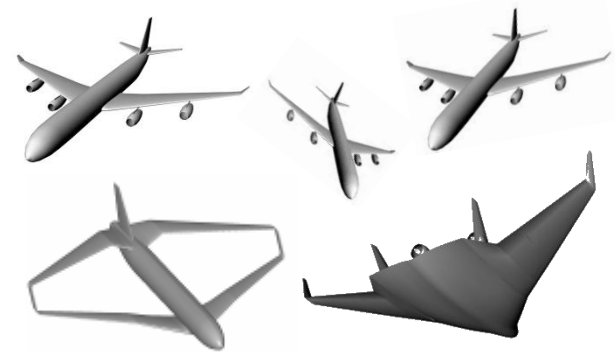
\*Propulsion related courses not included here



# Focus, motivation and organization

- **Products:** search for better aircraft and propulsion systems
- **Methods & Tools:** Brain drains, higher complexity, too much repetitive vs. creative work in engineering (80% - 20%).

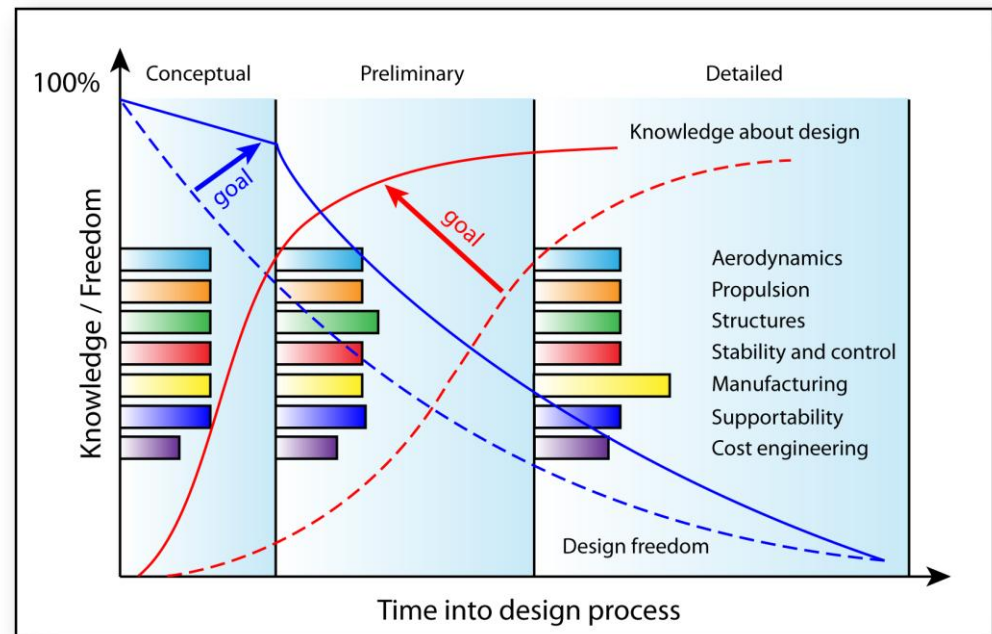
*How to improve designers productivity?*



# Focus, motivation and organization

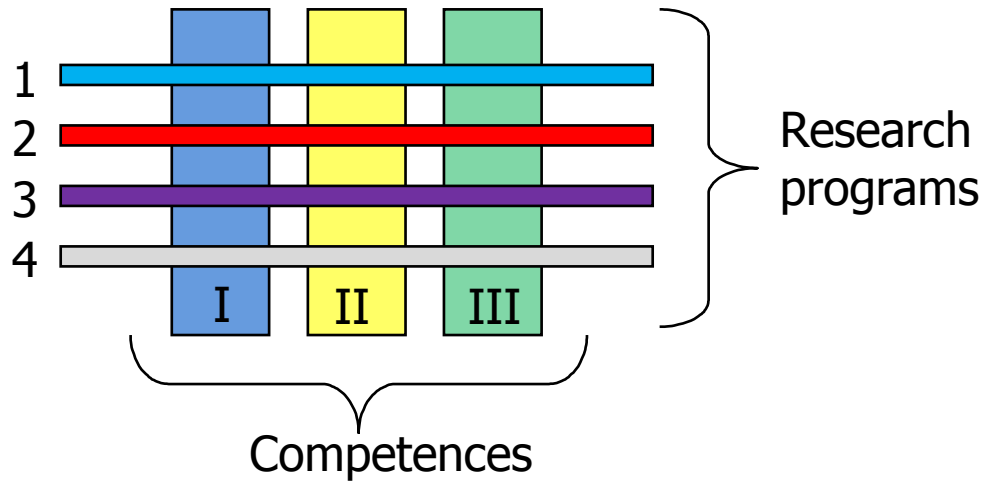
- **Methods & Tools (cont.):** improvement of the design process by means of **multidisciplinary design optimization (MDO)**.

→ *Development of tools to enable and support the MDO approach.*



# Focus, motivation and organization

## The competences-research programs matrix



1. New air vehicle concepts
2. High fidelity modeling of complex aeromechanical systems
3. Design support frameworks
4. New and improved propulsion systems and engines

- I. Propulsion
- II. Flight mechanics
- III. Aircraft Design & Design Methodologies



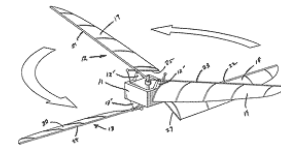
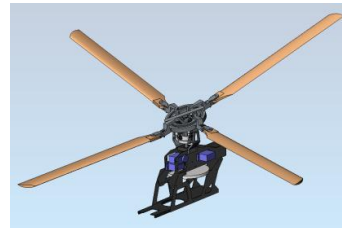
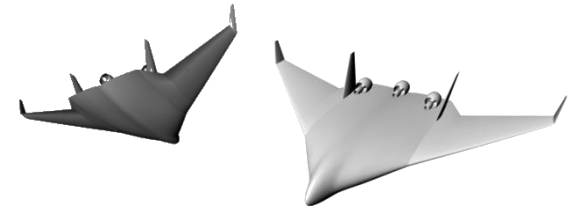
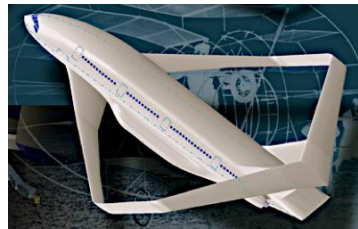


# Research programs

## 1. New air vehicle concepts

### Objectives

- Minimum induced drag
  - Less noise
  - Smaller span
  - Less weight
- 
- Minimum friction drag
  - Less weight
  - More comfort
  - Less noise
- 
- Improved controllability
  - Increased safety
  - Less noise
  - Less fuel consumption

