

Nachhaltig.digital

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# Digitale Zwillinge für die Nachhaltigkeitsbewertung von Produkten



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**Theresa Riedelsheimer**  
Head of Department  
Sustainable Product-Ecosystems  
Fraunhofer IPK, Berlin, Germany

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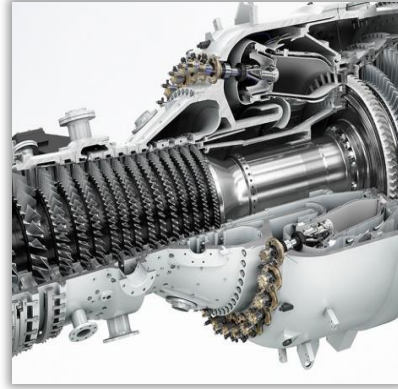
Fraunhofer Institute for Production  
Systems and Design Technology IPK

# Digital Twin Use Cases in different industries

Excerpt of Fraunhofer IPK projects



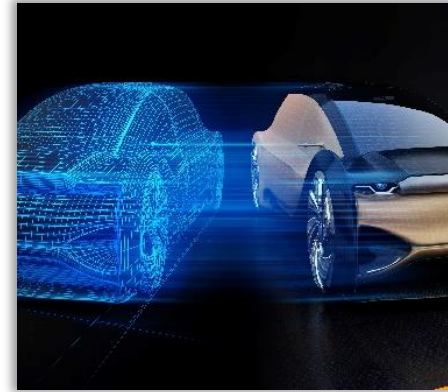
Digital Twins for performance monitoring and feedback to Design of industrial electrical drives



Digital Twins for Predictive Maintenance of turbine blades



Digital Twins for Feedback to Design and Production optimization in Aerospace sector



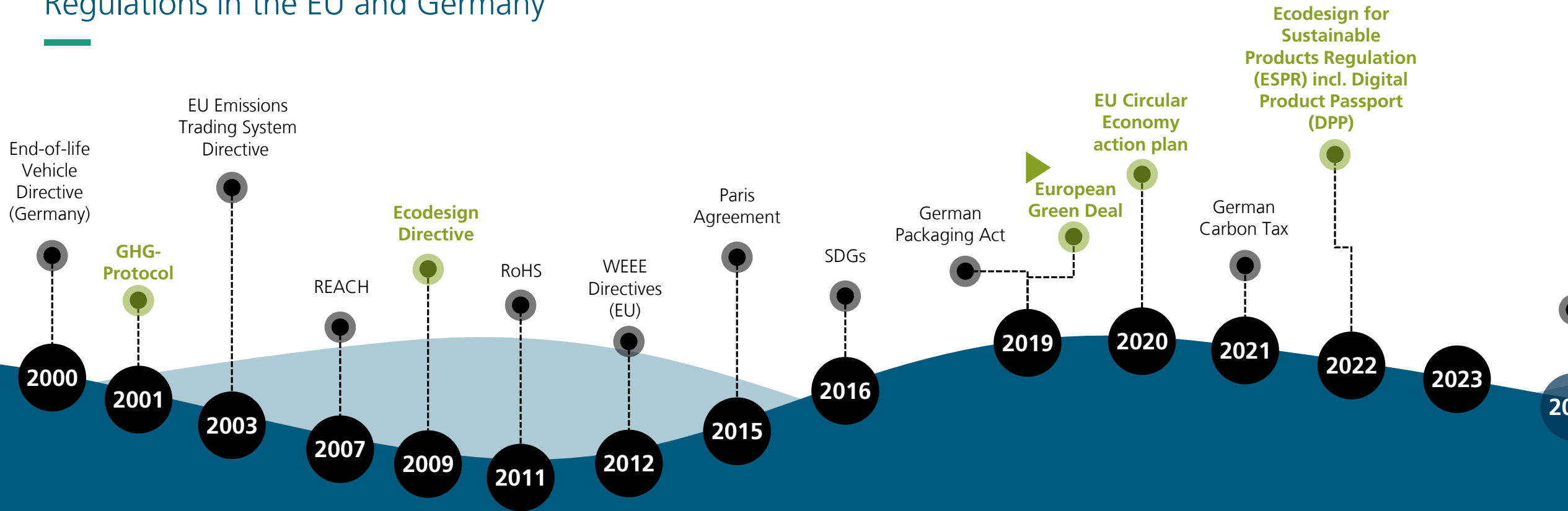
Digital Twins for Circular Economy strategies and EoL decision support of automotive vehicles



Digital Twins for Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of automotive components

