



UNGEONOW 2024  
首届联合国地信周



# **Geospatial Solutions for Global Challenges**

## **a New Era Empowered by Digital Twin**

**Prof Abbas Rajabifard**  
**The University of Melbourne**

**21 Oct 2024, UN GeoNow, Deqing, China**



## Global challenges, and facing the existential threat of Changing Climate..





## Global Trends

Climate Change Causes More Frequent and Severe Disasters





*..climate change, digital disruption, economic downturn and burgeoning populations are all **Sustainability- and Global related Challenges** that we are positioned to make foundational and creative contributions towards.*

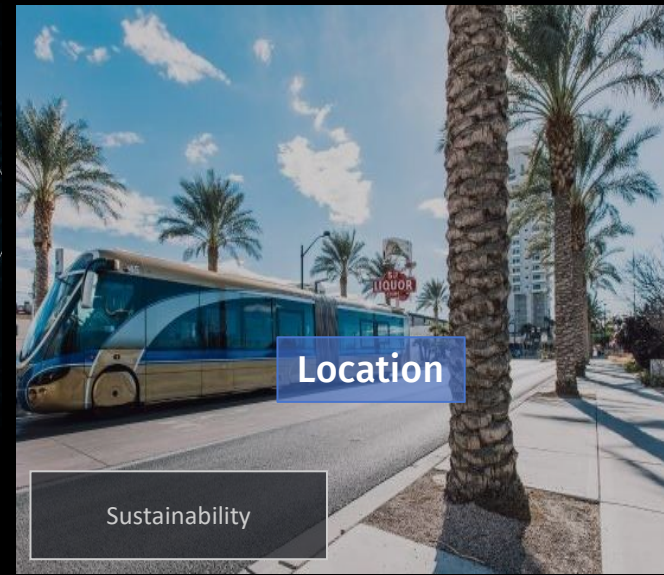
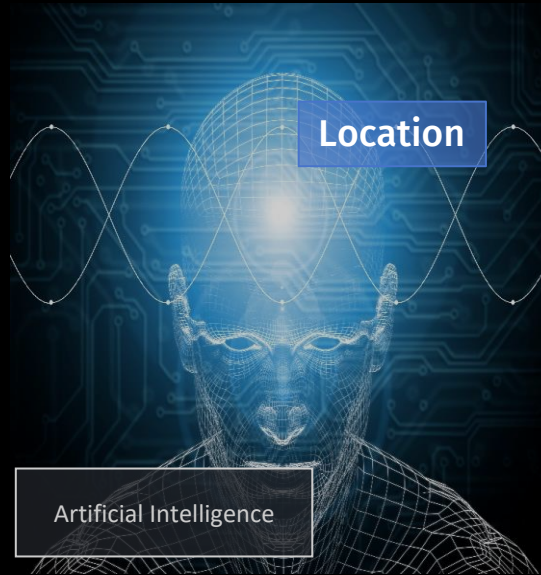
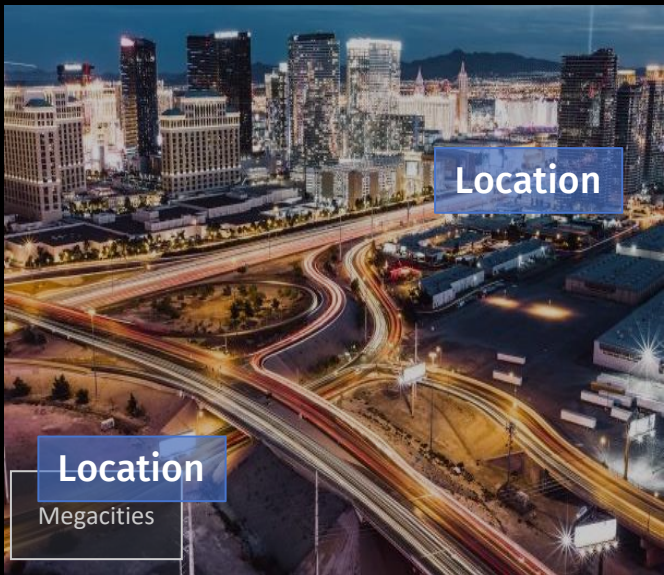
***Geospatial Enablement:*** *Location information is having a huge impact in addressing many of the world's greatest challenges.*