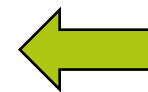
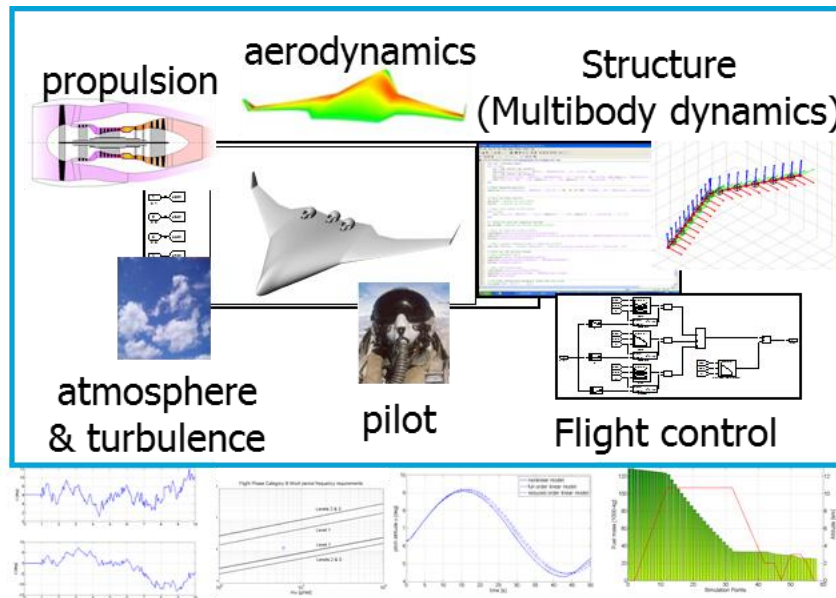


# Research programs

## 2. High fidelity modeling of complex aeromechanical systems

### Objectives

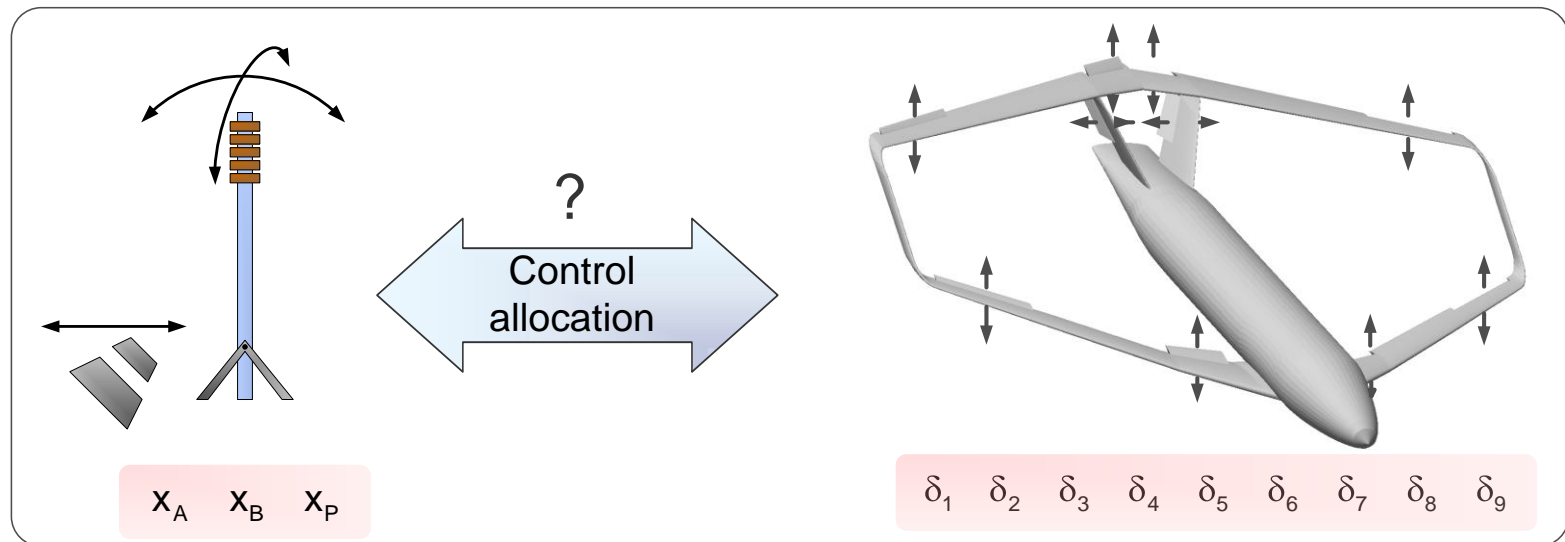
- New vehicle performance evaluation by development of a generic flight mechanics toolbox.
- Evaluation of systems that are complex to model