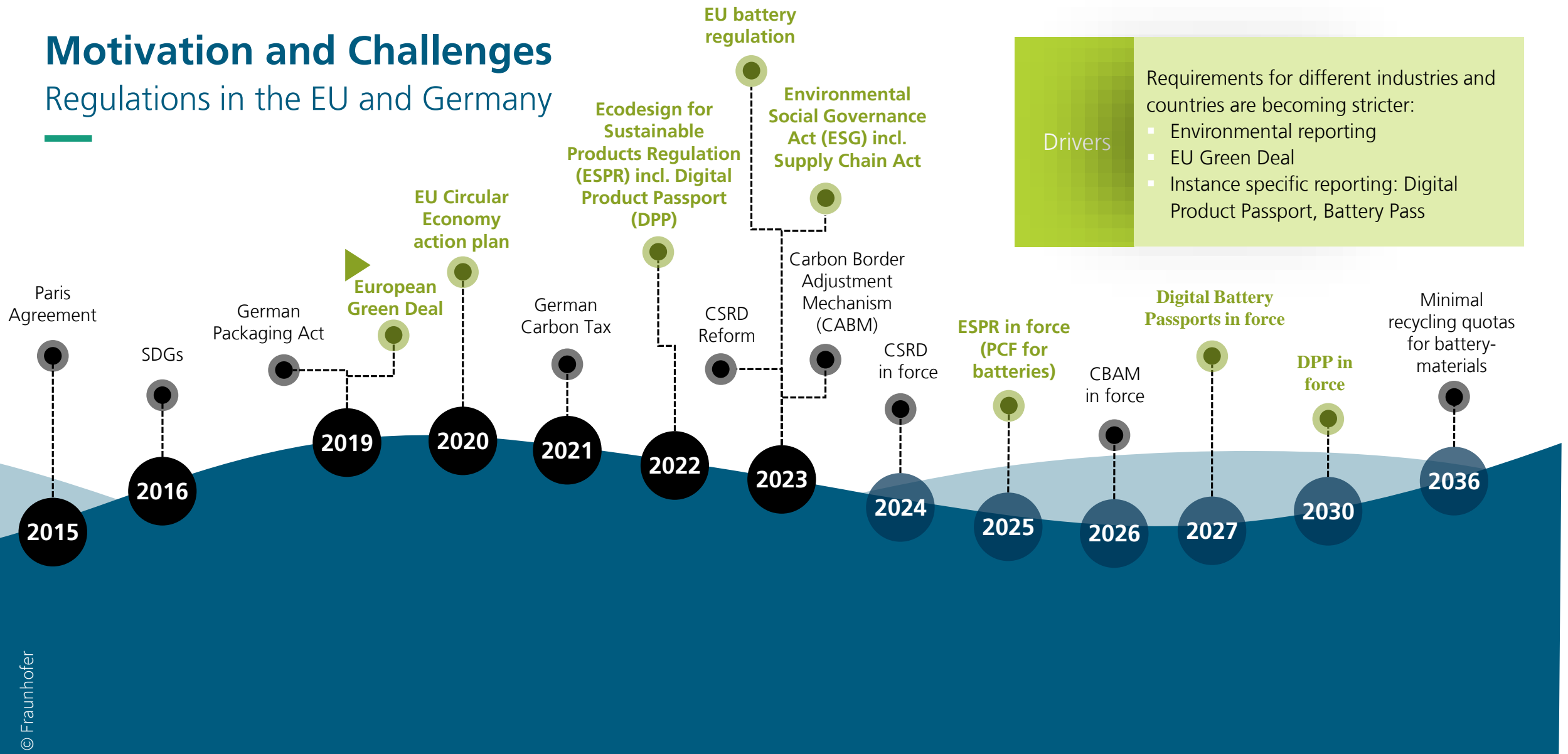
# Motivation and Challenges

## Regulations in the EU and Germany



# Motivation and Challenges

## Regulations in the EU and Germany



**Drivers**

Requirements for different industries and countries are becoming stricter:

- Environmental reporting
- EU Green Deal
- Instance specific reporting: Digital Product Passport, Battery Pass