# Global Guide for Access to Land for Climate Action

Almost 1 in 2 Climate Actions will **require accessing Land** with actions related mainly to: *Forestry, Infrastructure (Energy, Transport,..), Environment and Agriculture.*

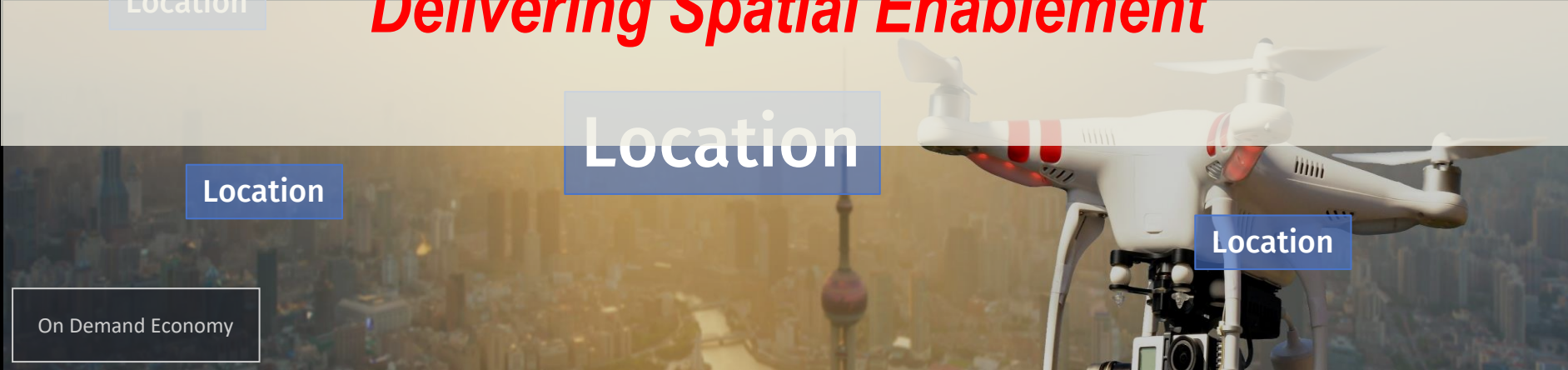
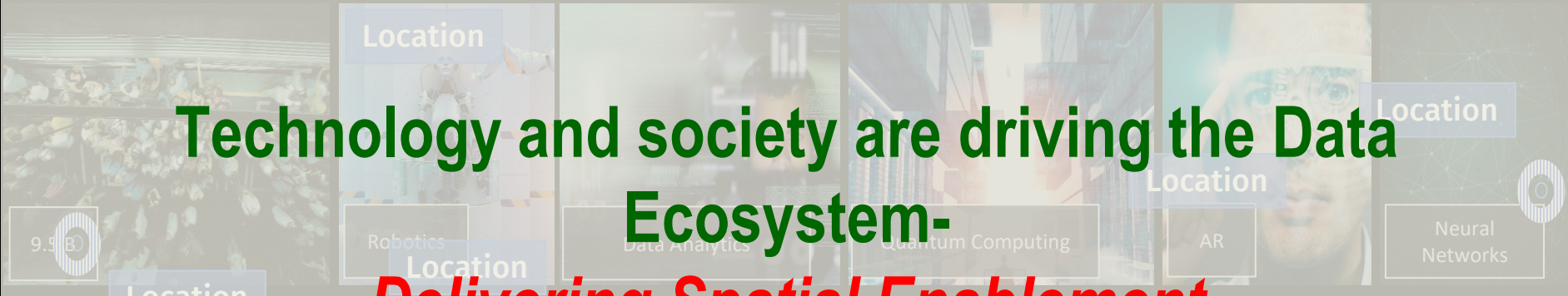
Currently **3% of GDPs** on Infrastructures. But for Climate Action **requires 8% investment** on Infrastructures.

