

From Quality by Design to Living Digital Twins

IChemE: Advances in the Digitalisation of the Process Industries (2025)

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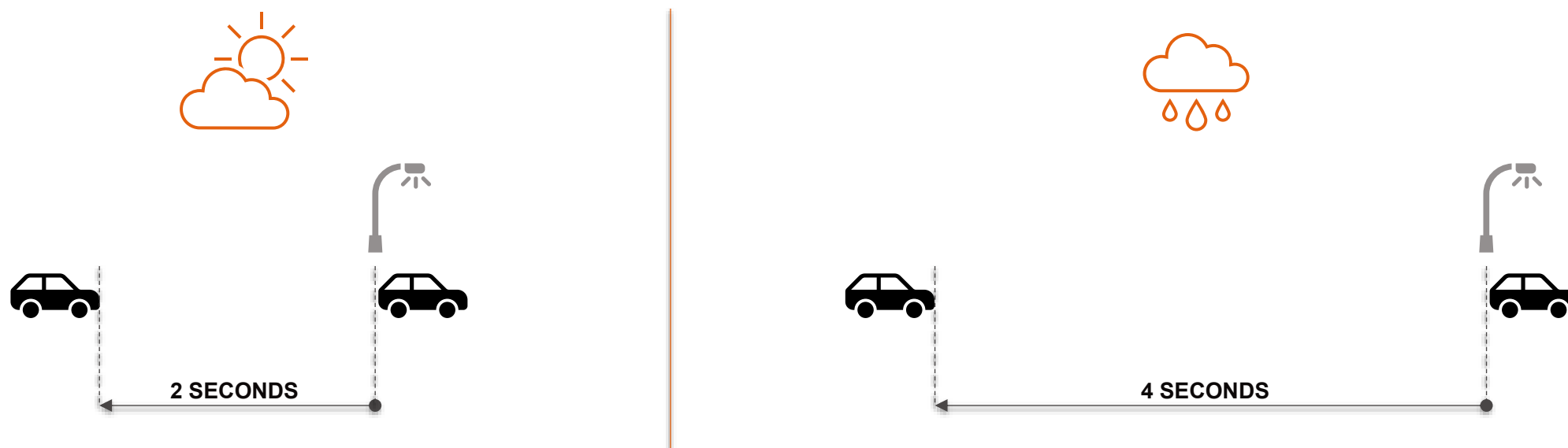
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Agenda

- 01 Health and safety moment**
- 02 Why QbD still matters**
- 03 The modelling toolbox**
- 04 Data infrastructure: PAT, soft sensors & instrumentation**
- 05 Digital twin readiness: model (static) → shadow (live) → twin (interactive)**
- 06 A staged roadmap**

Safety Moment Keeping a Safe Distance



Two second rule: to keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front, the two second rule can be followed. For dry conditions 2 seconds should be measured from a fixed point or 4 seconds in wet road conditions (icy conditions require larger gap).

2 seconds can be measured Saying **“only a fool breaks the 2-second rule”** which takes 2 seconds to say at a normal rate.

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Why QbD Still Matters

- Quality is embedded in the design and control rather than end-of-line testing.
- Core elements include QTPP, CQAs, design space, control strategy, and continual improvement.
- Models link CPPs to CQAs, to explore and operate within the design space, and prioritise experiments and control actuation.



DoE & empirical,
mechanistic, or hybrid
models

Account for nonlinear regions via shape reconstruction and feasibility analysis.

Use black-box approximations to keep computation practical for expensive simulations.

Combine frequentist & Bayesian approaches to estimate prediction intervals and the probability of meeting constraints.