**The Generic Flight Mechanics Toolbox**

# Research programs

## 2. High fidelity modeling of complex aeromechanical systems



Control surface sizing and allocation for novel configurations



# Research programs

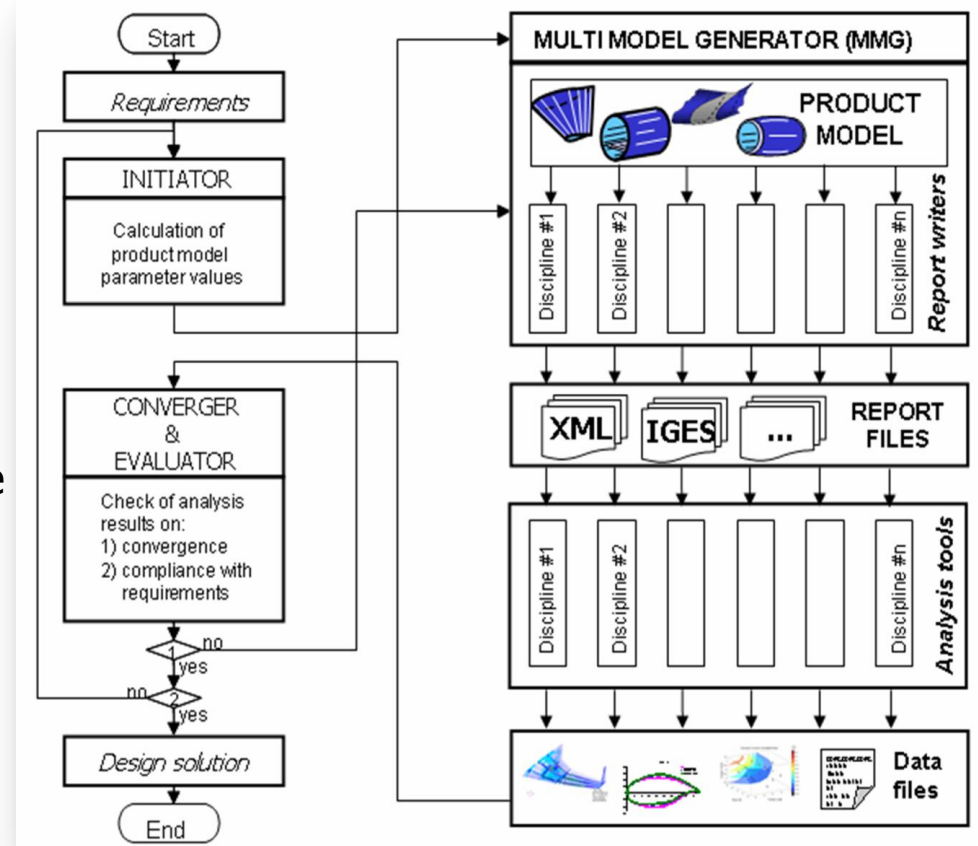
## 3. Design Support frameworks

### Objectives

Development of a computational system (the DEE)

- to explore design domains
- to increase yield of current analysis tools potential
- to free designers' time for creative activities
- to reduce cost of engineering

