

Future Innovation Framework for Smart Product Service System Design

Exploring an Innovative Design Approach for Global Manufacturing Companies

Doctoral Candidate:

Yan Zhang, BTH, Sweden

Supervisors:

Prof. Tobias Larsson, BTH, Sweden

Assoc.Prof. Andreas Larsson, BTH, Sweden

Opponent:

Prof. Dag Bergsjö, CTH, Sweden



**Department of
Mechanical Engineering**

18th of December 2024

Future Innovation Framework for Smart Product Service System Design

- Exploring an Innovative Design Approach for Global Manufacturing Companies

Yan Zhang

Blekinge Institute of Technology, Sweden

18th of December 2024



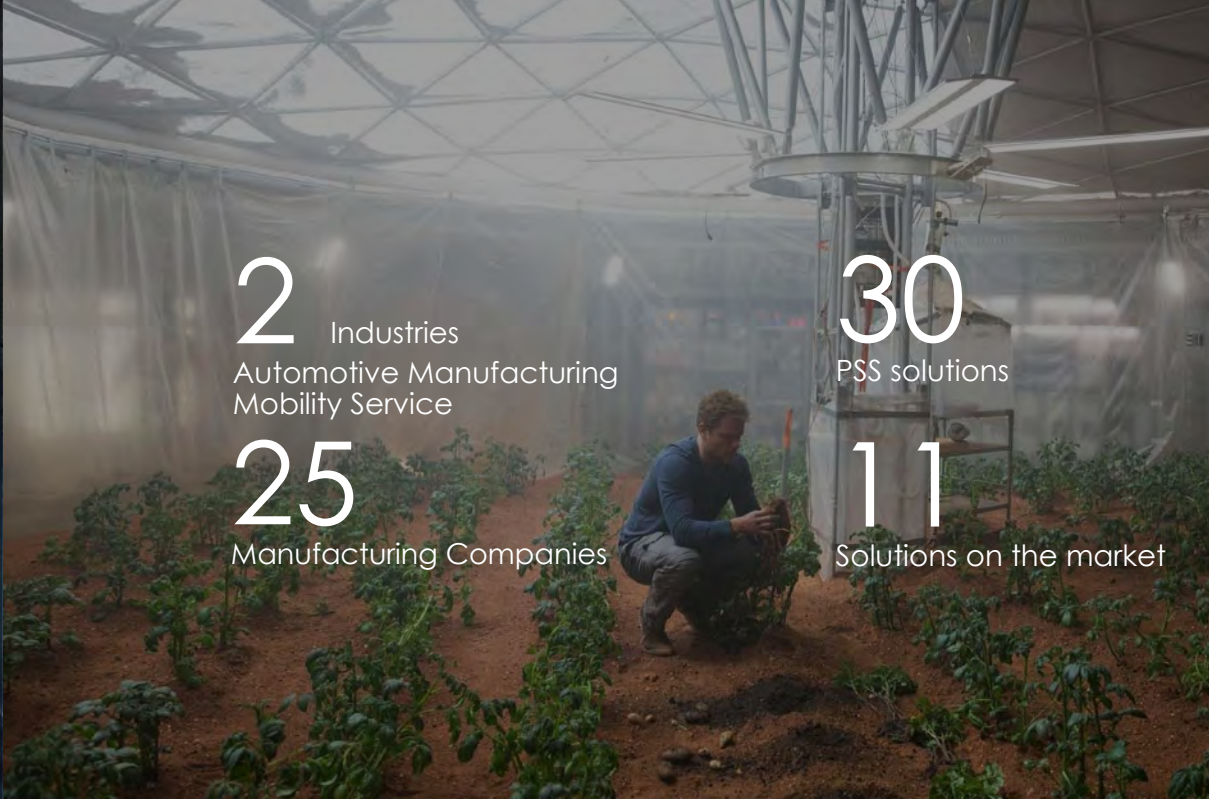
Department of
Mechanical Engineering

My Context

“Product-Service System is my research area,
and I have been on a long journey of exploration in this field”



A research-driven entrepreneur



Research-based innovation services



Service Design Lab

2016 – 2018



PSS Design Lab

2018 – 2020



Scenario Innovation Lab

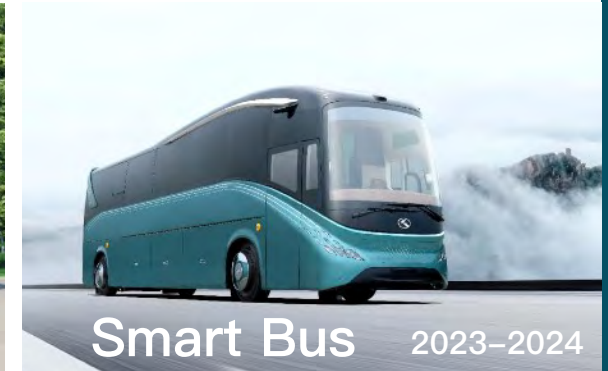
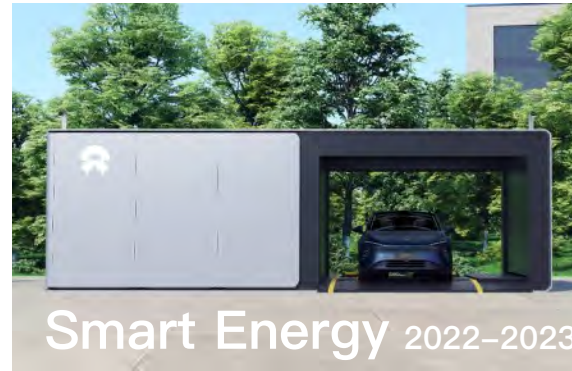
2020 – 2022