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| The Modelling Toolbox

Model selection should be determined by the intended application and by the level and quality of data and process understanding that can be sustained

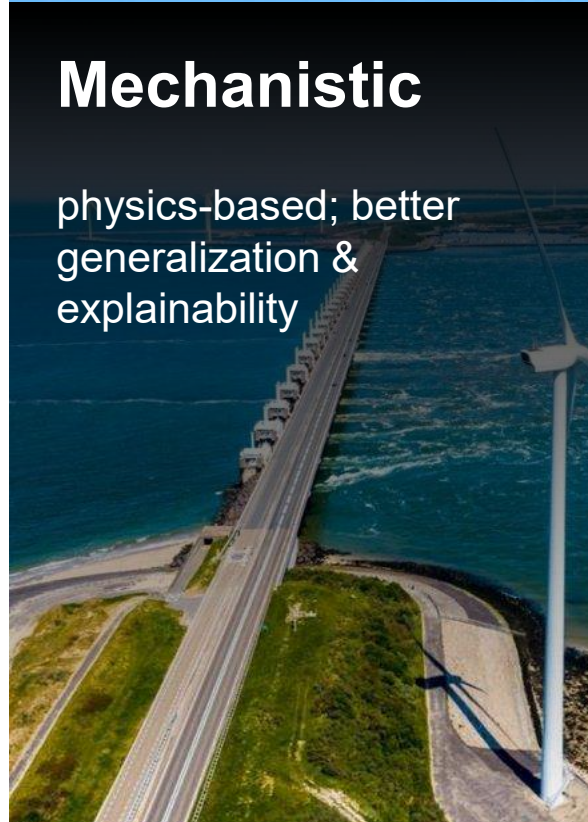
Empirical

fast pattern capture;
limited extrapolation



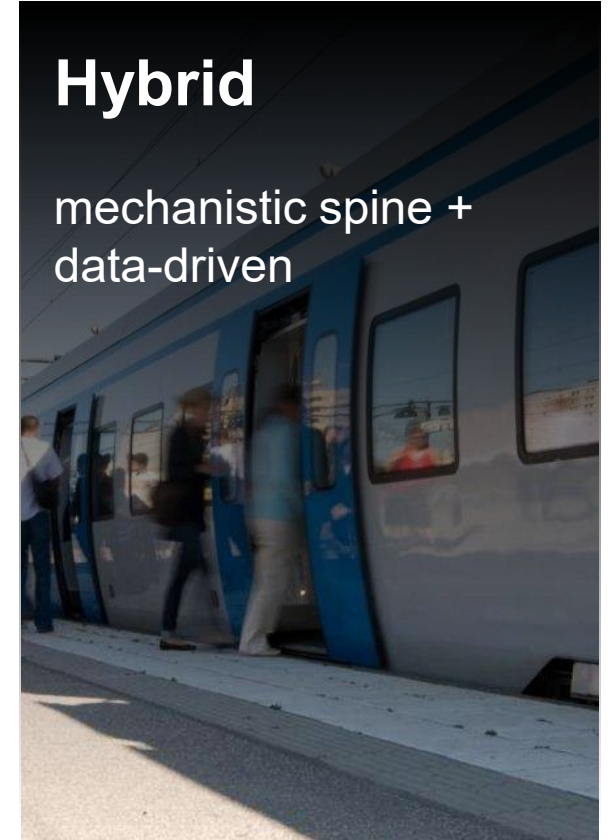
Mechanistic

physics-based; better
generalization &
explainability



Hybrid

mechanistic spine +
data-driven





| Design & Control Across Bioprocess

- **Upstream:** Kinetic, population-balance models; heterogeneity → CQAs.
- **Downstream:** Transport limits, thermodynamic consistency; purity–yield trade-offs set separation guardrails.
- **Model Predictive Control:** Robust/Stochastic MPC, constraint tightening; explicit uncertainty handling → effective control.
- **Estimation:** State estimators (e.g., Kalman filters); noisy/missing data → soft sensing.

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Data infrastructure: PAT, soft sensors & instrumentation

Soft sensors: mechanistic, empirical (ML), and hybrid approaches used to infer unmeasured states and CQAs.



Spectroscopy: UV–Vis, mid-IR, Raman, and fluorescence paired with chemometrics for rapid estimation of key analytes.



Data engineering: rigorous cleaning, time alignment, dimensionality reduction and drift detection to sustain model performance.



Process probes: free-floating sensors deployed to reveal mixing non-uniformities and shear gradients.