# The earlier, the better

Possibility to influence environmental impact

Digital Shadow: Measurable impact



Strategy and development

Procurement and production

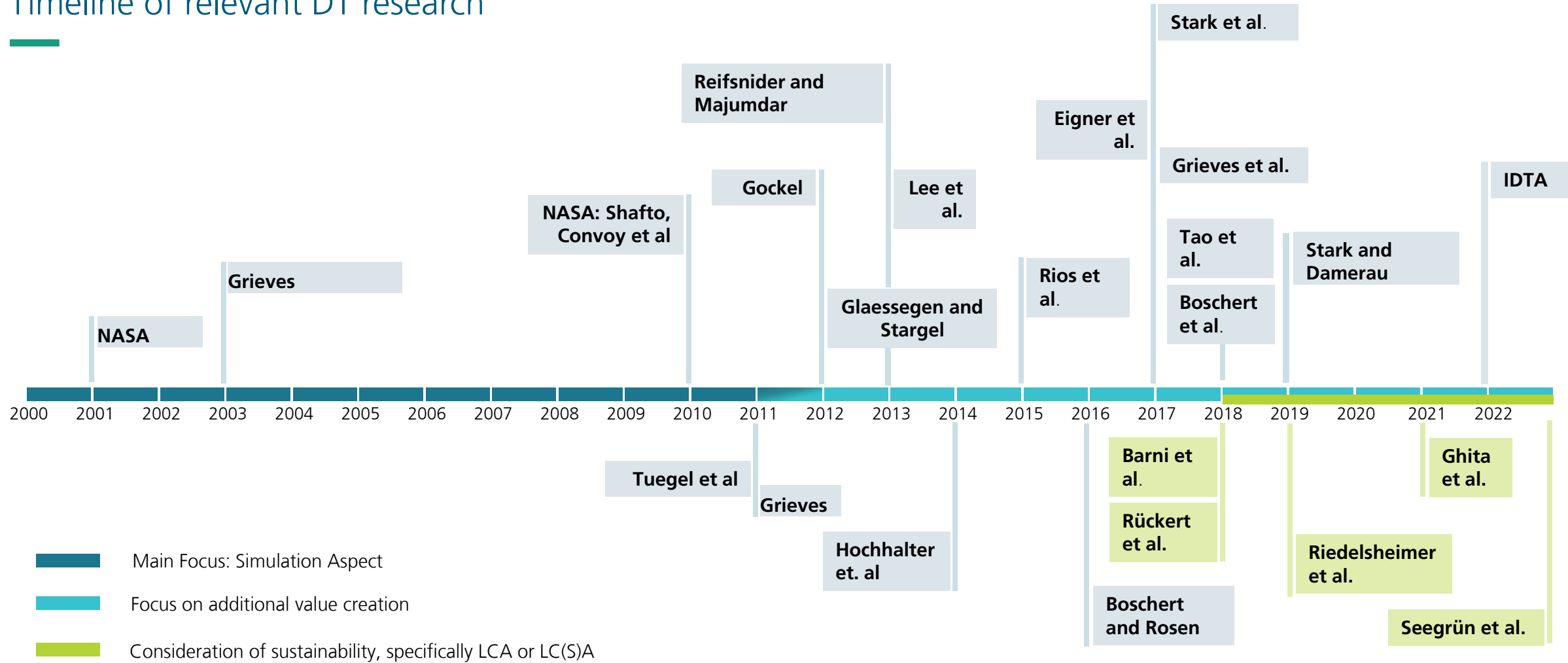
Use and maintenance

Disassembly, recycling and disposal

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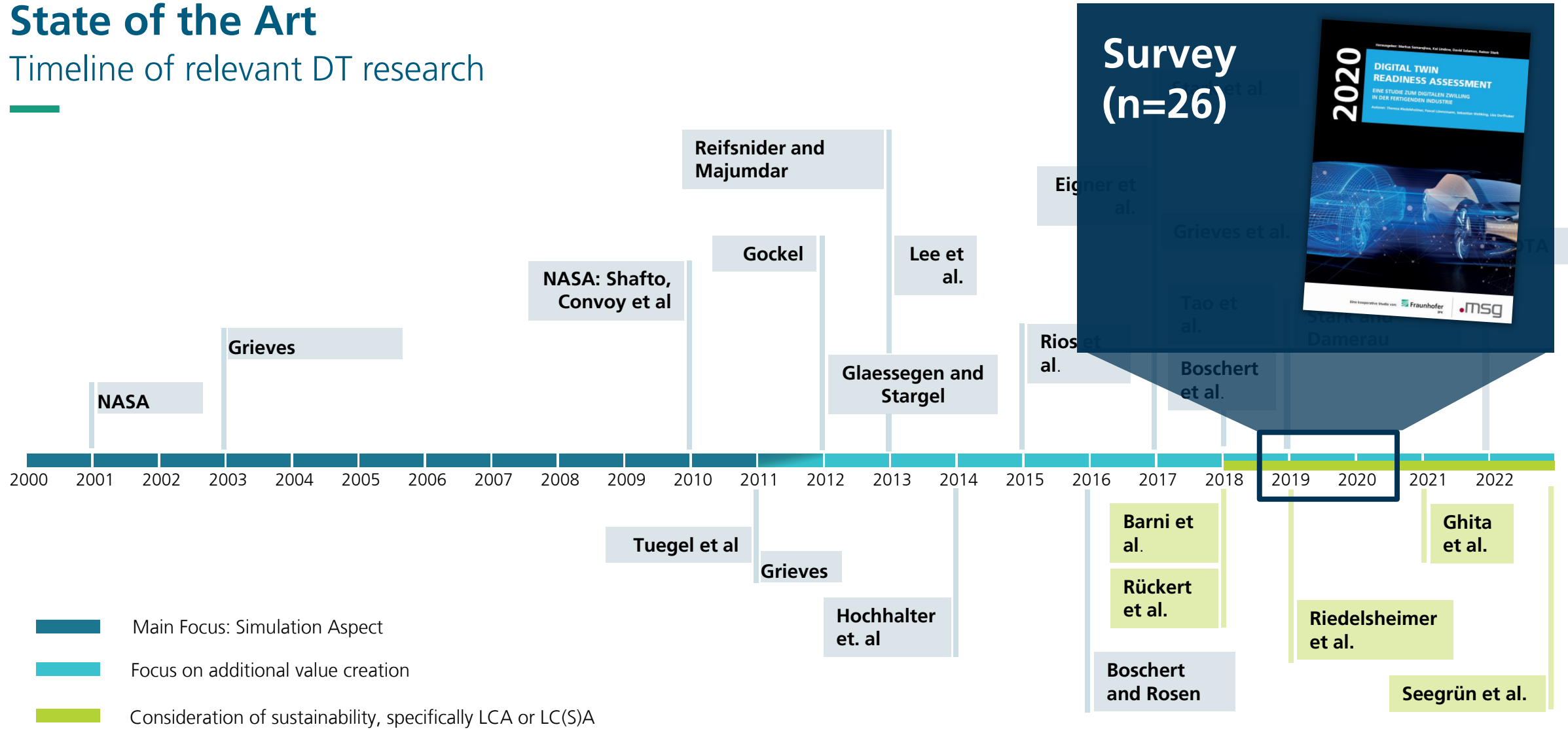
# State of the Art