**Methods:** KBE, MDO, Agents, Knowledge Bases

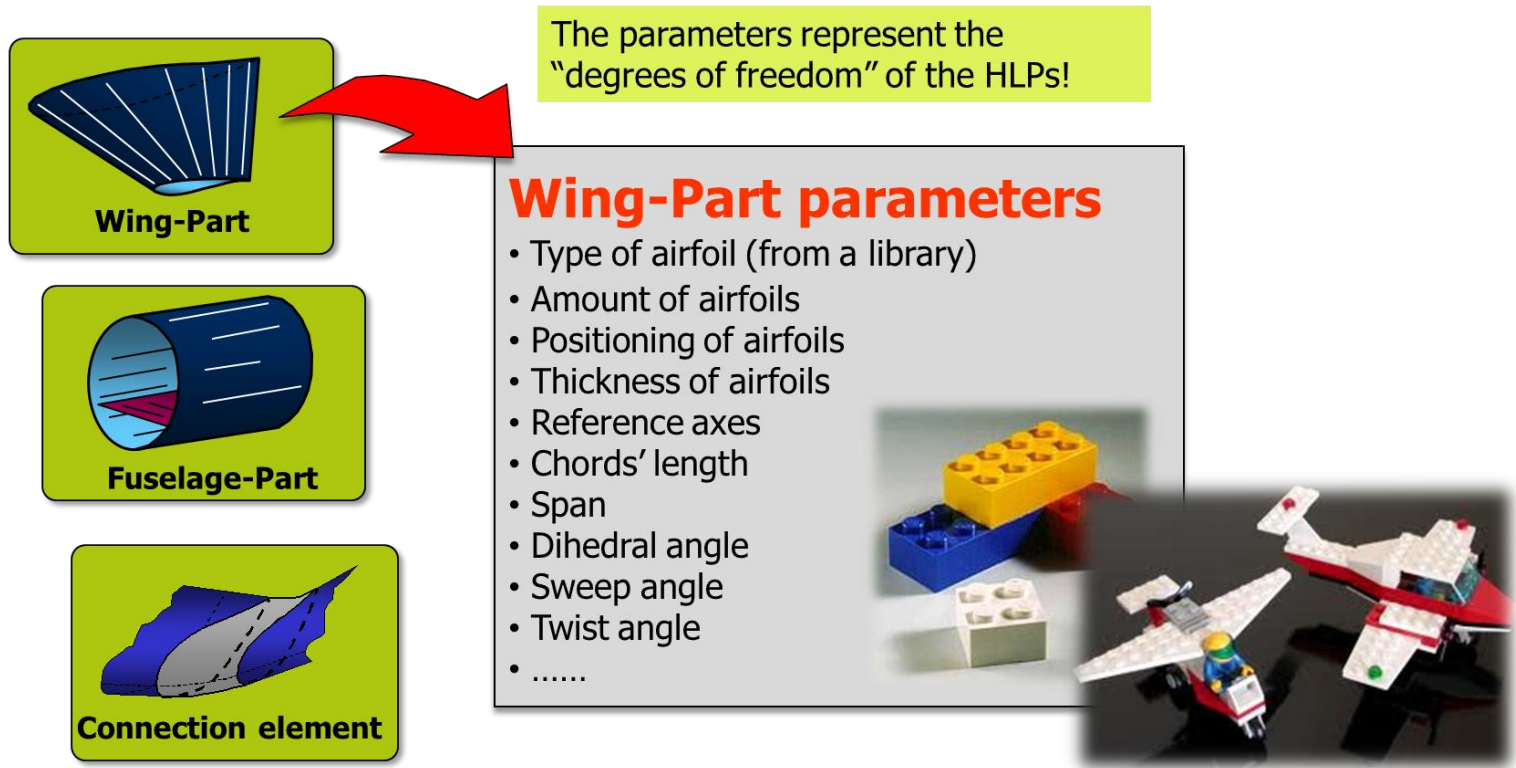


### The Design and Engineering Engine

# Research programs

## 3. Design Support frameworks

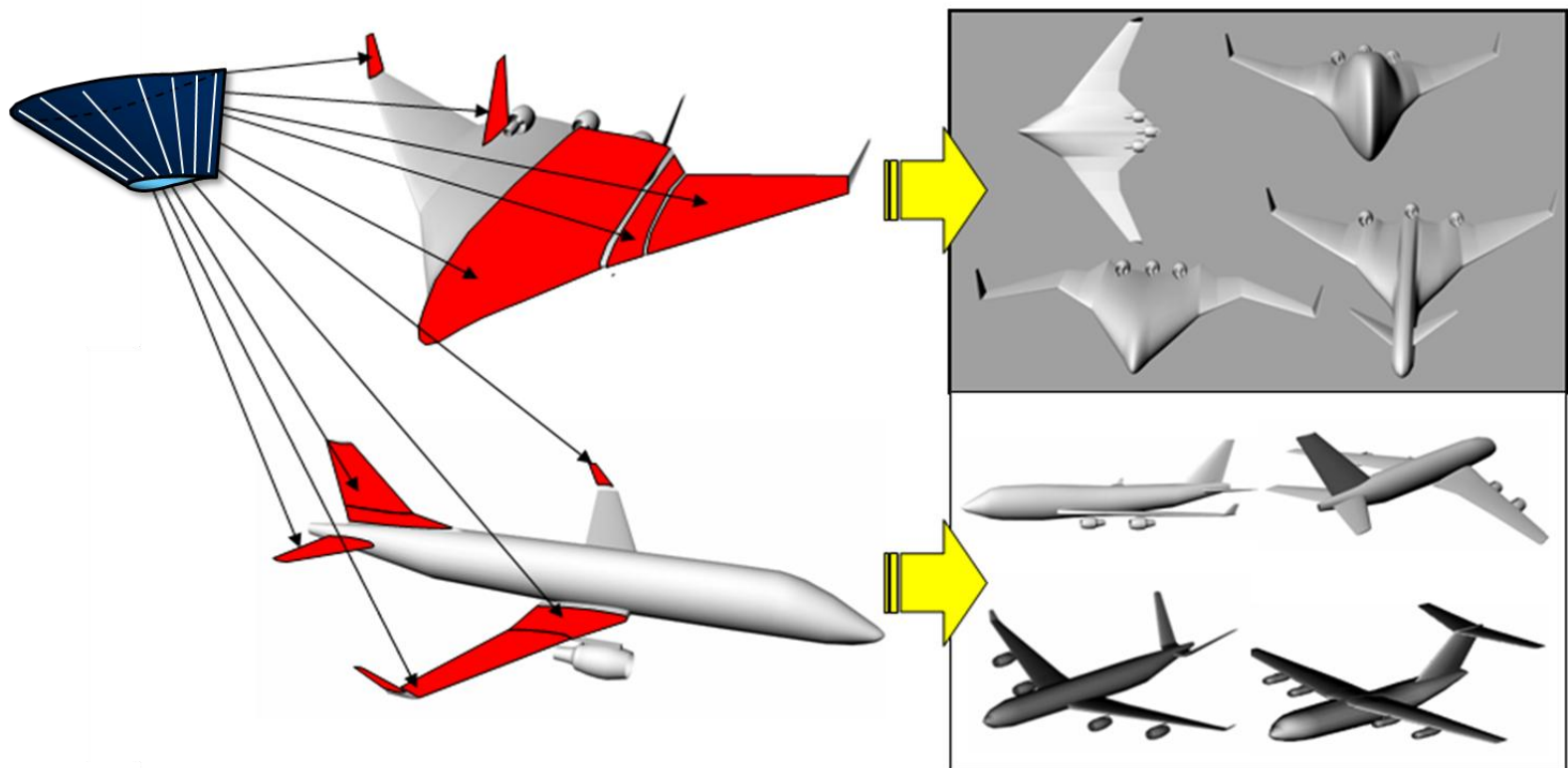
KBE tools for fast generation of aircraft configurations and variants



# Research programs

## 3. Design Support frameworks

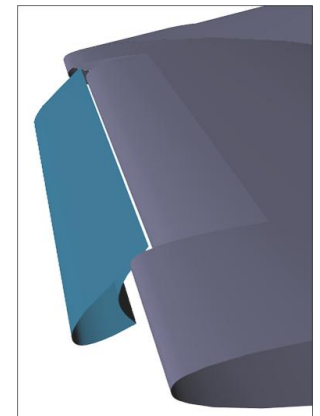
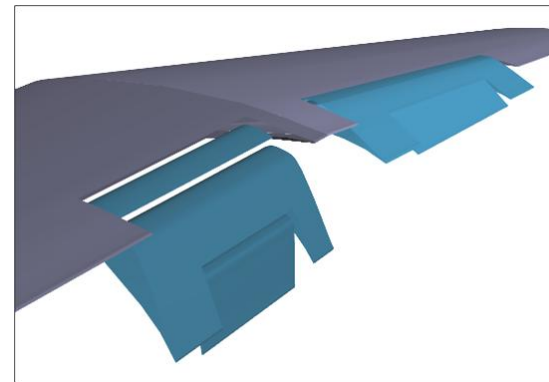
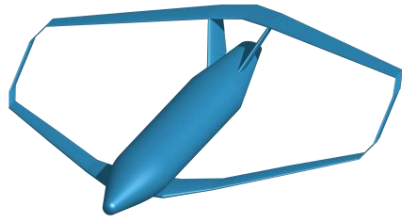
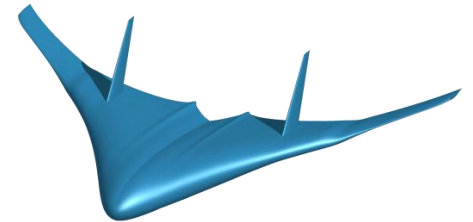
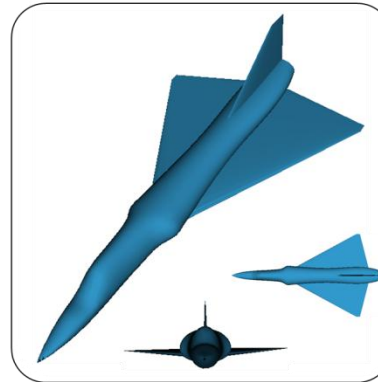
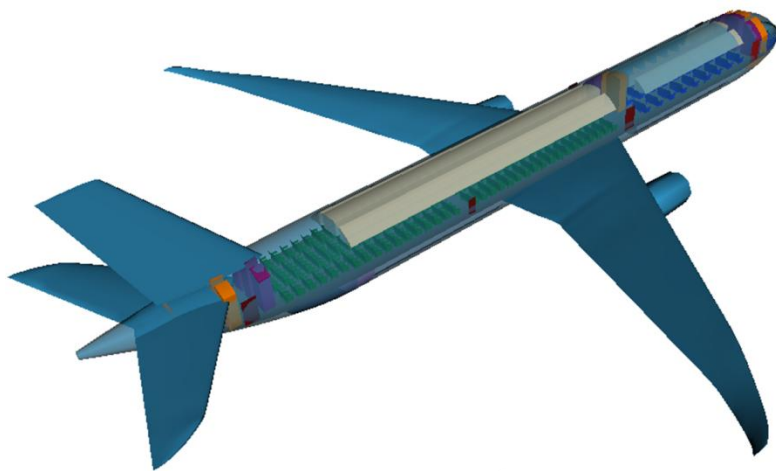
KBE tools for fast generation of aircraft configurations and variants