Virtual Simulation Lab

2022 –

Transformation of PSS research into industrial application



Smart PSS Innovation for Global Industrial 4.0



Agenda

Introduction

Theoretical Background

Methodology

Results

Conclusions

Q&A

Manufacturing companies' transformation through digitalization & servitization

Product Development

Product -Service System

Smart PSS Transformation



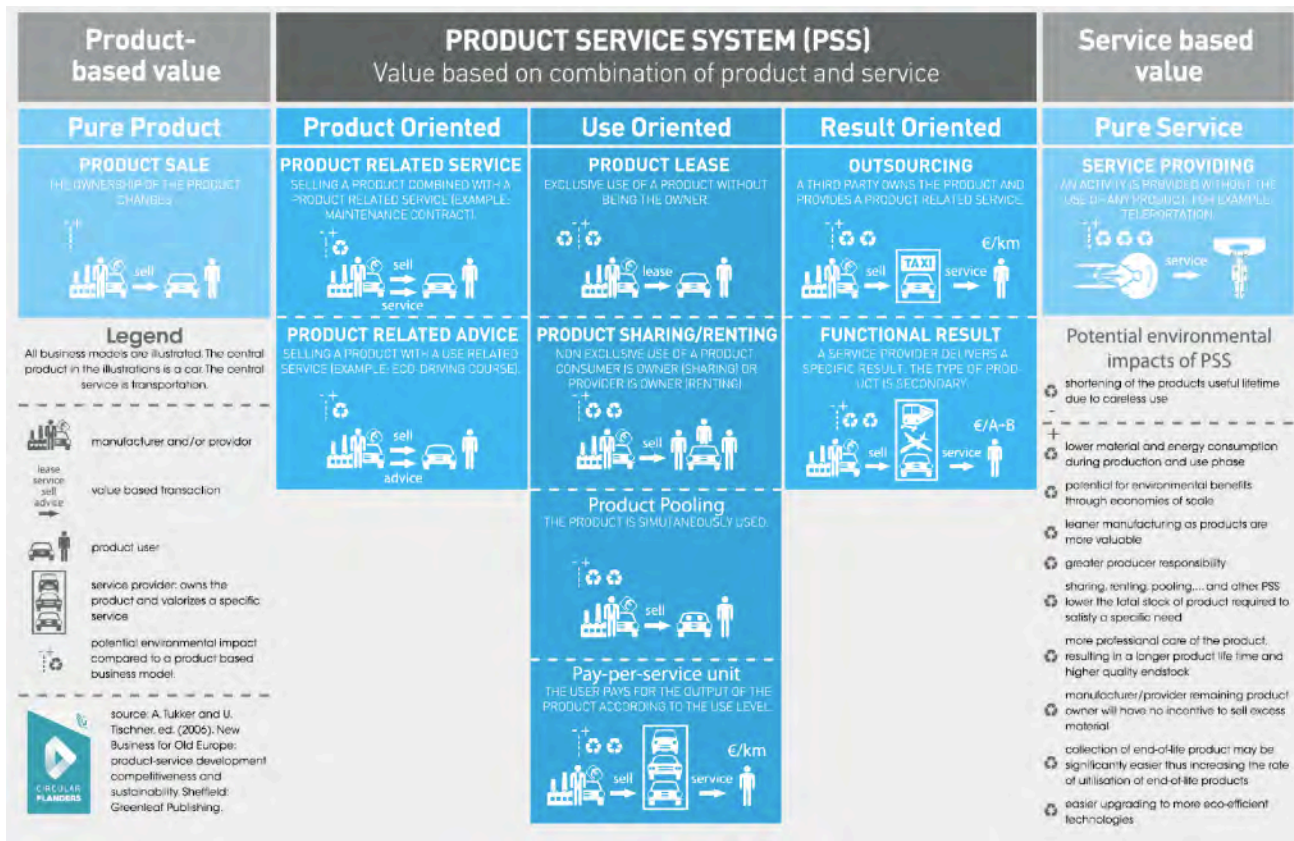
New product model

Service oriented model

Future customized solutions

Product-Service System

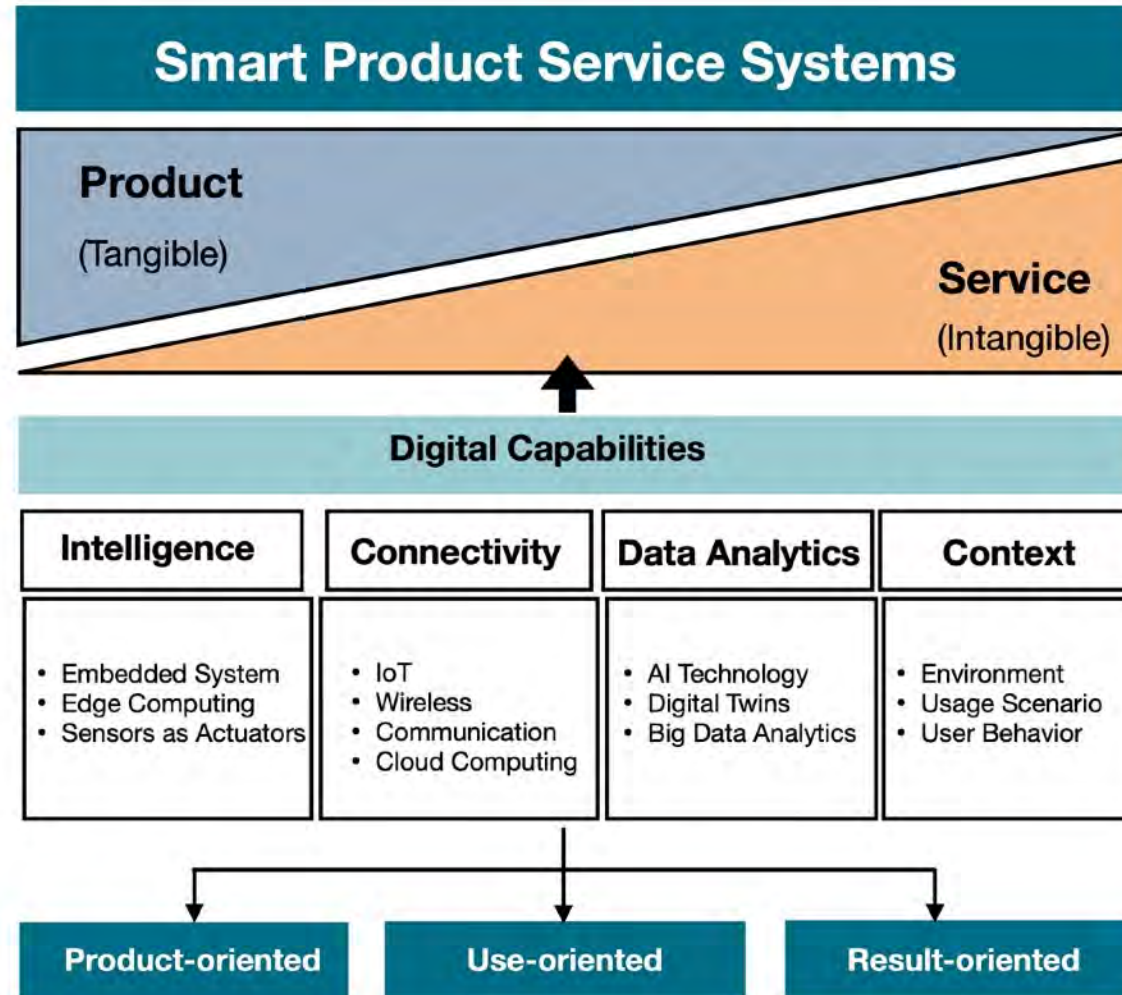
A mix of tangible products and intangible services is **designed and combined** so that they are jointly capable of fulfilling final **customer needs**. (Tukker and Tischner 2006)



Smart Product-Service System

Smart PSS defined as a fusion of smart products and smart services into **a cohesive offering**.
(Valencia and Mugge, 2015)

Digital capabilities are a key distinction between traditional PSS and smart PSS.



Challenges in transitioning to smart PSS



Sustainability in product development process

Adaptability in rapidly changing markets

Time / Cost Efficiency in Design and Development

Collaboration across disciplines

Decision-making capabilities from diverse stakeholders

Challenges in early-phase smart PSS design



Integration of Smart Product & Digital Service **in design process**

Numerous smart PSS configurations for generating design concepts

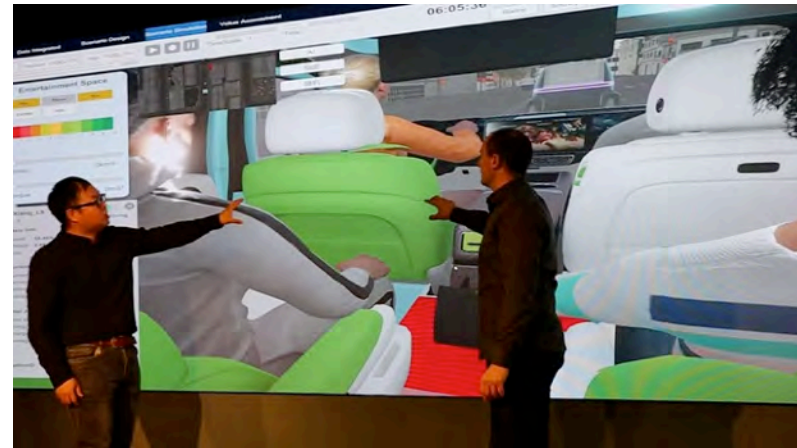
Forecasting the performance of **Future Customer Scenarios & Value?**

Challenges in smart PSS design approach

Exploring **a new design approach** that can facilitate the practicality of **emerging technologies** in designing the future solution.

Unknow

Realized



Aim & research questions

Research Aim/ Objectives

*...to study the motivation to support the global manufacturing companies in transforming digital servitization through **proposing innovative design approach** for designing smart PSS.*

Research questions

RQ1:

How to explore an innovative design approach in the early stages of smart PSS design (in the context of global manufacturing companies)?

RQ2:

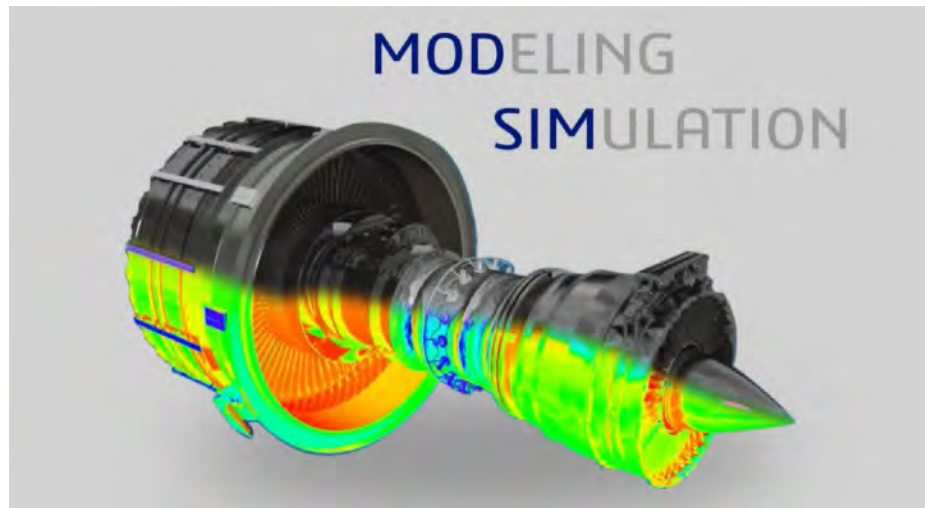
How can Digital Twins support the early stages of smart PSS design (in the context of global manufacturing companies)?