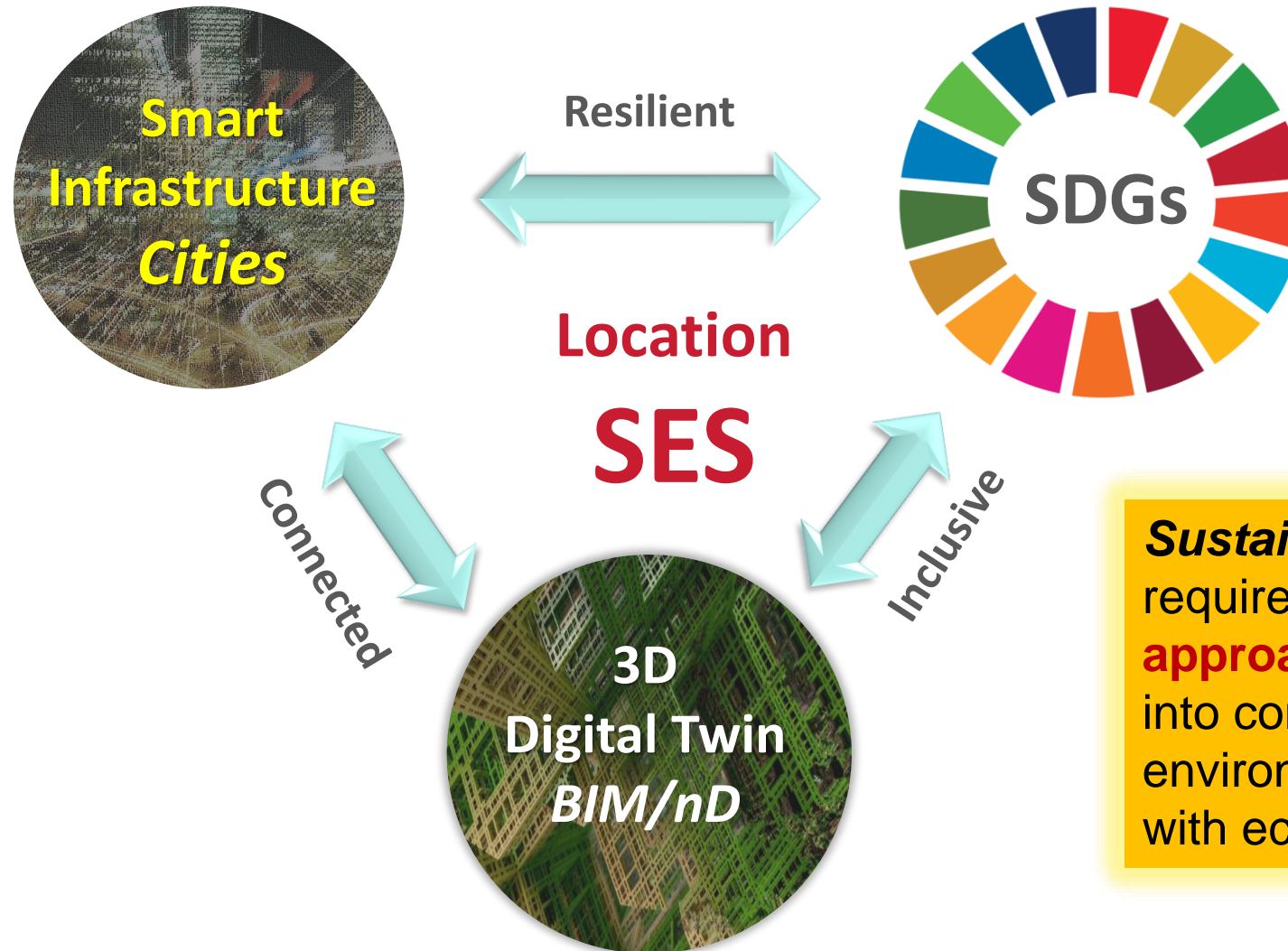




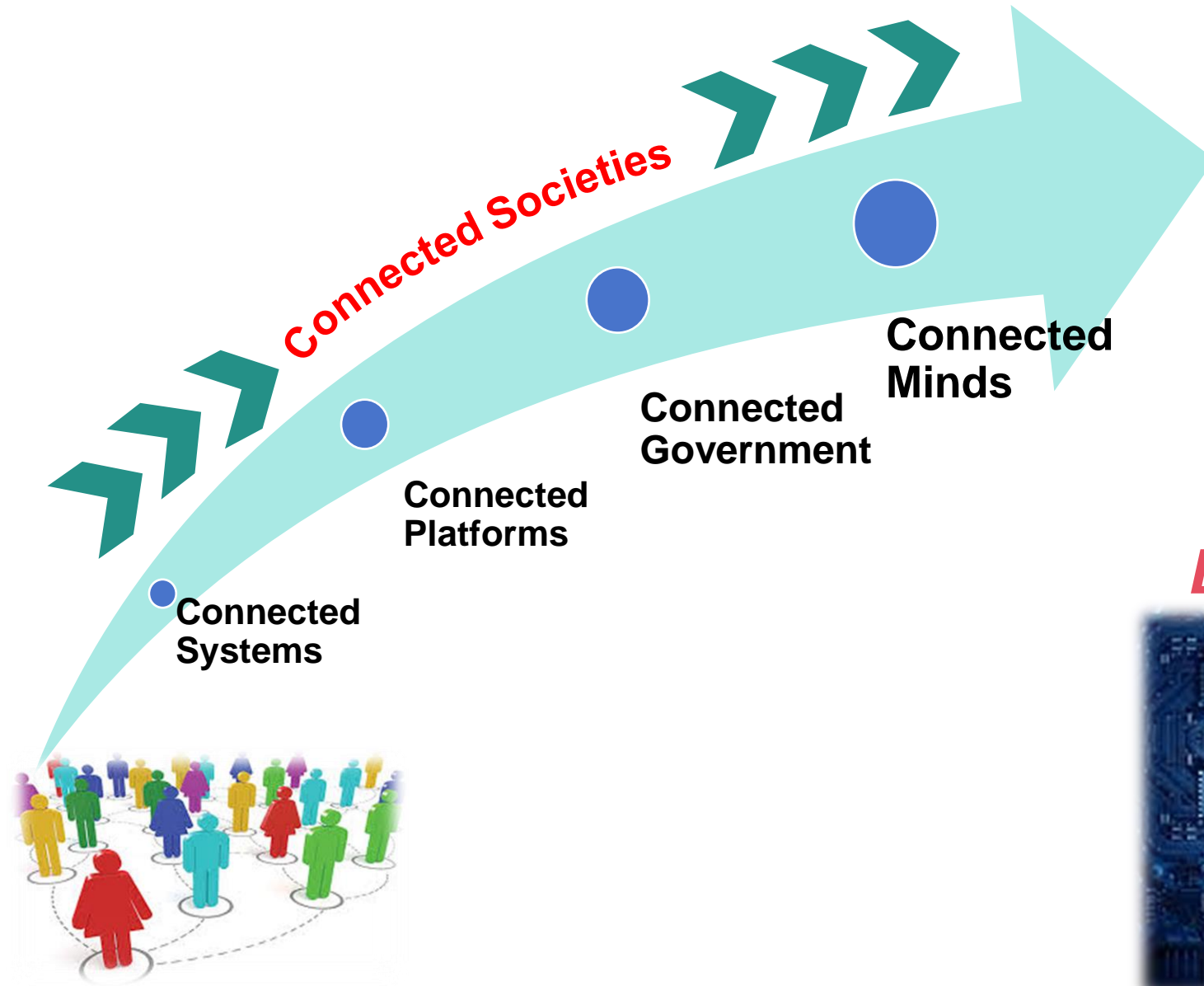
**Technology and society are driving the Data Ecosystem-**