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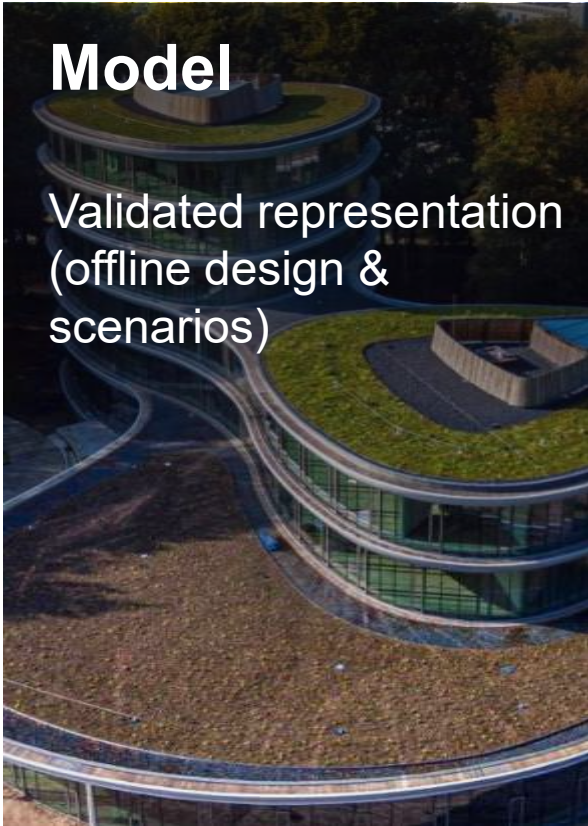
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| Digital Twin Maturity

Model maturity is selected according to purpose and data readiness, and deployed where benefits outweigh cost.

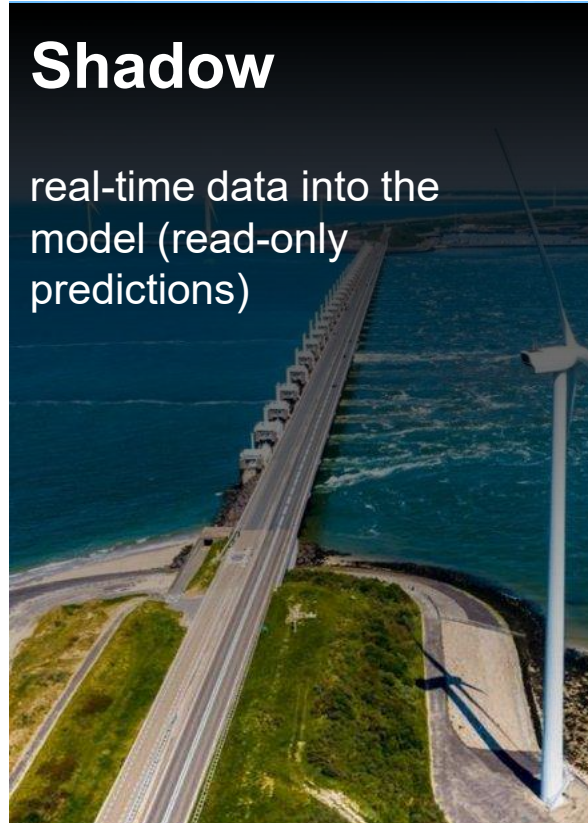
Model

Validated representation
(offline design &
scenarios)



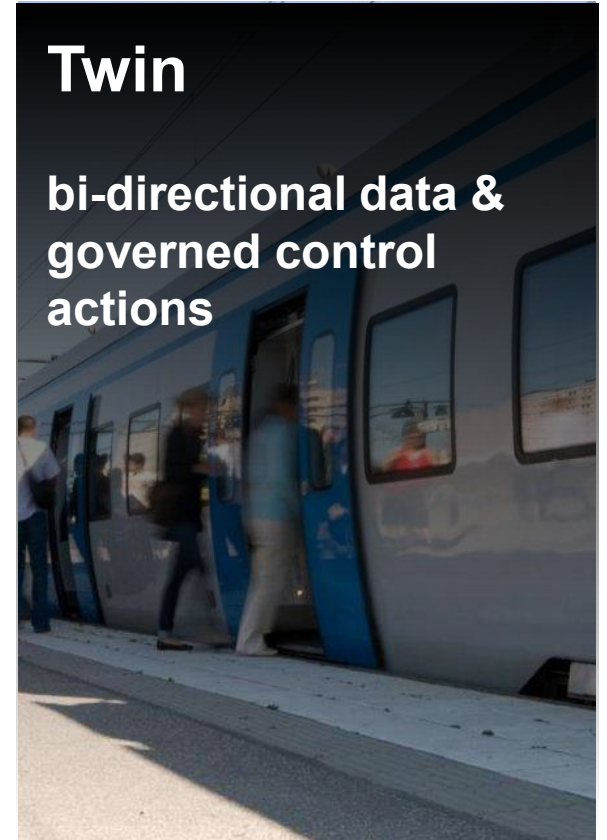
Shadow

real-time data into the
model (read-only
predictions)