# Research programs

## 3. Design Support frameworks

KBE tools for fast generation of aircraft configurations and variants

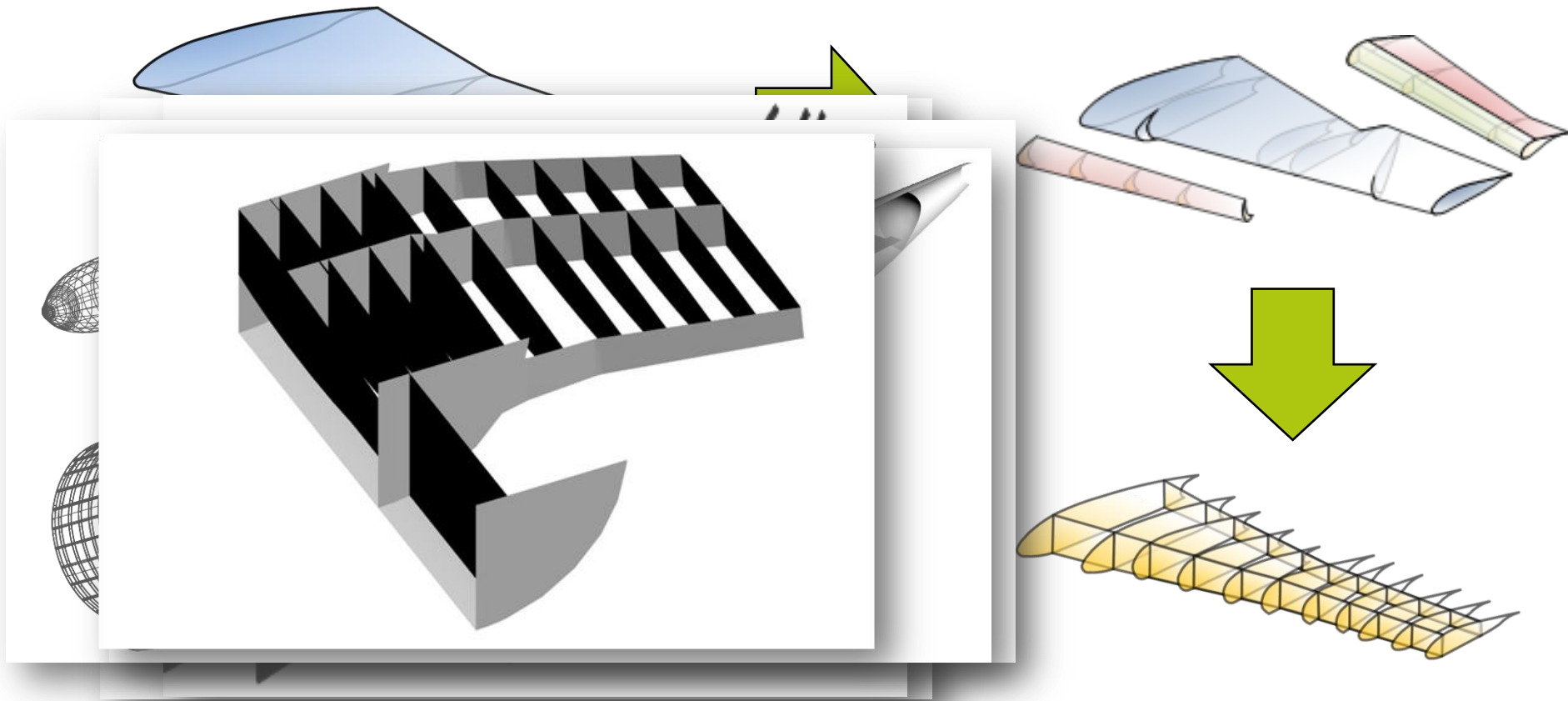




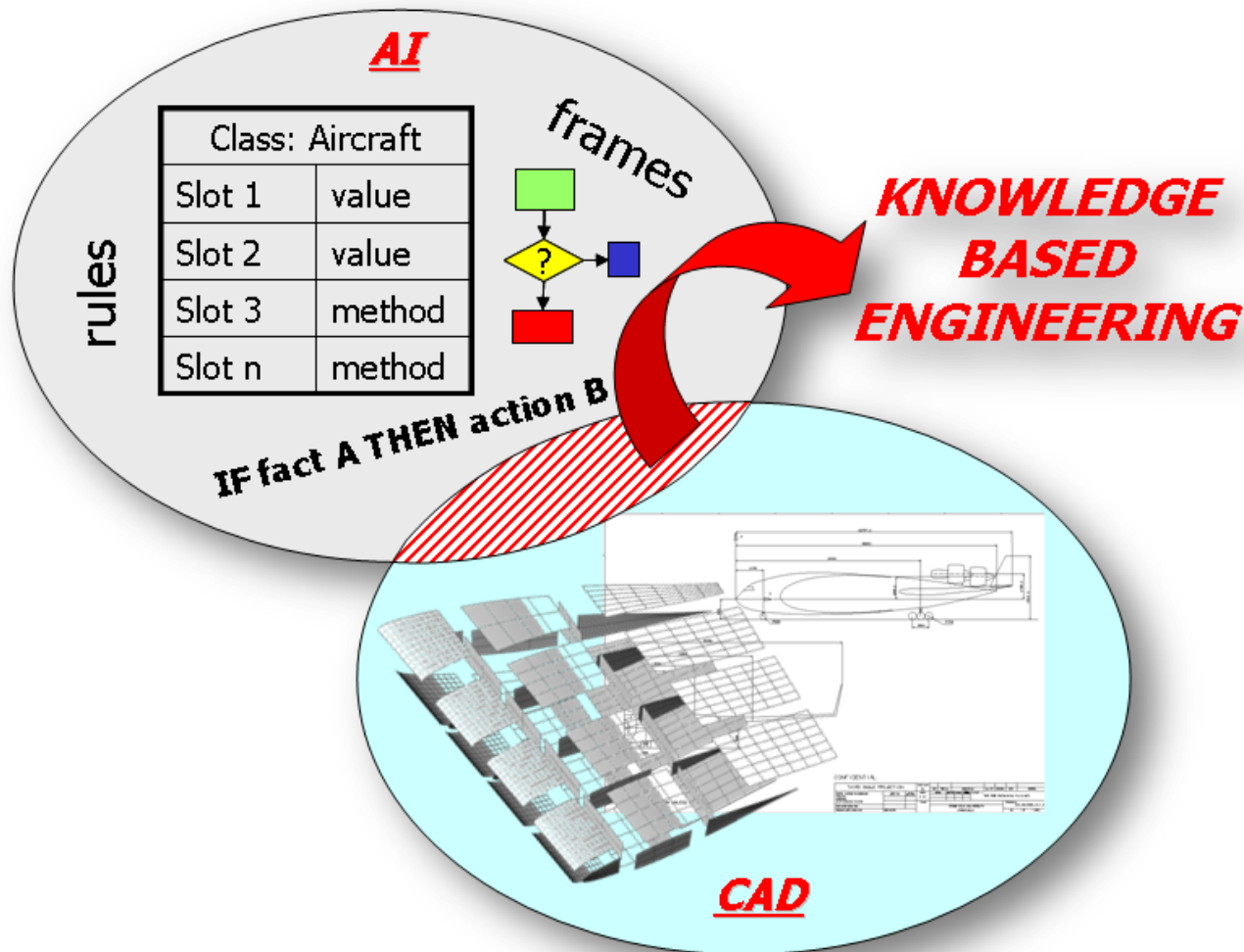
# Research programs

## 3. Design Support frameworks

KBE tools for fast generation of aircraft configurations and variants