Knowledge Domains

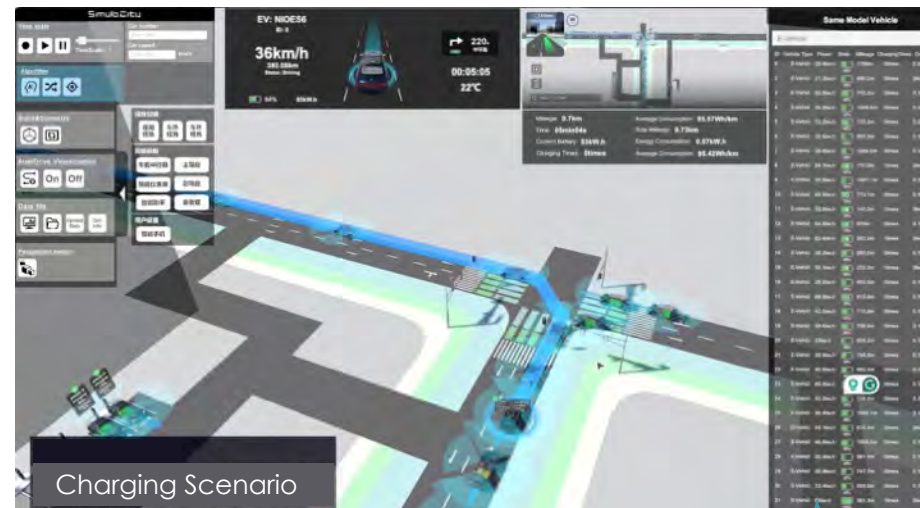
Simulation

Simulation provides a **virtual environment** to model, test, and validate product performance before physical prototypes are created (Ulrich and Eppinger, 2015).

The complexity of Smart PSS design requires advanced simulation techniques can manage uncertainty and variability inherent in service interactions (Bertoni and Bertoni, 2022).



Product Simulation



Service Scenario Simulation

Ulrich, K. And Eppinger, S. (2015). Product design and development. McGraw-Hill Higher Education.

Bertoni, M., & Bertoni, A. (2022). Designing solutions with the product-service systems Digital Twins: What is now and what is next? Computers in Industry, 138, 103629. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compind.2022.103629>

Photo from Google, the second capture from NIO case, 2024

Digital Twins

“A digital twin is a set of virtual information constructs that mimics the structure, context, and behavior of a natural, engineered, or social system (or **system-of-systems**), is dynamically updated with data from its physical twin, has a **predictive capability**, and **informs decisions that realize value** (NASEM, 2023).



Similar Product DT



Mock-up prototype DT

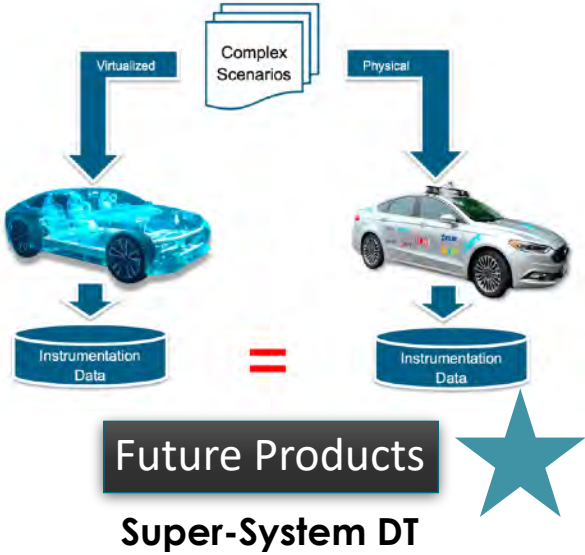


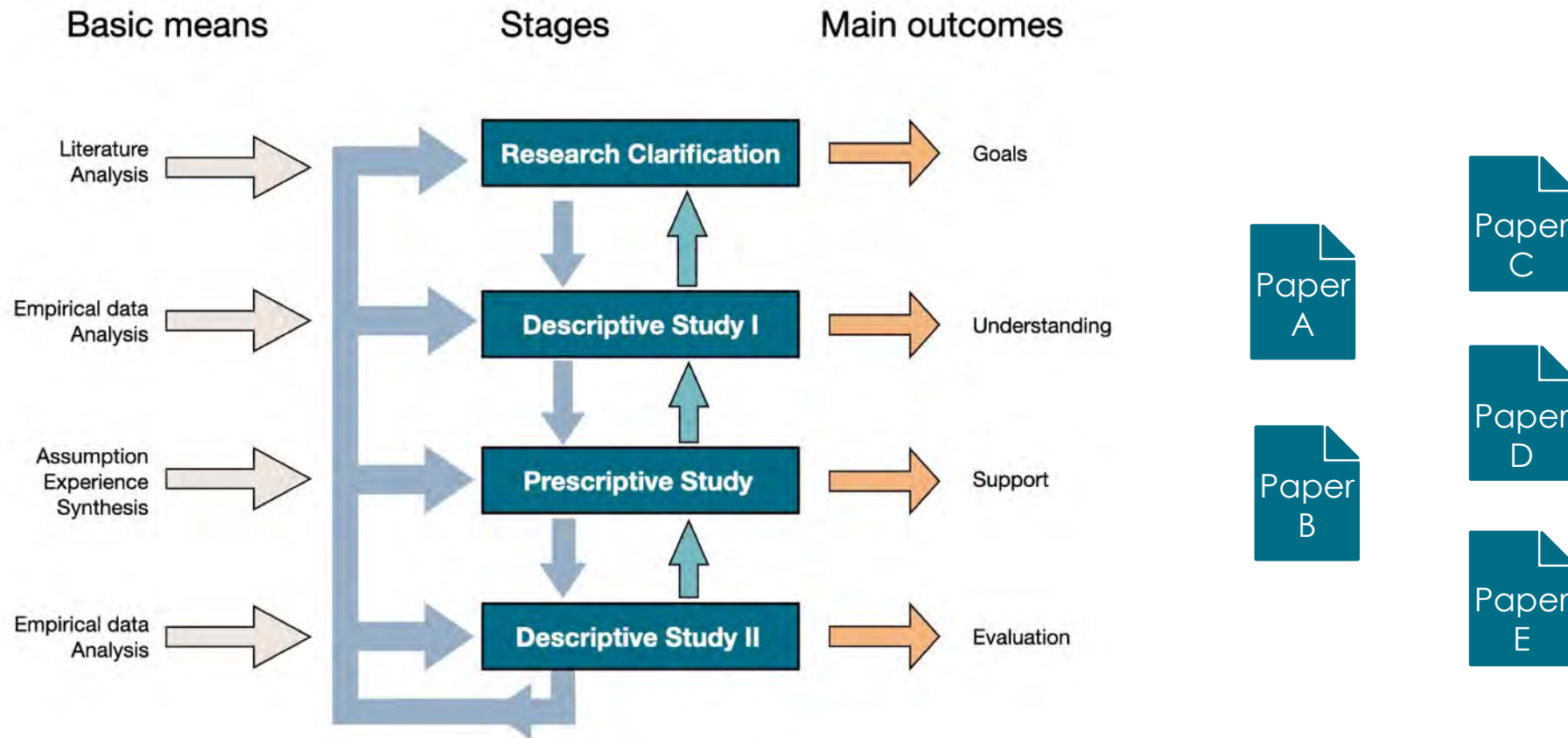
Photo from Google, the second capture from ID case, 2024

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. *Foundational Research Gaps and Future Directions for Digital Twins* (The National Academies Press, 2023); <https://doi.org/10.17226/26894>

Haynes, P., & Yang, S. (2023). Supersystem Digital Twins-driven framework for new product conceptual design, *Advanced Engineering Informatics*, Volume 58, 2023, 102149, ISSN 1474-0346, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aei.2023.102149>.

Research Approach

Design Research Methodology



Case companies



	Case company name	Industry type	PSS type	Specific product and service in case	Customer type	Collaborative departments	Paper
2020-2021	SAIC-Maxus	Automotive manufacturing	Product-oriented	Customer customization platform	B2C&B2B	Product planning Marketing R&D center	Paper A
2020-2024	Volkswagen	Automotive manufacturing	Product-oriented	Smart Electric Vehicles (SEVs)	B2C	Product planning Marketing	Paper B/C/D
2023-2024	King Long Bus	Bus manufacturing	Result-oriented	Smart Electric Tour Bus	B2B	Design center R&D center	Paper E

[1]www.saic.com

[2]www.volkswagen.com

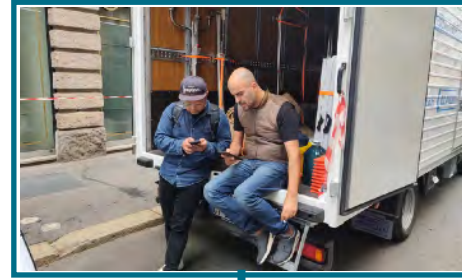
[3]www.king-long.com/

Data Collection

1. Literature review

Approach	Qualitative vs Quantitative	Aims of the approach	Legitimate aims of user PPS design	Authors
Collaborative Workshop	Qualitative	Focus on the development of interactive design concepts and user requirements through participatory design.	Support PPS development through user requirements.	Wang et al. (2010), Wang et al. (2011)
Brainstorming	Qualitative	Brainstorming is a technique for generating ideas and solutions.	Support PPS development through user requirements.	Wang et al. (2010)
Systematic Review	Qualitative	Systematic review is a method for identifying, appraising, and synthesizing research evidence.	Support PPS development through user requirements.	Wang et al. (2010)
Focus Group	Qualitative	Focus groups are a type of qualitative research in which a group of people are asked about their perceptions, opinions, and attitudes on a particular topic.	Support PPS development through user requirements.	Wang et al. (2010)
Expert Interviews	Qualitative	Expert interviews are a type of qualitative research in which an expert is interviewed about their knowledge and experience.	Support PPS development through user requirements.	Wang et al. (2010)
Delphi Study	Quantitative	Delphi study is a type of quantitative research in which a series of questionnaires are distributed to a group of experts.	Support PPS development through user requirements.	Wang et al. (2010)
Content Analysis	Quantitative	Content analysis is a type of quantitative research in which a large amount of text is analyzed for patterns and themes.	Support PPS development through user requirements.	Wang et al. (2010)