## Timeline of relevant DT research



# State of the Art

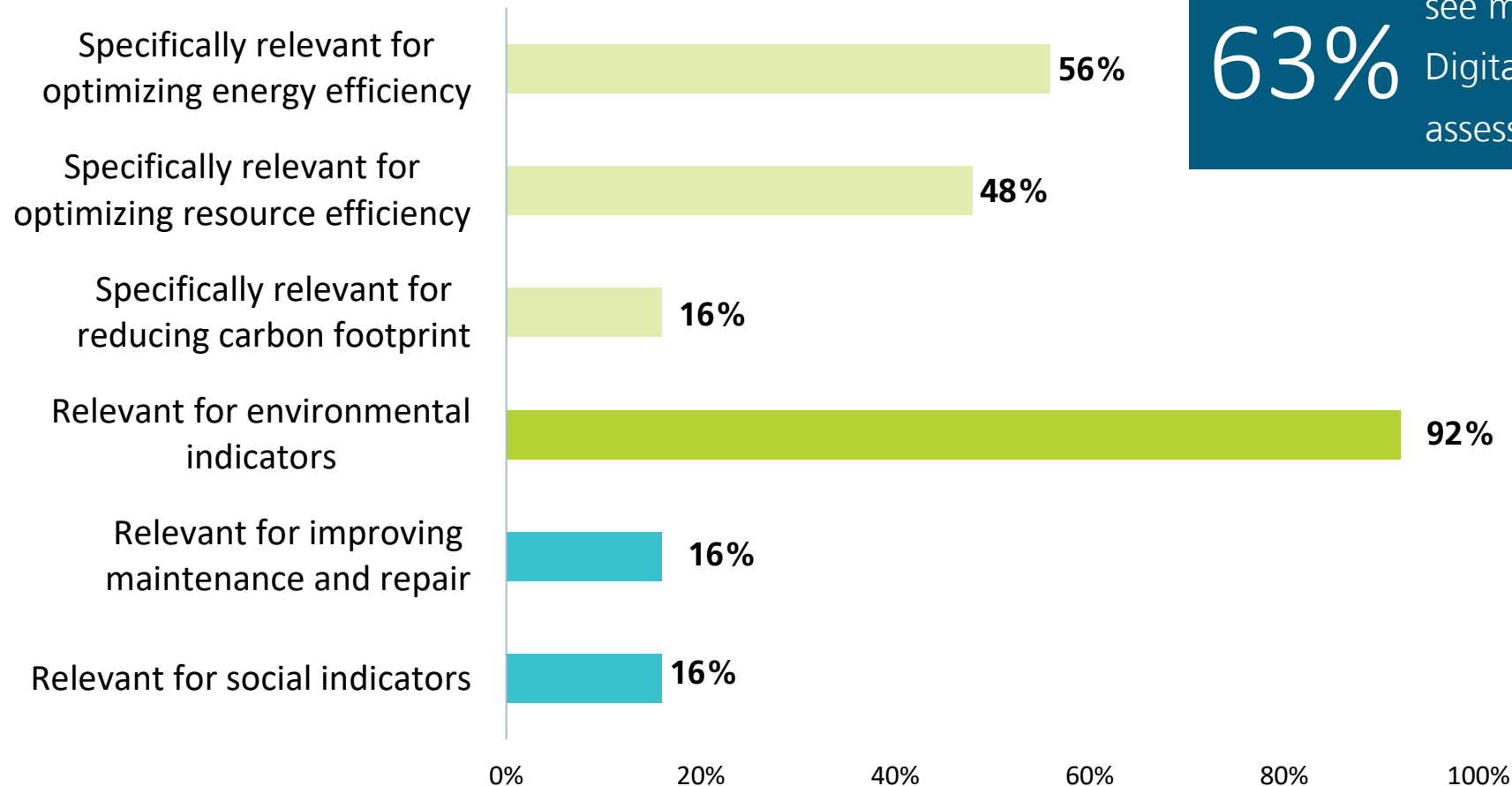
## Timeline of relevant DT research





# Stakeholder needs: Relevance of Digital Twins for sustainability

N = 26



**63%** see major potential for a future use of Digital Twins to perform sustainability assessments.



Source: Riedelsheimer et al. „Digital Twin Readiness Assessment: A Study on the Use of Digital Twins in the Manufacturing Industry, 2021, <https://www.ipk.fraunhofer.de/de/medien/markt-trendstudien/digital-twin-readiness-assessment/download-studie-digital-twin-readiness-assessment.html>.