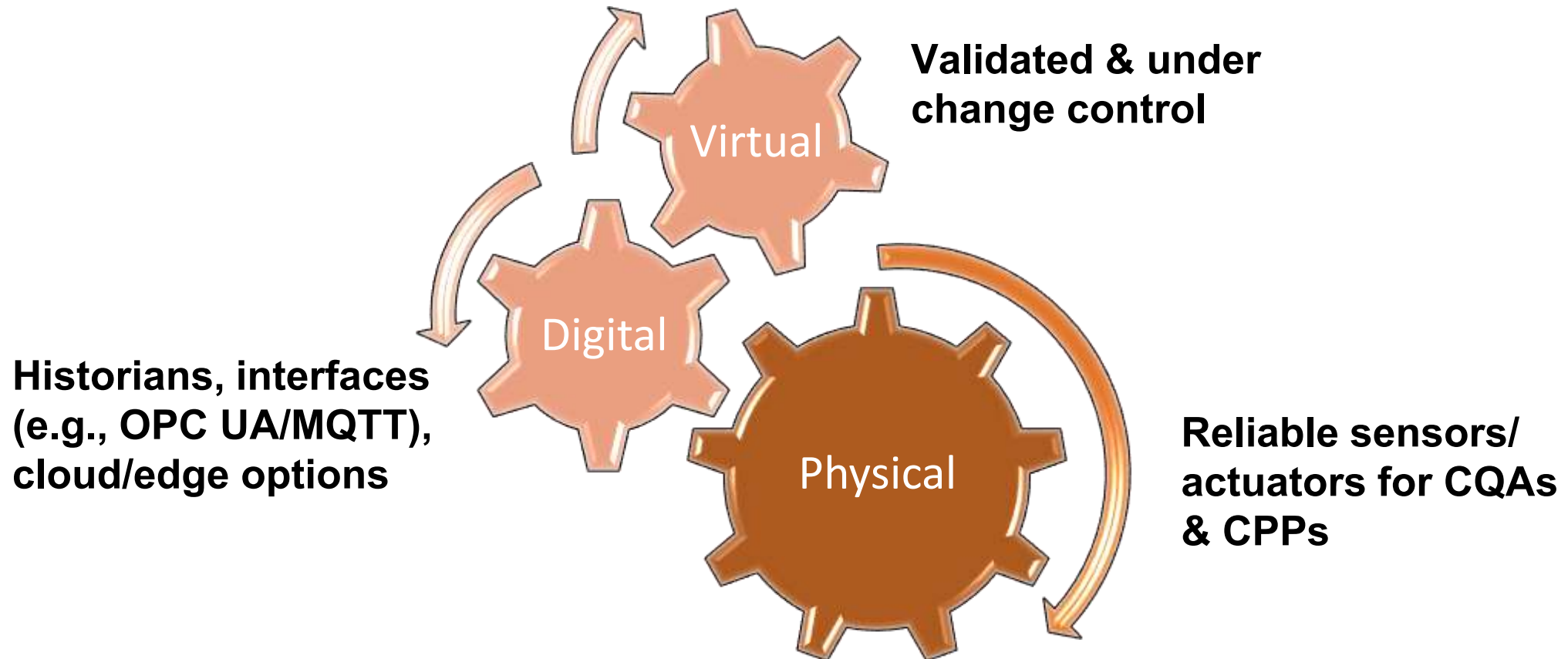
Twin

bi-directional data &
governed control
actions



Digital Twin Requirements

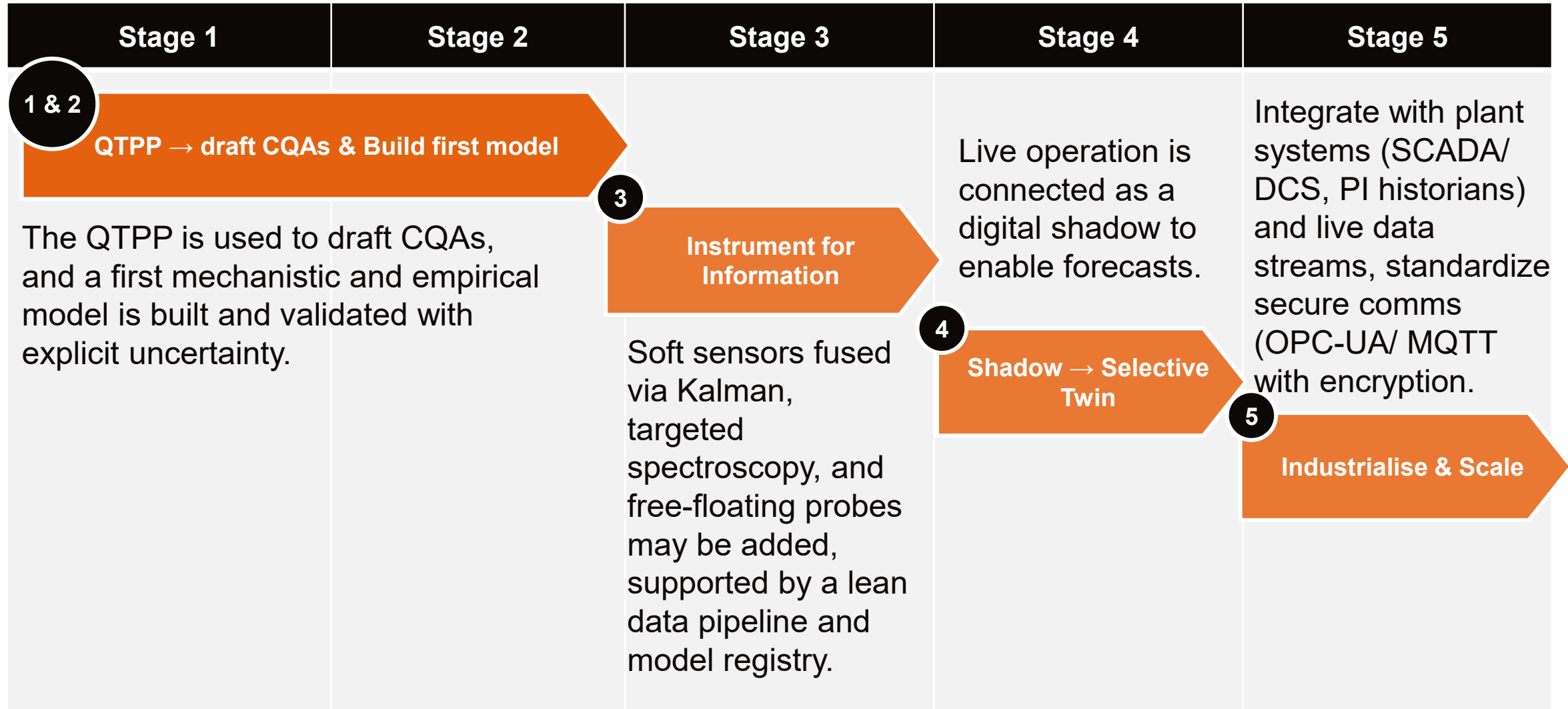
Bake governance into the digital twin by using secure, standards-based communication (e.g., OPC-UA/MQTT with encryption/SSL) and strong data management to protect IP while enforcing rigorous model validation that assesses uncertainty and consistency between model and data.