***Delivering Spatial Enablement***





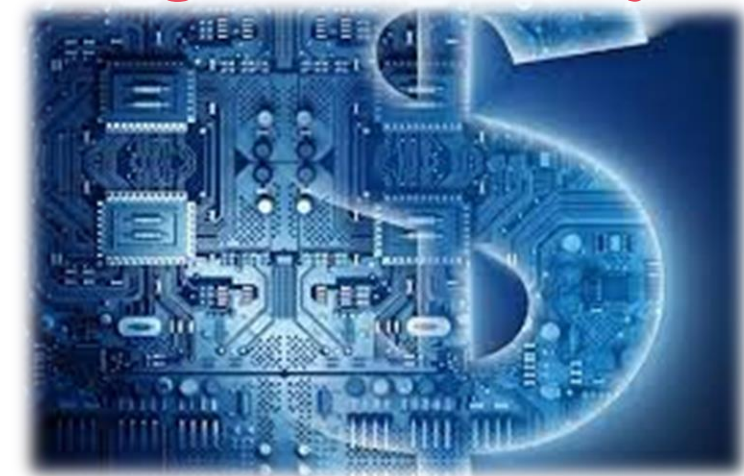
**Sustainable Development** requires an **integrated approach** that takes **big data** into consideration with environmental concerns along with economic development.



Moving from being  
“*Sustainable*” to  
“*Productivity* &  
“*Regenerative*”



*Digital Economy*





To achieve sustainability, we need to **remove barriers to integrating and analysing data from multiple disciplines** and enable access to data that can directly inform decisions. This can reduce costs, increase productivity and help plan climate change mitigation and adaptation.

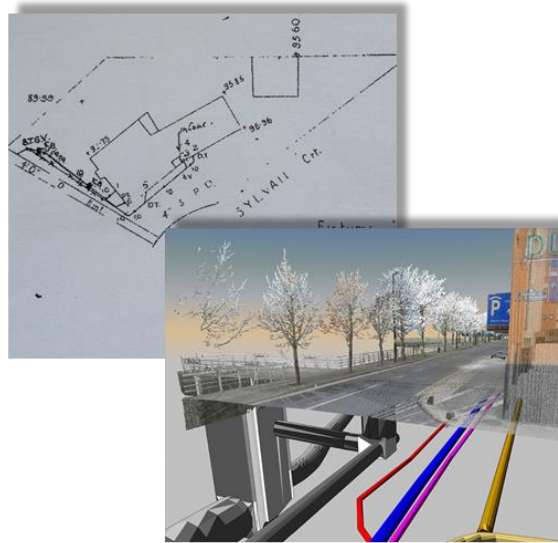


Image 4. A 'place based' strategy



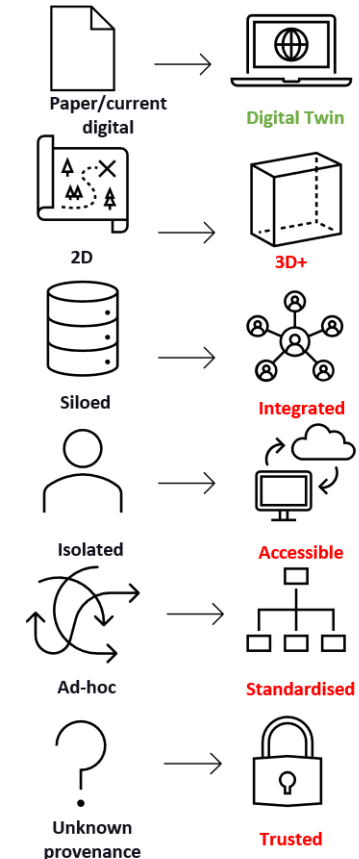
...