# 1. Stakeholder needs: Persona and User Story development

## BEGIN OF LIFE

### PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT & PRODUCTION PLANNING

(I) As a **sustainability manager**, I would like to be able to calculate the environmental impact of different product and process variants in order to be able to identify the best alternative taking into account sustainability aspects over the entire life cycle.

SM



**Responsible for** assessing and monitoring the environmental performance of a company's products or services throughout their life cycle

(II) As a **product developer**, I would like to be able to break down environmental impacts to the product model in order to identify product components with a high impact.

(III) As a **product developer**, I would like to receive a warning if my planned sustainability limits are exceeded, so that I can initiate appropriate adjustments to the design.

PD



**Responsible for** evaluating different materials, manufacturing processes, and design options to minimize product's environmental footprint and identify areas for improvement

(IV) As a **production planner**, I would like to be able to calculate the product- and process-specific environmental impact in order to be able to optimize my production.

PP



**Responsible for** optimizing manufacturing processes and minimizing environmental impacts associated with production

## BEGIN OF LIFE

### PRODUCTION

(V) As a **sustainability manager**, I would like to obtain a target/ actual comparison of my implemented LCA requirements by evaluating operating and condition data of the production in order to be able to check their implementation status.

SM



## MID OF LIFE

### USAGE

(VI) As a **product developer**, I would like the digital product twin to process sustainability-relevant data during use in order to be able to feed back corresponding findings into earlier product lifecycle phases (e.g. feedback-to-design).

PD



(VII) As a **sustainability manager**, I would like to obtain a target/actual comparison of my implemented LCA requirements by evaluating operating and usage data of products in order to be able to check their implementation status.

SM



## 2+ND LIFE

### REUSE (+Rs)

## EOL

### Rs

# 1. Stakeholder needs: Persona and User Story development

## Exemplary persona and user story

### BEGIN OF LIFE

#### PRODUCTION

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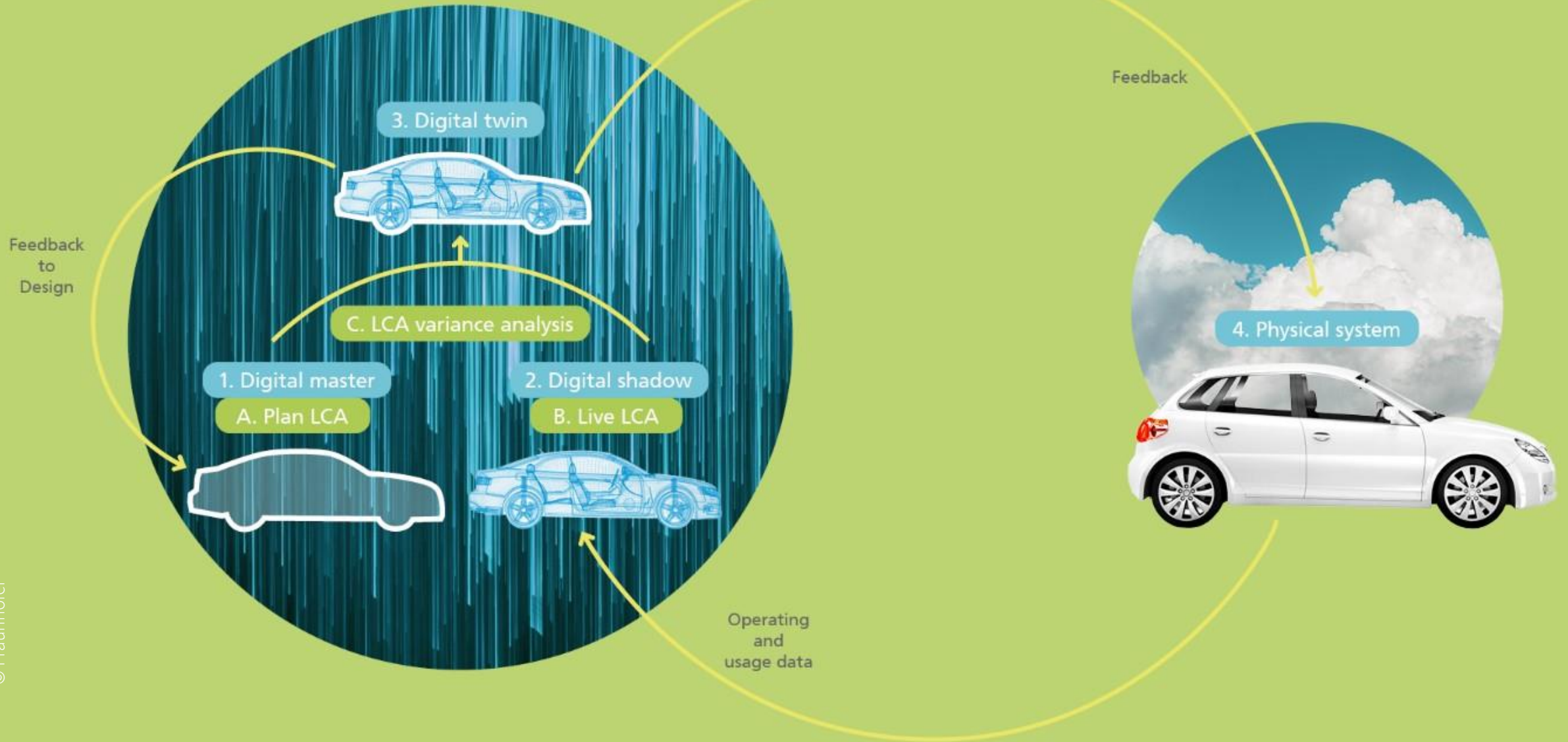