2. Interviews



3. Participant observation



4. Internal company documents



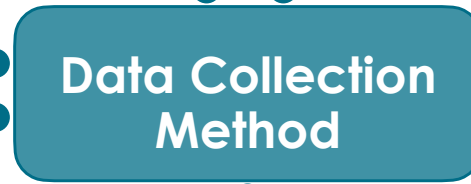
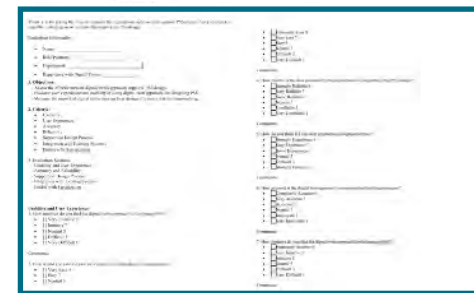
5. Collaborative workshop



6. Design experiments



7. Questionnaires



Data Analysis

“Both technically sound and practically viable in real-world scenarios”

Support Evaluation

1. Simulation software



2. Experimental prototyping



3. Design experiments



Group 1: Engineer
 Interviewee No.1
 Meihua Lin
 CMF Engineer

Group 2: Designer
 Interviewee No.2
 Xinyun Wu
 Senior Engineer

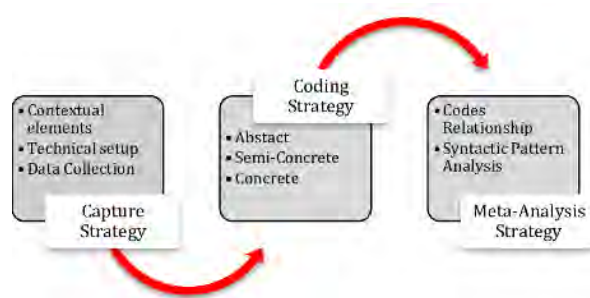
Group 3: Decision Maker
 Interviewee No.3
 Xibo Pan
 Interior designer

Interviewee No.4
 Hongyi Qiu
 3D modeling designer

Interviewee No.5
 Haoqiang Wang
 Design director

Application Evaluation

1. Protocol analysis



2. Value visualization



3. Prototype Testing



Results

1. Future Innovation Framework for supporting smart PSS design

Result: Future Innovation Framework (FIF)