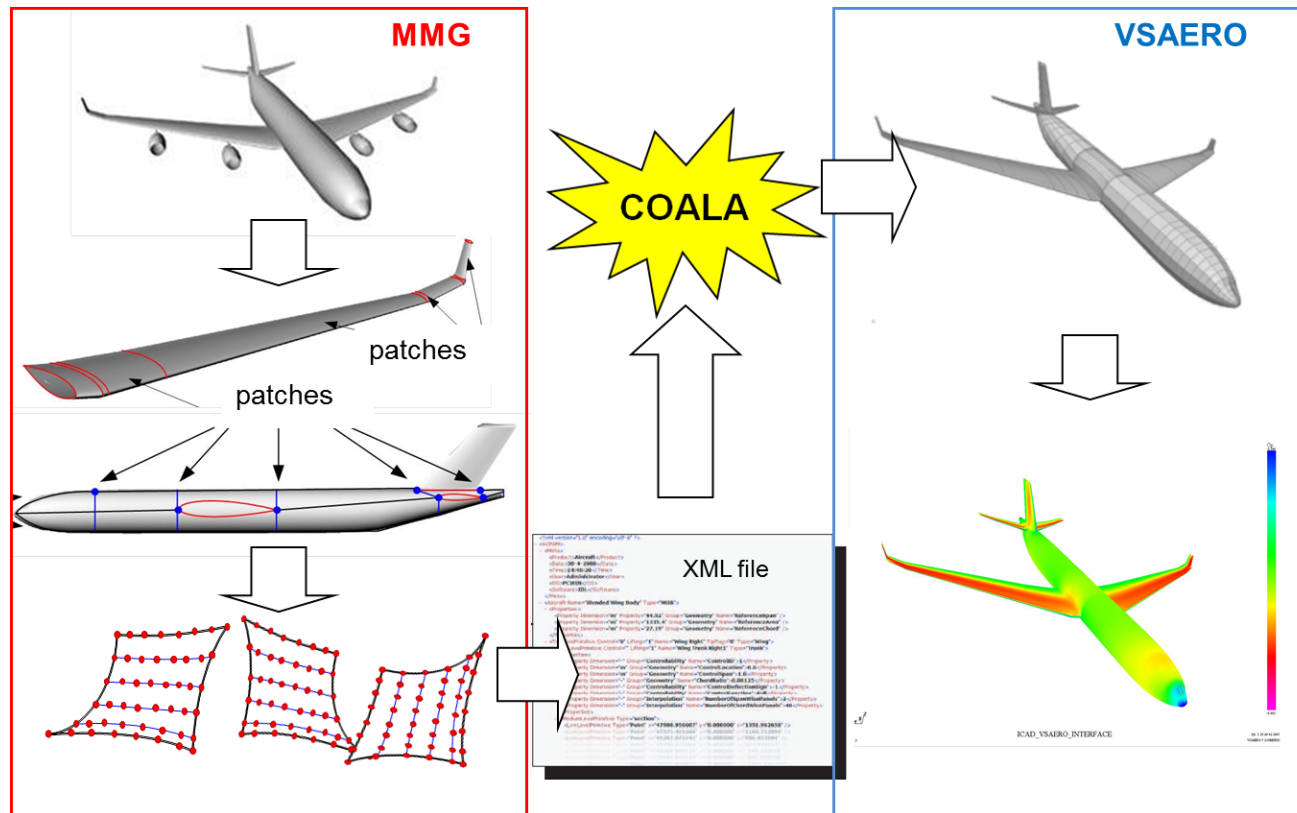
# ...but what is Knowledge Based Engineering (KBE) ?!?



# Research programs

## 3. Design Support frameworks

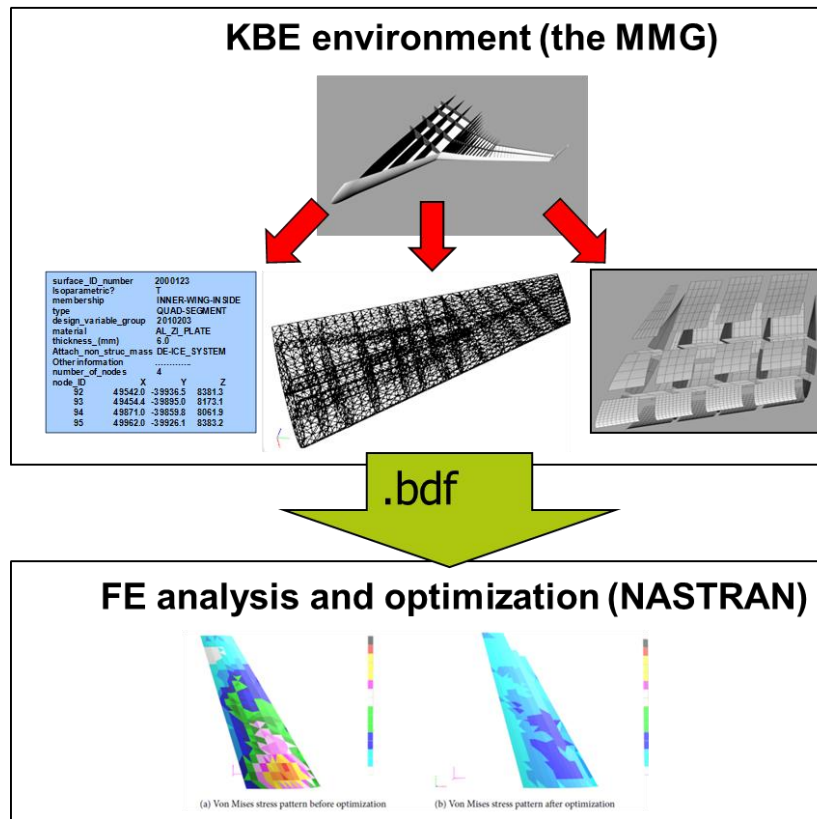
Automation of complex analysis cycles (example of aerodynamic analysis)