### 2+ND LIFE

#### REUSE (+Rs)

### EOL

## 2. Concept development



# Validation: 3 Use Cases

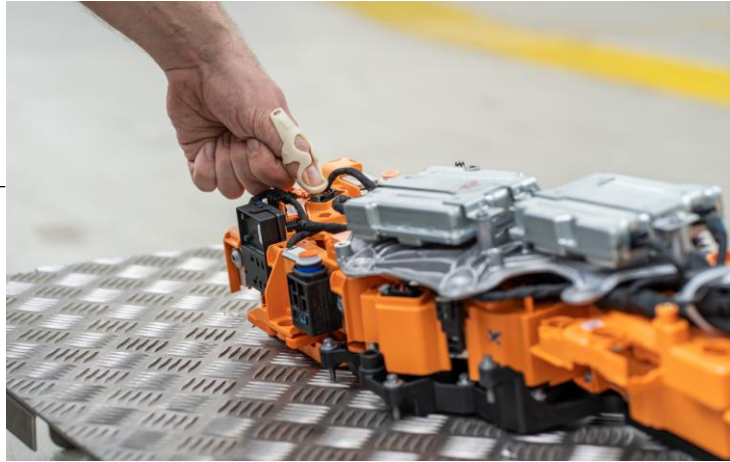
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## Use Case 1: Line production of engine parts for automotive vehicles

- Industrial environment (Mercedes Benz Berlin)
- Proprietary software for DT Core & PLM
- OpenLCA © and the Ecolnvent © database

© Mercedes-Benz Group AG



## Use Case 2: Line assembly of e-car components

- Industrial environment (Mercedes Benz Berlin)
- Proprietary software for DT Core & PLM
- OpenLCA © and the Ecolnvent © database

© Fraunhofer



## Use Case 3: 3D printing of an orthosis as assembly support

- Laboratory environment
- Open Source software for DT Core
- OpenLCA © and the Ecolnvent © database

# Validation: main findings

## General

- Concept is considered relevant
- Regulatory requirements encourage its implementation within industry
- Challenges:
  - global supply chains to cover Scope 3 emissions
  - compliance with continually changing regulatory requirements
  - digital shadow data definition: realtime requirement and updating the LCA resp. the DT data based on dynamic data

## Development approach

- Cross-domain collaboration as data consumer vs. data provider in-balance
- Need for an early proof of concept for industrial application (agile approach recommended)