FUTURE
VISION

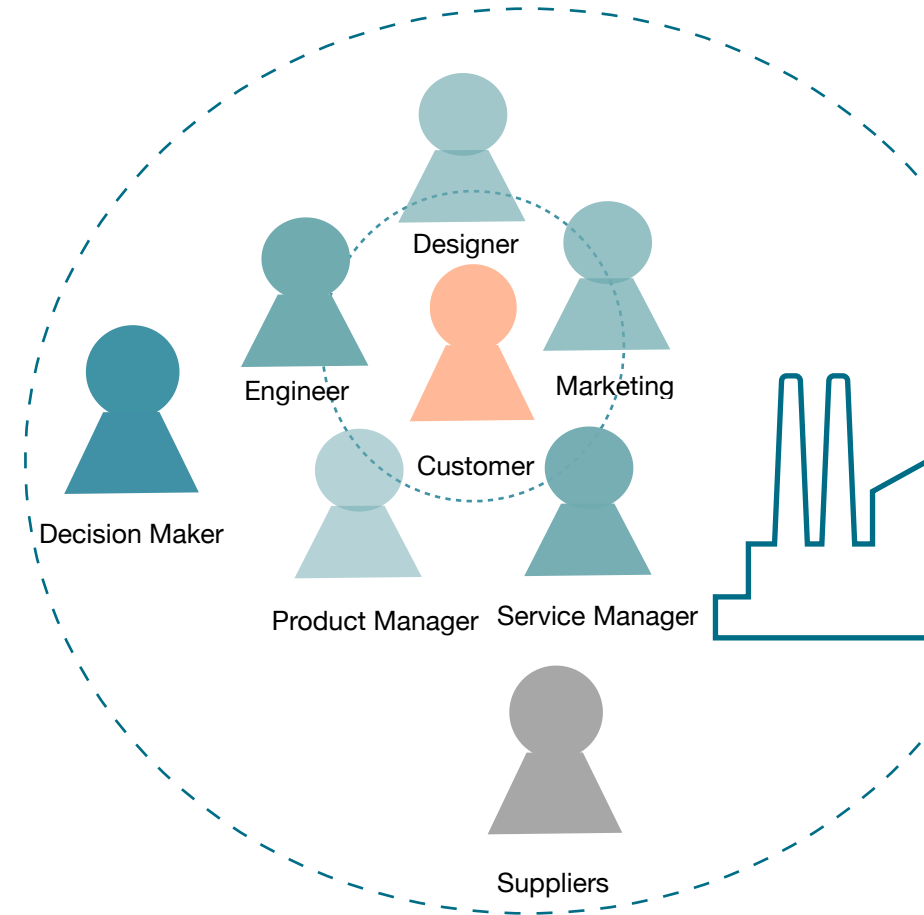
INNOVATION
PROCESS

PRODUCT
DEVELOPMENT

PSS DESIGN
PROCESS

DESIGN
APPROACH

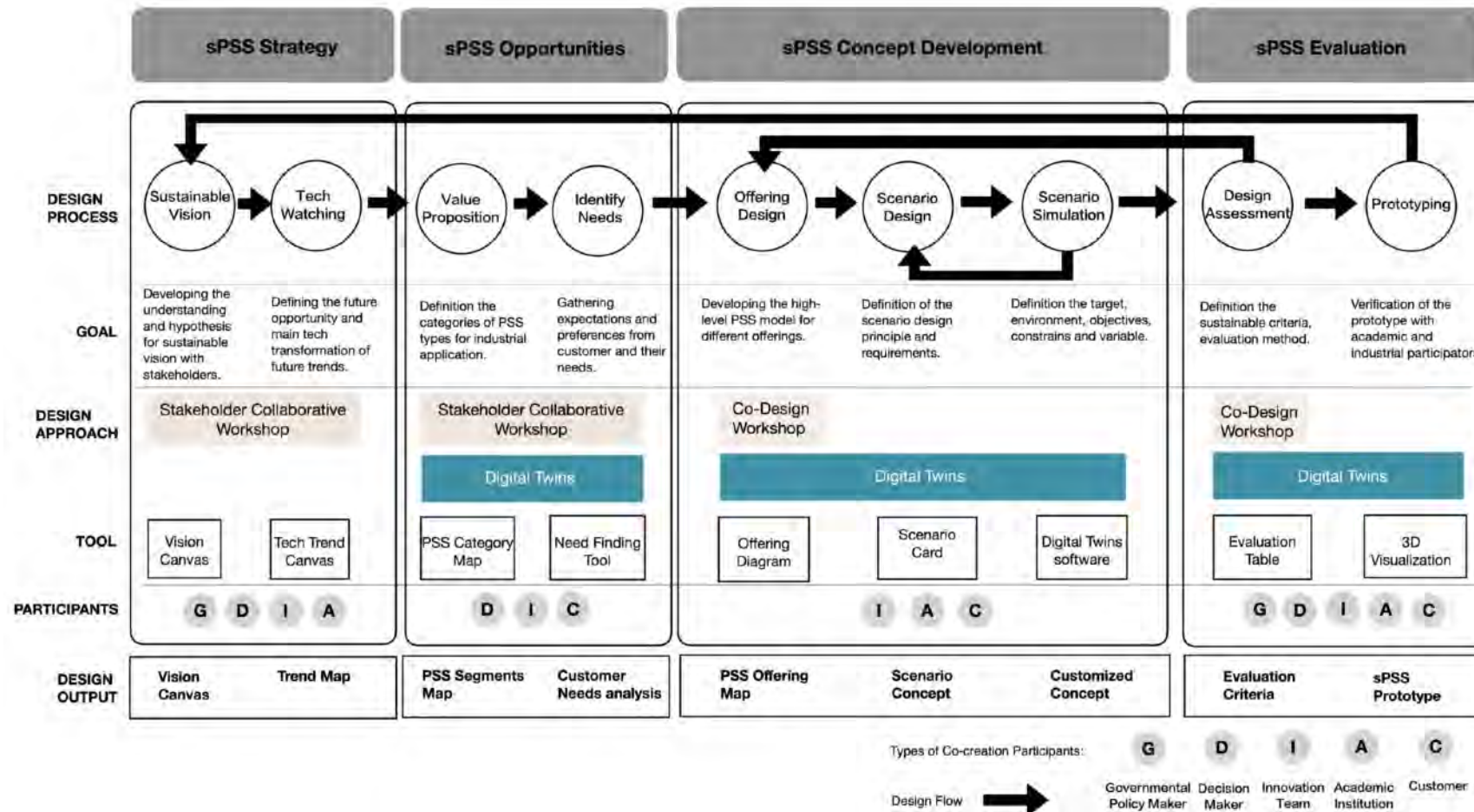
TOOLS



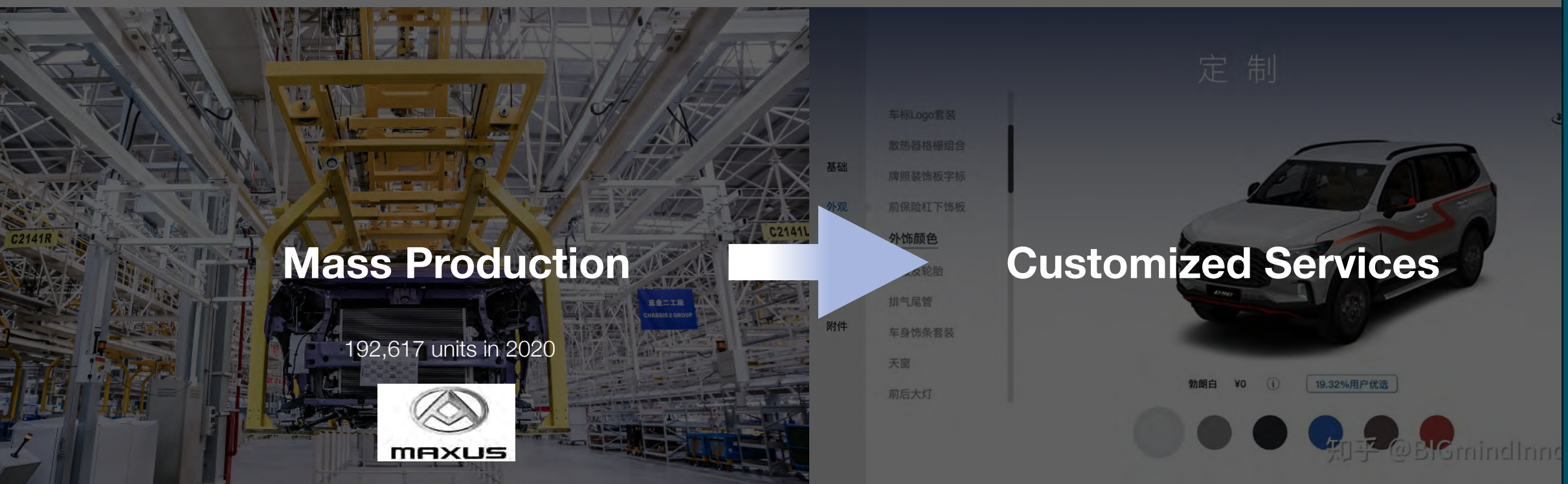
Yan, Z., Larsson, T., Larsson, A. (2024). "Future Innovation Framework (FIF) for Value Co-Creation of Smart Product-Service System Design in a Global Manufacturing Company." International Journal of Product Development, Vol.28, No.5, pp.1-29. <https://doi.org/10.1504/IJPD.2024.10067828>

Result: Future Innovation Framework (FIF)

FIF is a strategic innovation approach that facilitates **value co-creation** and addresses sustainability and digital transformation challenges in smart product-service system (PSS) design.



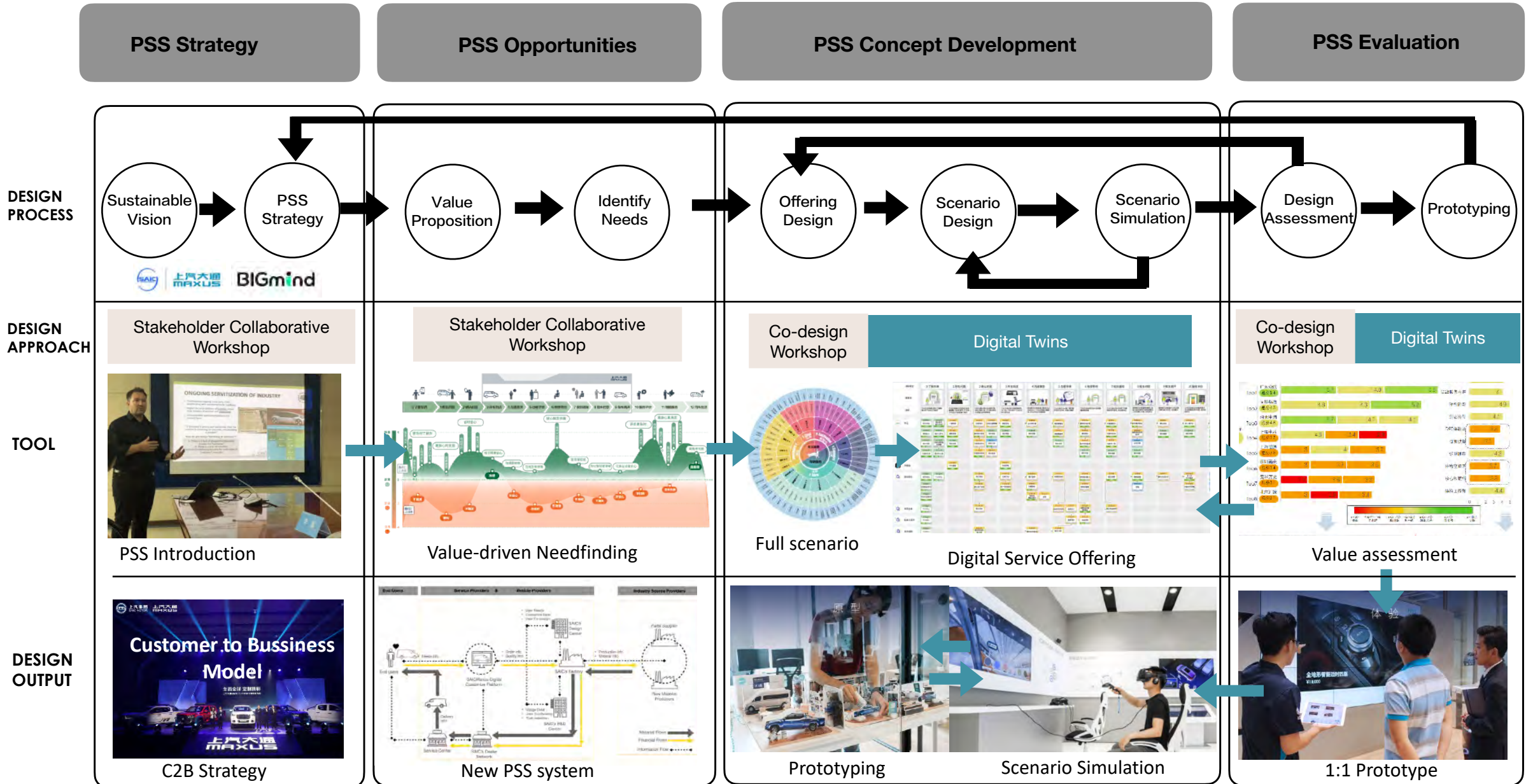
Result: FIF enabling the Value co-creation of PSS design



Founded in 2011, SAIC Maxus, a Chinese auto manufacturer, began exploring the **C2B (Customer-to-Business) model**, shifting from standardized mass production to **mass-customized services**.

Ref: Photo by author. <https://en.saicmaxus.com/index.shtml>

Result: FIF enabling the Value co-creation of PSS design



Result: FIF enabling the Value co-creation of PSS design



Experiential prototype on
1:1 scale site

Customized digital platform
in real application

Proposed customized data
transmitted to the smart factory 4.0

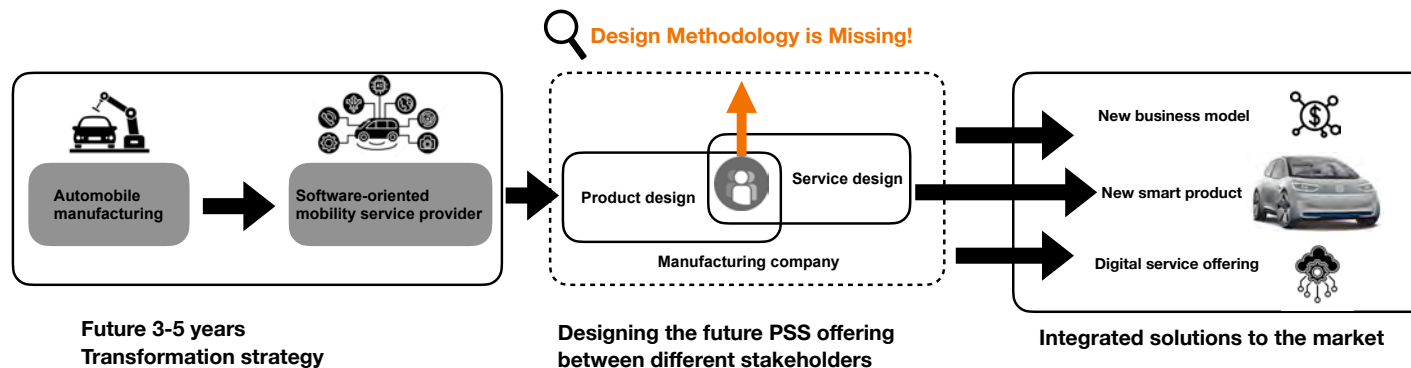
Photo by author

Paper A. Yan, Z., Larsson, T. and Larsson, A. (2022). "PSS Value Transformation: From Mass-Manufactured Vehicles to Provision of Mass-Customized Services – A Case Study of Designing and Prototyping Customized Digital Services for SAIC Motor in China." Proceedings of DESIGN 2022, pp. 1179 - 1188. DOI: [10.1017/pds.2022.120](https://doi.org/10.1017/pds.2022.120)