# Research programs

## 3. Design Support frameworks

Automation of complex analysis cycles (example of FE analysis)



**STEP 1:** model instantiation

**STEP 2:** meshing (MMG)

**STEP 3:** properties assignments and mapping (MMG)

**STEP 4:** loads mapping (MMG)

**STEP 5:** generation of the .bdf file, i.e., the Nastran Input file (MMG)

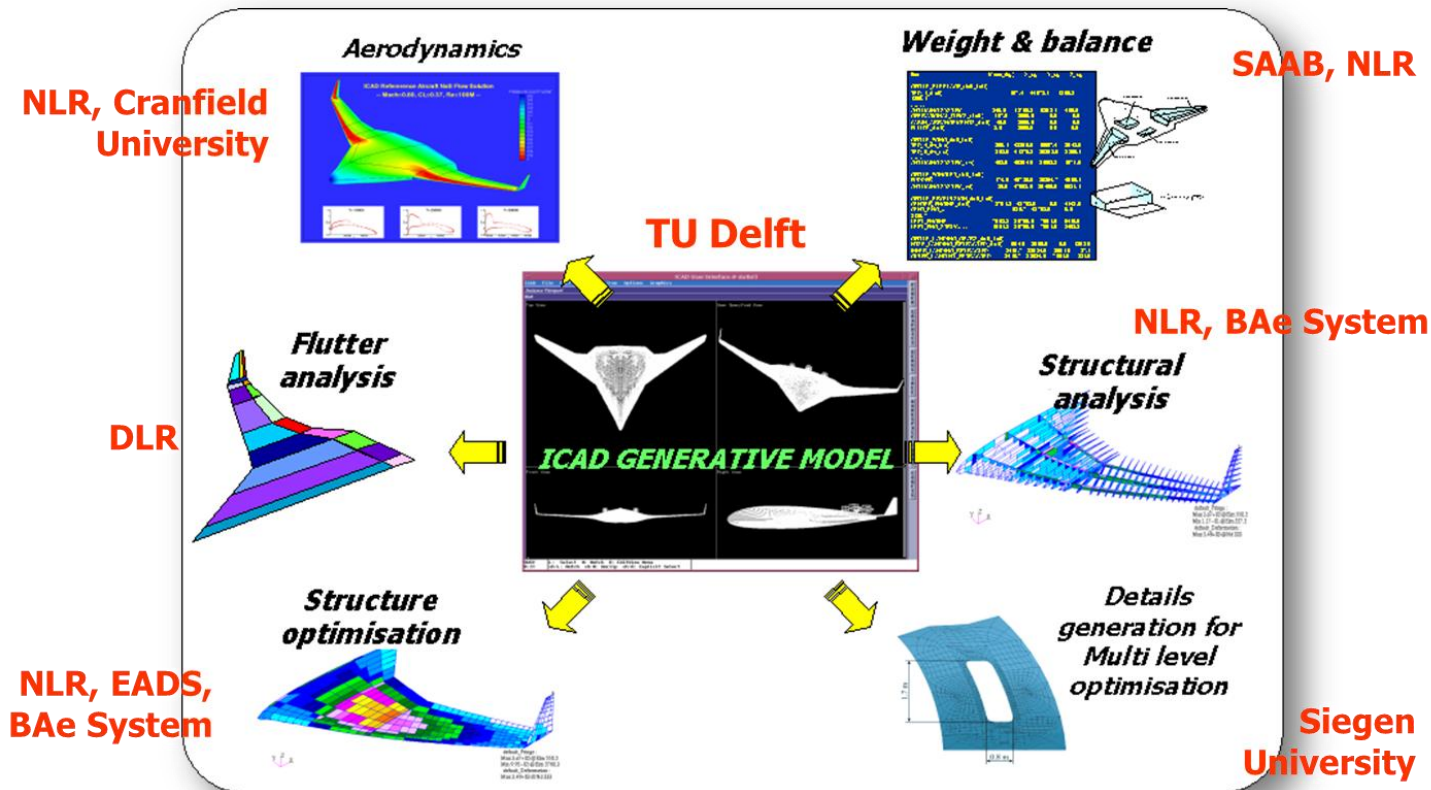
**STEP 6:** analysis & optimization (NASTRAN)



# Research programs

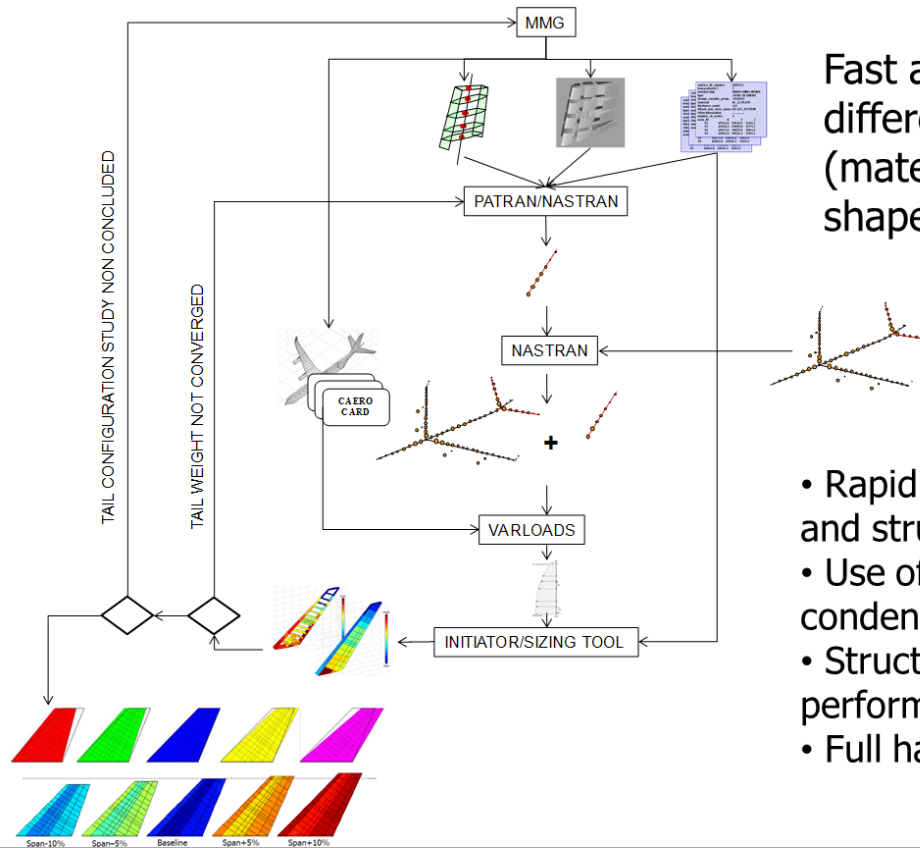
## 3. Design Support frameworks for new vehicles development