## Added value and lifecycle perspective

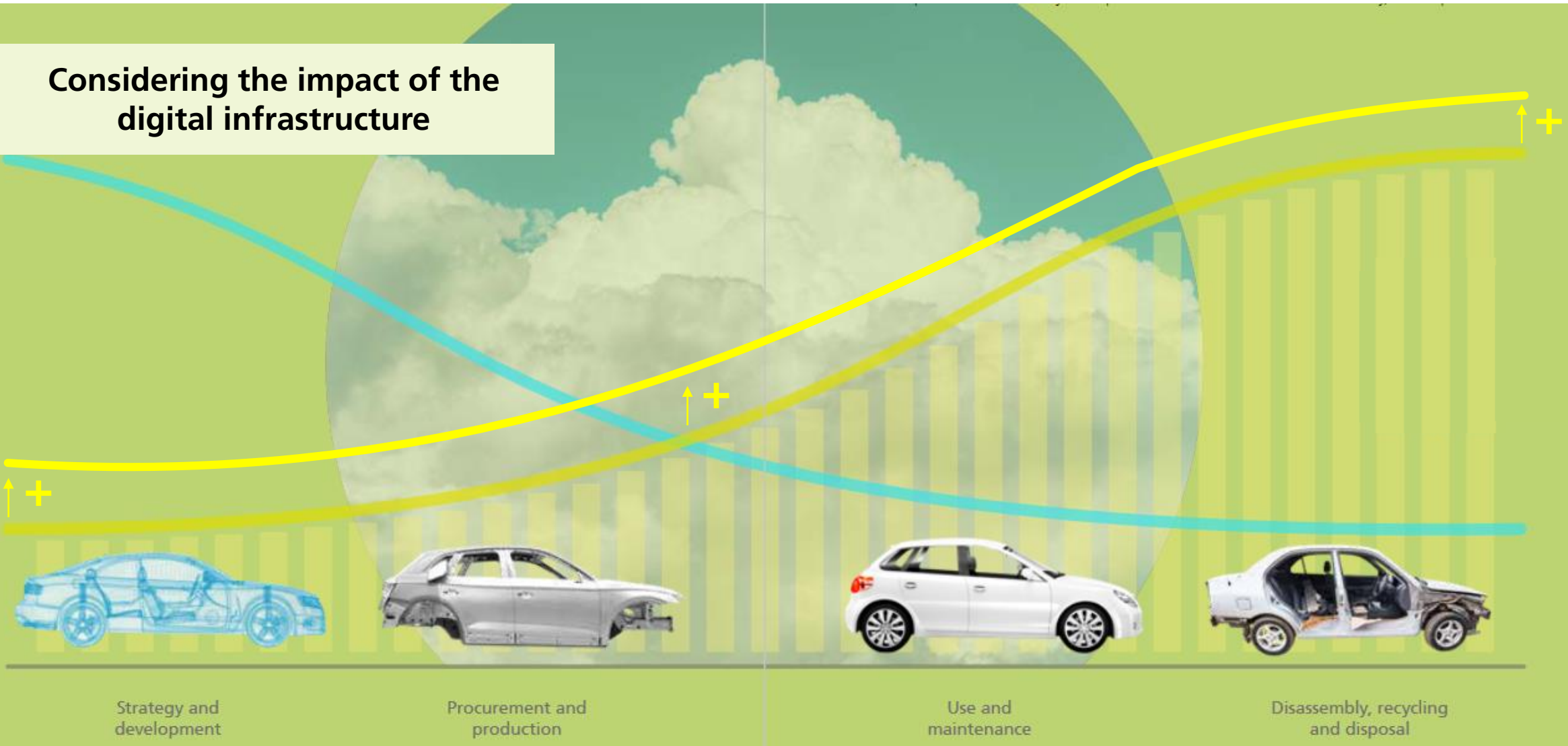
- Quantification of added value differs with lifecycle phase
- Monitoring as main objective (regulation)
- Optimization in the hand of individual company strategies and market prices for energy and raw material
- Executed LCA as part of the DT: material choice and supply chain as main lever
- Use phase difficult to consider for private product ownership / control
- EoL-phase only considered in use case 3
- For automotive use case: EoL not integrated yet (e.g. vehicle EoL after ~avg. 20 years)

## Operation of the DT for LCA

- high effort required for data collection, data management, as well as setup of cross-IT system & cross-company data exchange
- Defining appropriate events for triggering LCA update

# What is next?

**+** Considering the impact of the digital infrastructure



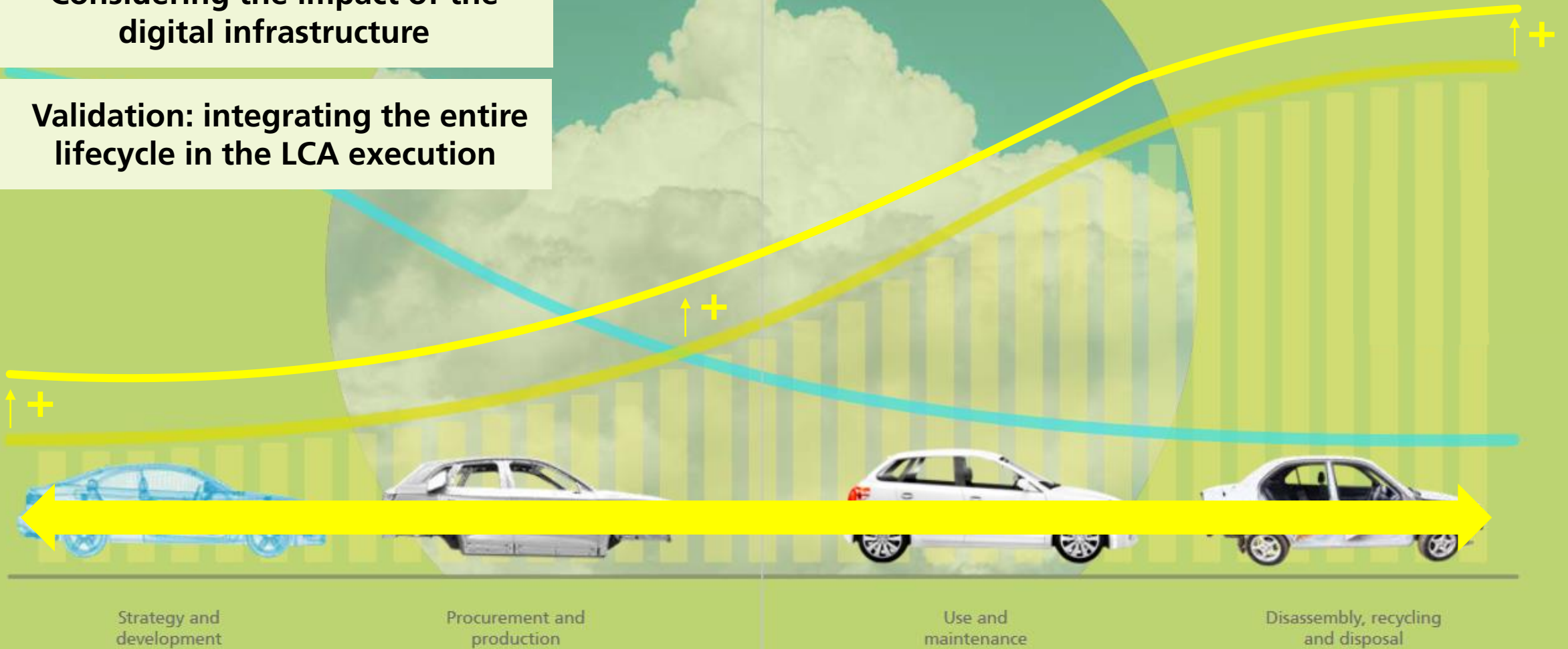
# What is next?