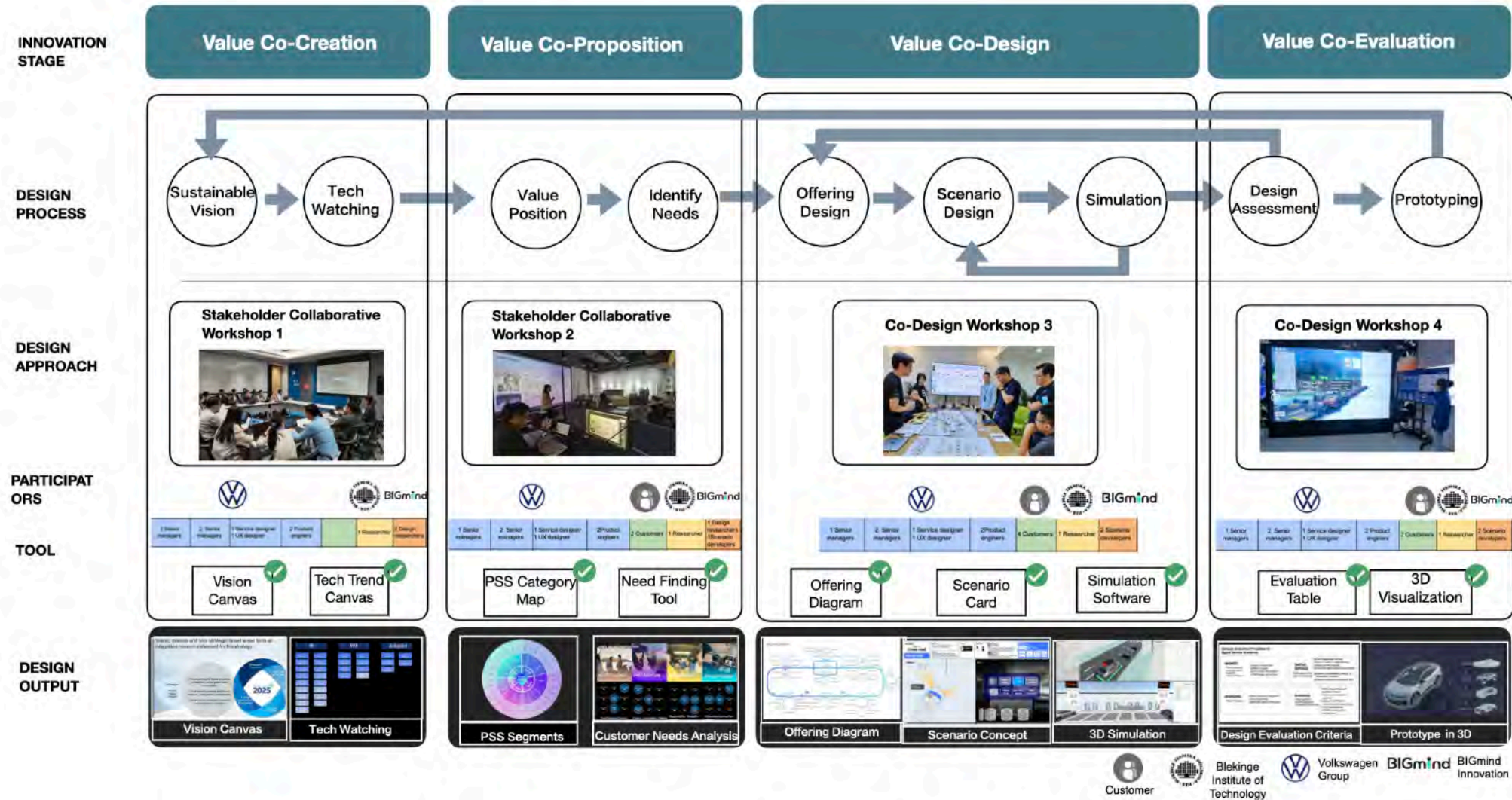
Result: FIF enabling the Value co-creation of PSS design



The organization is strategically ready for transformation, but there is **no specific approach to choose from**



Result: FIF enabling the Value co-creation of PSS design



Yan, Z., Larsson, T., Larsson, A. (2024). "Future Innovation Framework (FIF) for Value Co-Creation of Smart Product-Service System Design in a Global Manufacturing Company." International Journal of Product Development, Vol.28, No.5, pp.1-29. <https://doi.org/10.1504/IJPD.2024.10067828>

Future Innovation Framework (FIF)

Key Takeaways:

- The Future Innovation Framework (FIF) emerged as a comprehensive and adaptable framework that facilitates **value co-creation and innovation** in smart PSS design.
- The integration of digitalized design approaches within FIF supports the development of smart PSS solutions that **align with emerging market and technological trends, ensuring that manufacturing companies remain competitive in the digital era.**

2. Digital Twins Approach for smart PSS design

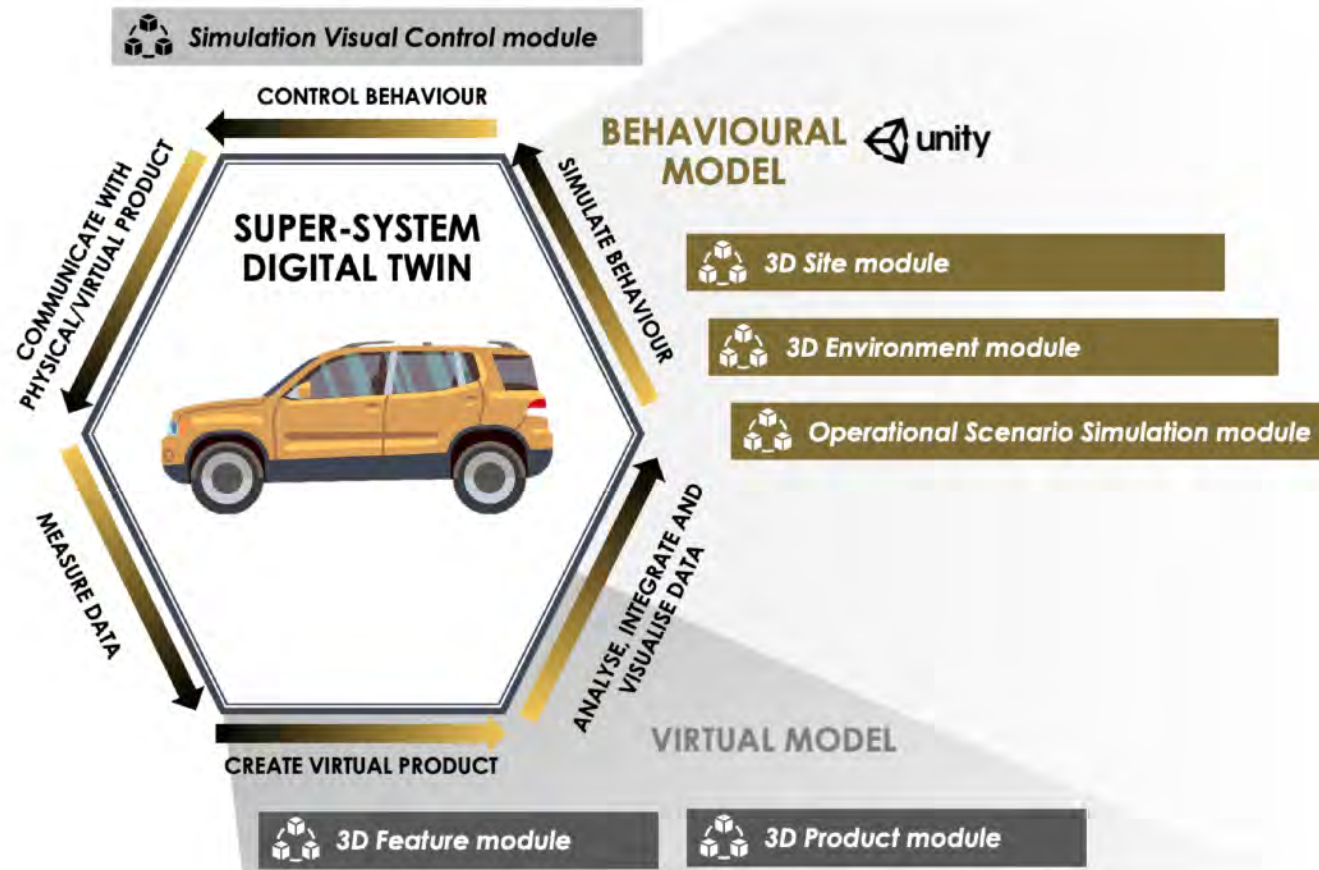
Super-System Digital Twins (SSDT)

A generic simulation environment tuned for smart PSS applications through data-driven immersive experiences.