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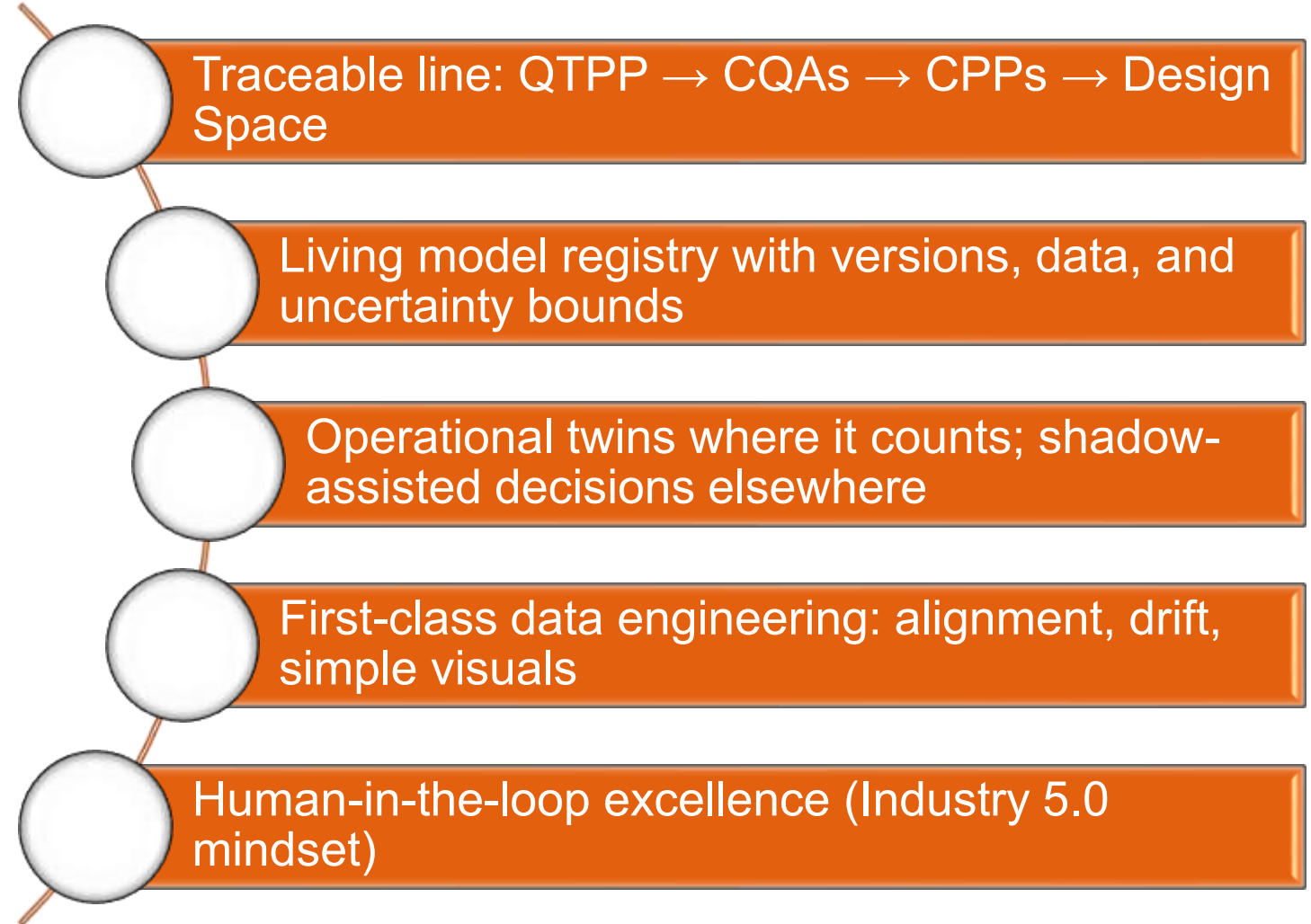




| Spotlight: Cell Therapy

- Heterogeneous starting material; limited sampling; single-use systems
- Non-destructive sensing is key (e.g. Raman)
- Hybrid soft sensors often the only viable real-time path
- Discipline in data/drift management is non-negotiable

What “Good” Looks Like





Risks & Mitigations

Model error → bad decisions

Security / IP exposure

**Integration fatigue
(heterogeneous /
legacy systems)**

Validation burden

Resulting Advantages



Speed

Fewer
experiments;
more learning
per run.



Robustness

Earlier
detection;
tighter
variability.



Trust

Auditable link
from design to
manufacturing



Key Takeaways

QbD provides the
roadmap

Data reality
demands discipline

Soft sensing &
fusion are central

Uncertainty & drift
must be explicit

DT maturity levels
matter

Thank you



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