Considering the impact of the digital infrastructure

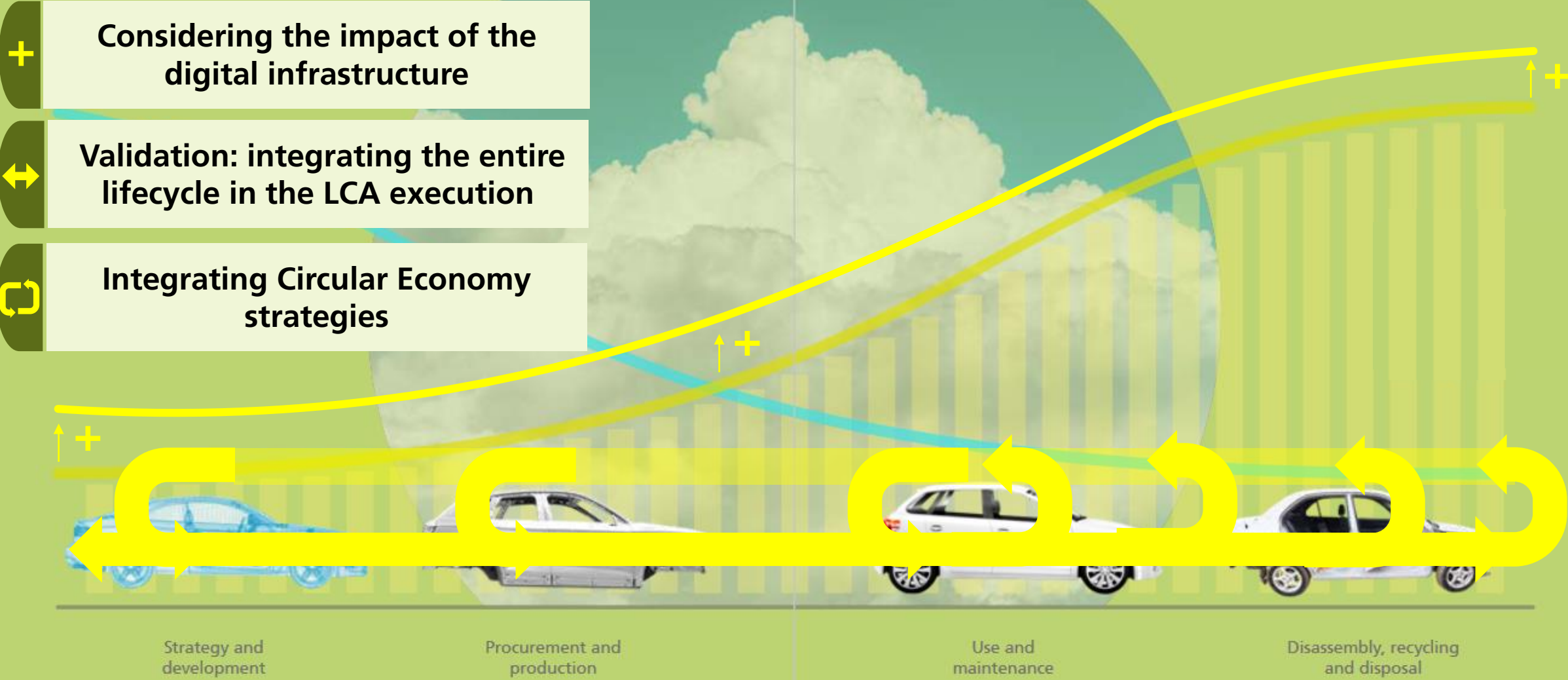


Validation: integrating the entire lifecycle in the LCA execution





# What is next?



# What is next?



Considering the impact of the digital infrastructure



Validation: integrating the entire lifecycle in the LCA execution



Integrating Circular Economy strategies

To facilitate the establishment across different industries, it is necessary to develop a **standardized approach as well as standardized data models and interfaces**, that enable the efficient and sustainable definition of the frequency and trigger of **LCA updates based on primary data** and ultimately enable **cross-company data exchange**.



Strategy and development

Procurement and production

Use and maintenance

Disassembly, recycling and disposal



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**Head of Department Sustainable Product-Ecosystems**  
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[theresa.riedelsheimer@ipk.fraunhofer.de](mailto:theresa.riedelsheimer@ipk.fraunhofer.de)  
Find me on Linked-In:



Fraunhofer Institute for Production  
Systems and Design Technology IPK