Designer collects **environmental data**, which can then be used to establish **product requirements**.

Designers can gain a deeper understanding of the product context by integrating **user interaction data with environmental data**

Enhancing logical reasoning about **customer behaviors** and **decision-making processes**

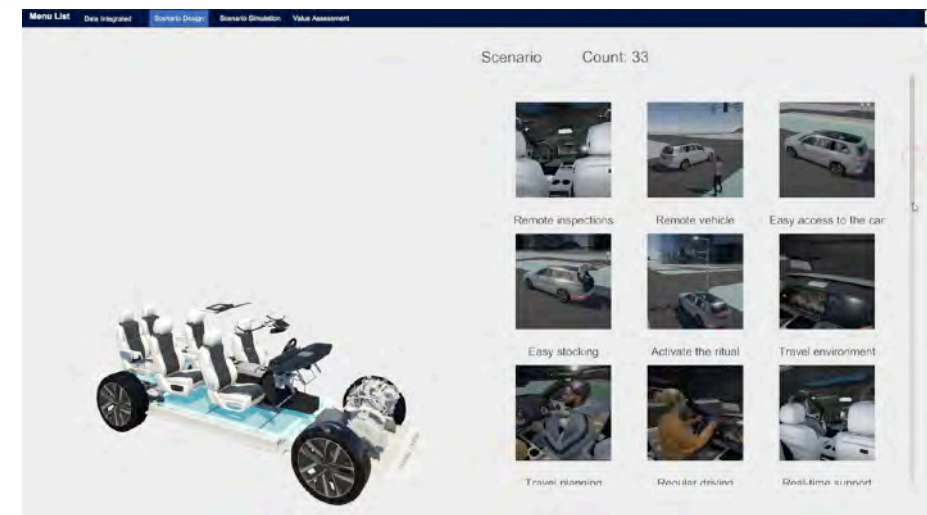
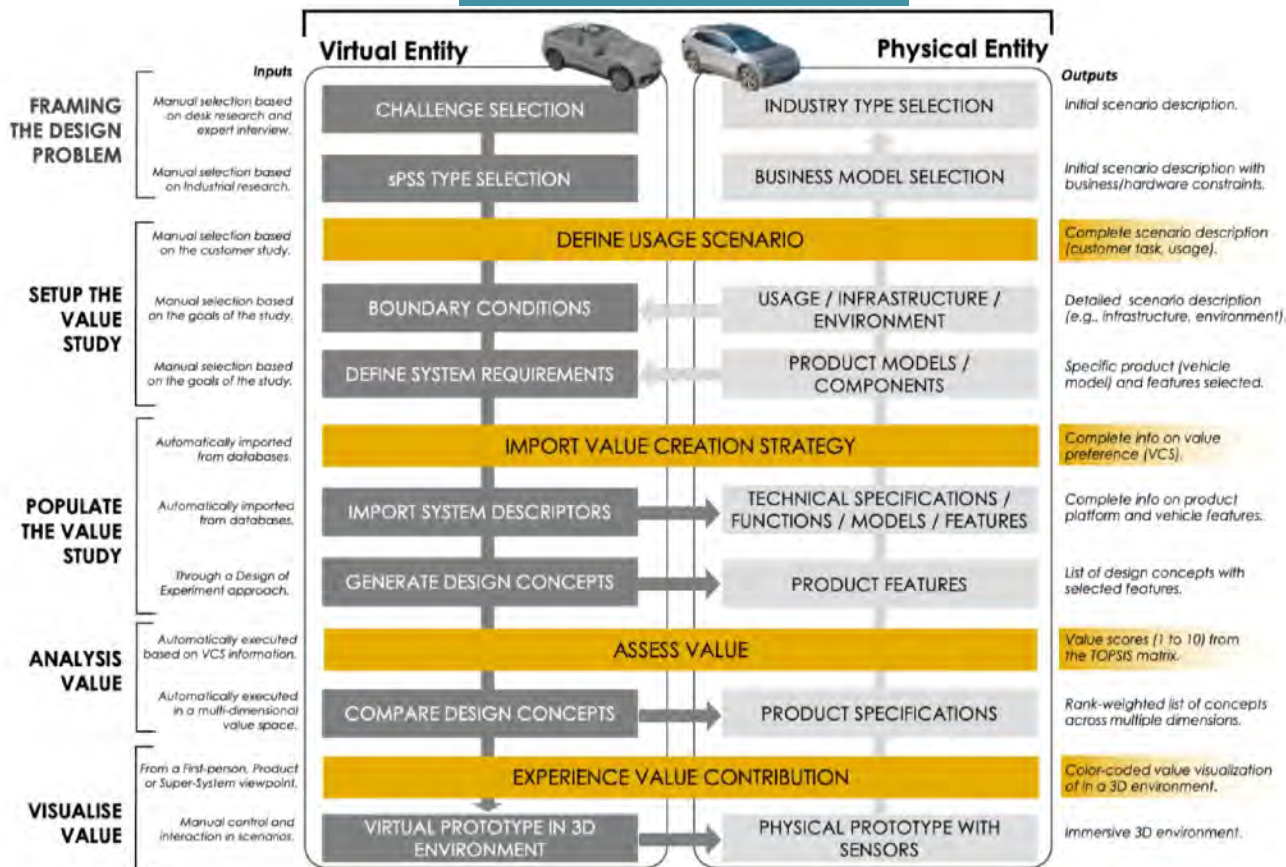


The SSDT approach-supported smart PSS design process

The SSDT approach is the integration of the Value-Driven Design (VDD) method that leverages digital twin technology to enhance design exploration in the early stages of smart PSS design.