Distributed MDO of Blended Wing Body configurations (EC sponsored project)



## 2. Design Support frameworks for A/C main systems design

# Distributed computational engine for vertical tail redesign (TAILORMATE project with Airbus)



Fast assessment of  
different tail design options  
(material and planform  
shapes)

- Rapid generation of aeroelastic and structural models
- Use of reduced models (mass condensation methods)
- Structure, Aero and Flight performance involved
- Full hands-off MDO design

# Research programs

## 2. Design Support frameworks for sub-systems integration and operation (EC sponsored project)

KBE modeling of wing internal systems for boundary layer suction, with weight, cost and power absorption analysis

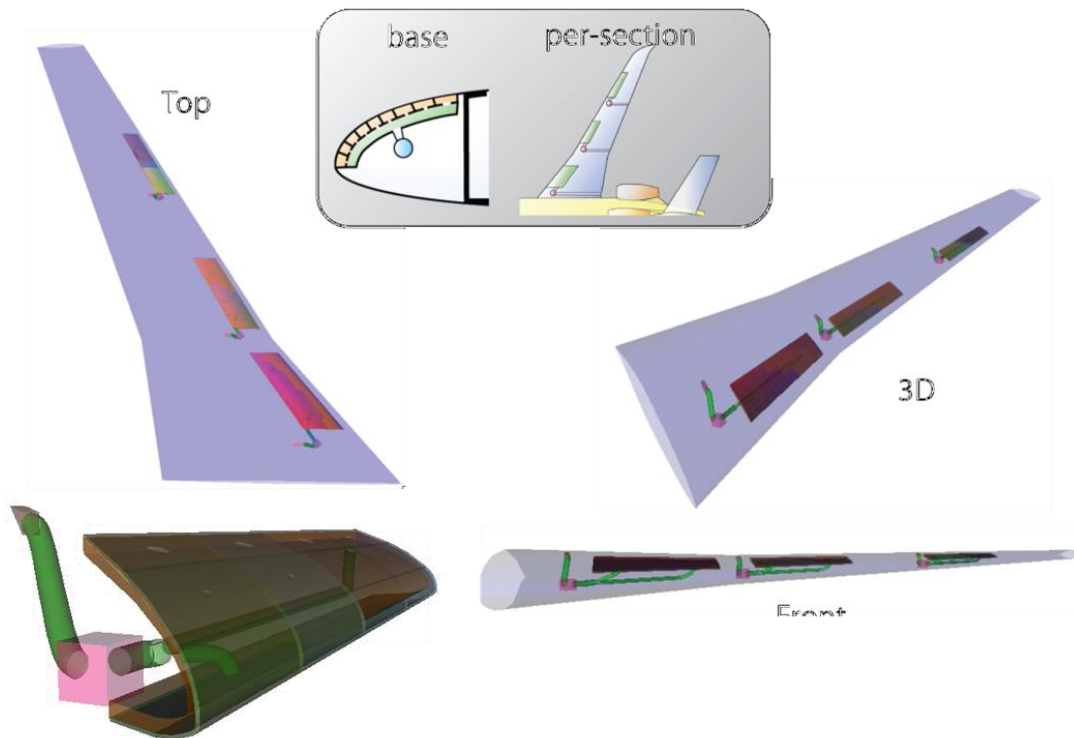


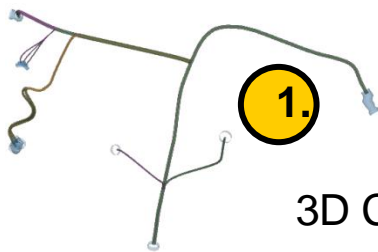
Table 2-2: Concepts	
Concept #	Sketch
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	

# Research programs

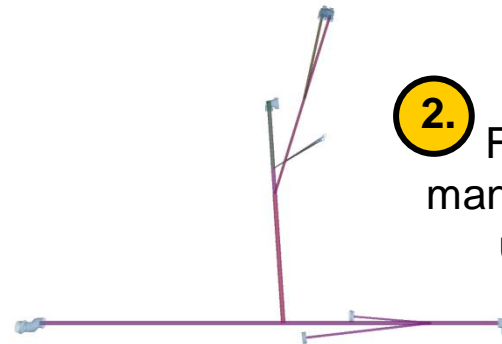
## 3. Design Support frameworks for sub-systems integration systems design, integration and production

EXAMPLE: Automatic signal-pin assignment to connectors at production breaks

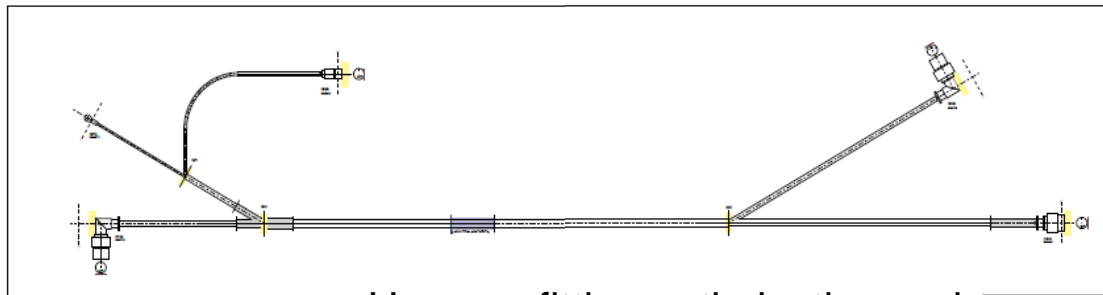
(FORMBOARD with Fokker Elmo)



3D CAD model of the wiring harness



2. Flattening according to manufacturing constraints using KBE techniques



3. Harness fitting optimization and automated layout generation

4. Printed drawing in wiring harness manufacturing





# Research programs

## 3. Design Support frameworks for electrical systems design, integration and production

EXAMPLE: Automatic signal-pin assignment to connectors at production breaks  
(AWARD project with Fokker ELMO)



Assigning **25000 signals** to connectors at production breaks takes 100 hrs in the traditional approach, few seconds using KBE tools.