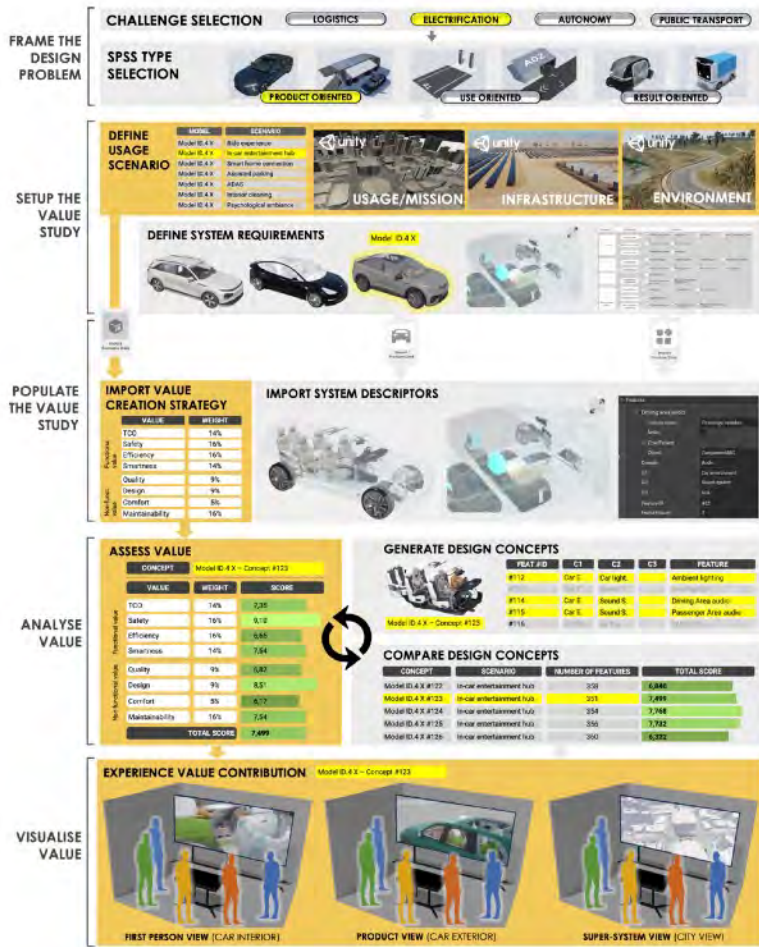
Value-Driven Design

SSDT approach

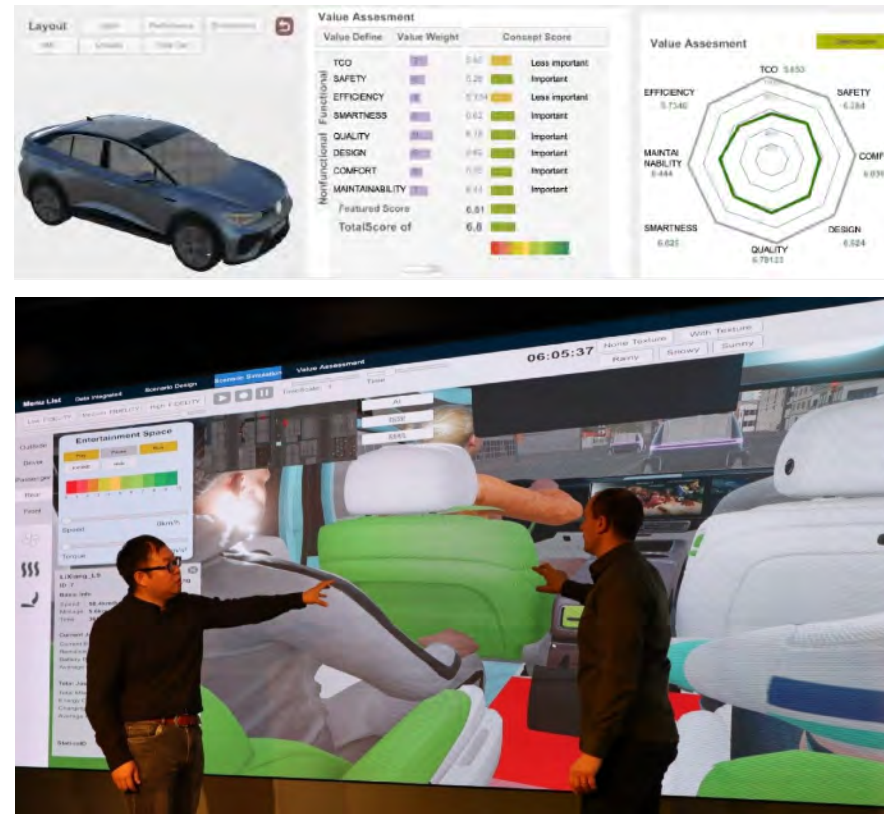


The SSDT approach-supported smart PSS design process

SSDT approach



Value-Driven Design



SPSS design



Result: The SSDT approach-supported prototyping a Tour E-bus Concept for Tourism Industry

Smart E-bus Design

Mobility
Tourism + Customization
Service

SEB Intelligent Full Electric Tour Bus Is a Brand New Innovative Product Born Under the Background of Electrification and Intelligentization of the Tourism Industry. It Is a Customized Solution for the Tourism Industry To Meet the Needs of Regional Tourism, an Experience Design for the Diverse Needs of Tourists, and a Customized Service for Future Tourism Scenarios.

The Product Is Built Based on SPSS Intelligent Product Service System Design Concepts, Designed To Integrate Tourism Solutions and Customer Service Systems on the All-Electric Product Platform, Only for the New Era of Tourism Groups and Platforms To Provide Tourism Travel Solutions and New Business Models.



BIGmind

X

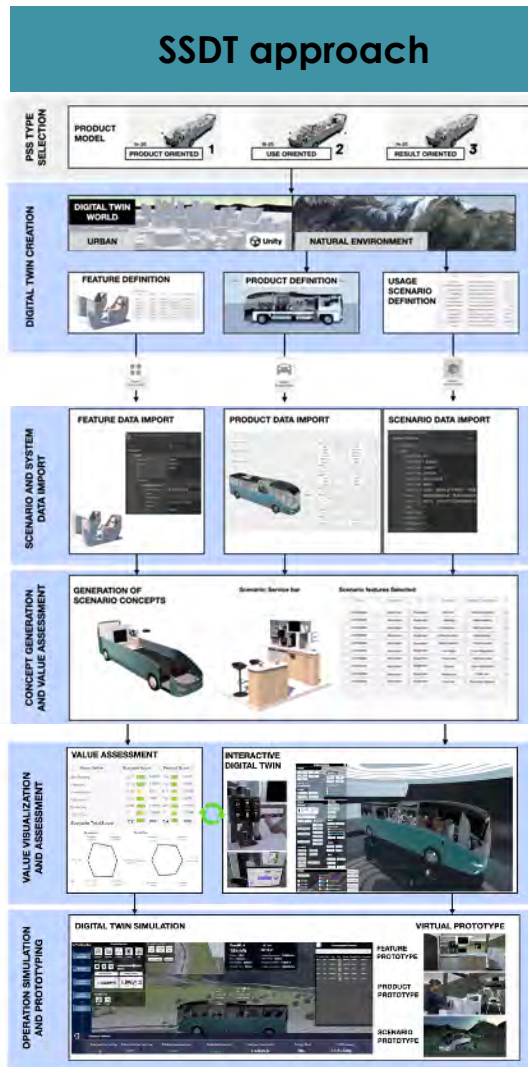


X



བོད་ལྗོངས་ལུང་སྐོར་མ་རྒྱུ་ཚད་ལྡན་གྲང་ལི།
西藏旅游股份有限公司
TIBET TOURISM CO.,LTD.

Result: The SSDT approach-supported prototyping a Tour E-bus Concept for Tourism Industry



Digital Twins Approach - SimuloCITY Simulation Platform develop by author and BIGSimulo.Ltd

Result: The SSDT approach-supported prototyping a Tour E-bus Concept for Tourism Industry



Verification of Service Operation

January 2024 in Shanghai, China



Validation of Service Application

April 2024 in Tibet, China

The testing results are not included in this thesis.

2023 April

June

July

August

September

Research Introduction

Market Research

PSS Design

Digital Twins Development

SSDT Simulation



April

2024 January

November

October

July-October

Product Testing

Service Simulation

Production

Product Launch

Prototyping V1



May

June

July

August

September

Service Operation Testing

Digital Twin updating

Research Validation

Research Published

Hanover IAA



Conclusions

Contribution to theory

Proposed **Future Innovation Framework (FIF)** integrates traditional PSS design methodologies with advanced digital approach, emphasizes value co-creation and cross-functional collaboration.

Proposed **Super-System Digital Twins (SSDT) approach for smart PSS design**, to integrate physical systems and digital models. This approach improves decision-making by allowing real-time simulation and analysis of design alternatives.

Proposed **Systematic Approach to Innovation**, the research combined the principles of digital transformation and sustainability with traditional automotive design, enabling a shift toward service-oriented business models.

Contribution to industry

Efficiency in early phase of design and product development, reducing the time and cost associated with physical prototyping by enabling virtual simulations.

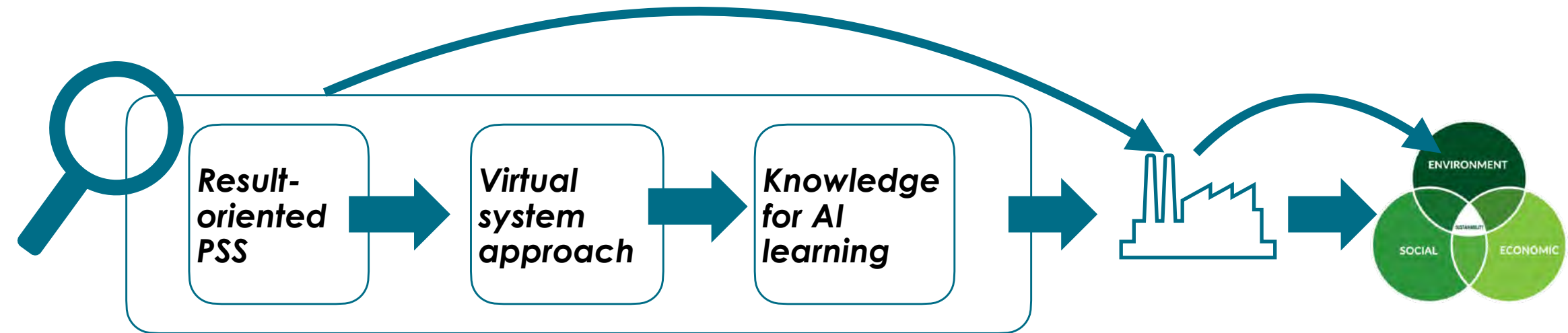
Adaptability to Market Changes, ensuring automotive products remained competitive in rapidly changing markets.

Collaboration Across Disciplines, promoting effective communication among innovation team through integrated digital platforms.

Sustainability in Automotive Design, avoiding overconsumption caused by excessive features added configurations and service operation from lifecycle analysis.

Future work – Prescriptive Study

A special emphasis will be placed on expanding the SSDT's capabilities to support real-time data integration and dynamic decision-making in more industry, further bridging the gap between theoretical frameworks and industrial application.



“Research is a spiritual practice and a long journey undertaken alongside **with family.**”



2019, April in Karlskrona



2024, Dec in Shanghai

THANK YOU!

*“This is where my research started,
I will continue...”*

Karlskrona, Sweden
Dec 18th, 2024



Thank you !



Department of
Mechanical Engineering