A primary reason for the limitations in addressing the interdisciplinary challenge of sustainability is the lack of an ecosystem of **open, harmonised and interoperable** information models and datasets across **land, built environment and natural environments**.



Addressing the  
Problem





Advancements in digital technology  
are fundamentally changing the way  
our cities and infrastructures are  
managed—and experienced.

3D visualization

Real-time access  
to digital  
information  
(*cloud & edge*)

Real-time data  
streaming  
(*sensors &  
automated  
control*)

Fault detection  
and health  
monitoring  
analytics  
(*rules engine*)

Artificial  
Intelligence and  
Machine Learning  
(*AI/ML*)

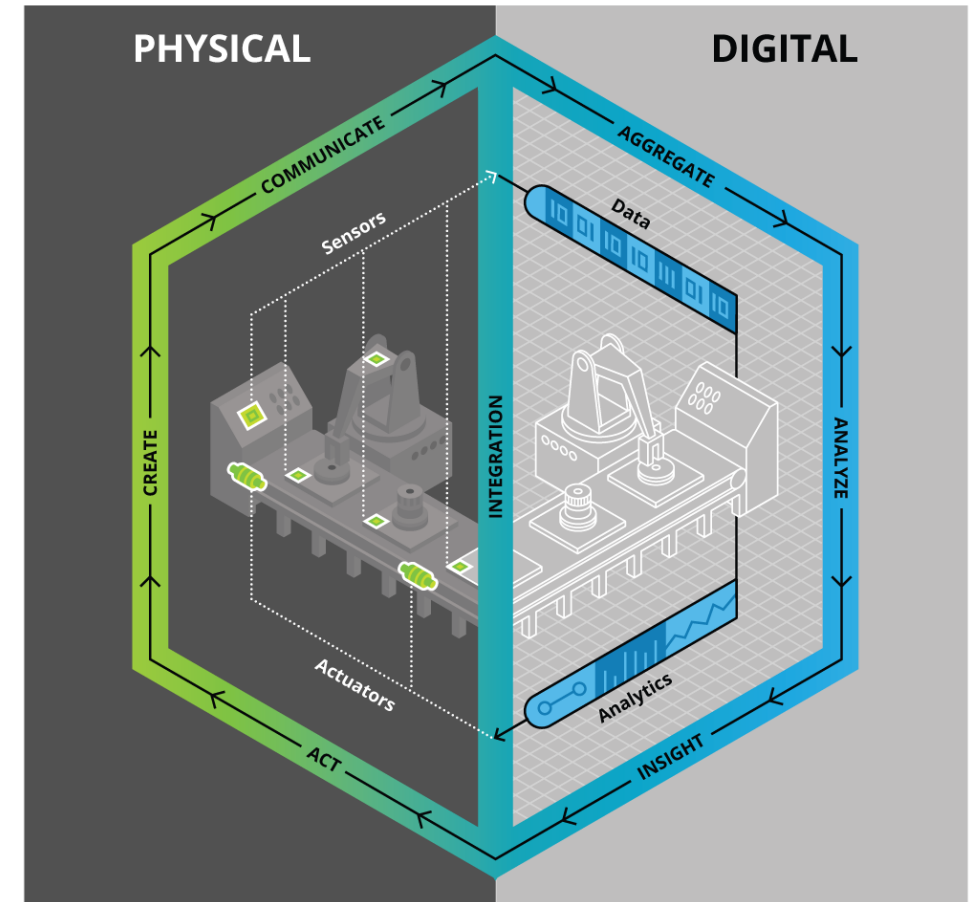
Language  
Learning Models  
(*LLM*)



# A DIGITAL TWIN

*A digital representation of a **real-world entity or system**. The implementation of a Digital Twin is:*

- Connecting **data, model**, and **visualisation** to mirror a unique physical object, process, organisation, or person.
- Data from **multiple Digital Twins** can be aggregated for a composite view across several real-world entities, such as a building, power plant or a city, and their related processes.



Source: Deloitte University Press.

Deloitte University Press | [dupress.deloitte.com](https://dupress.deloitte.com)



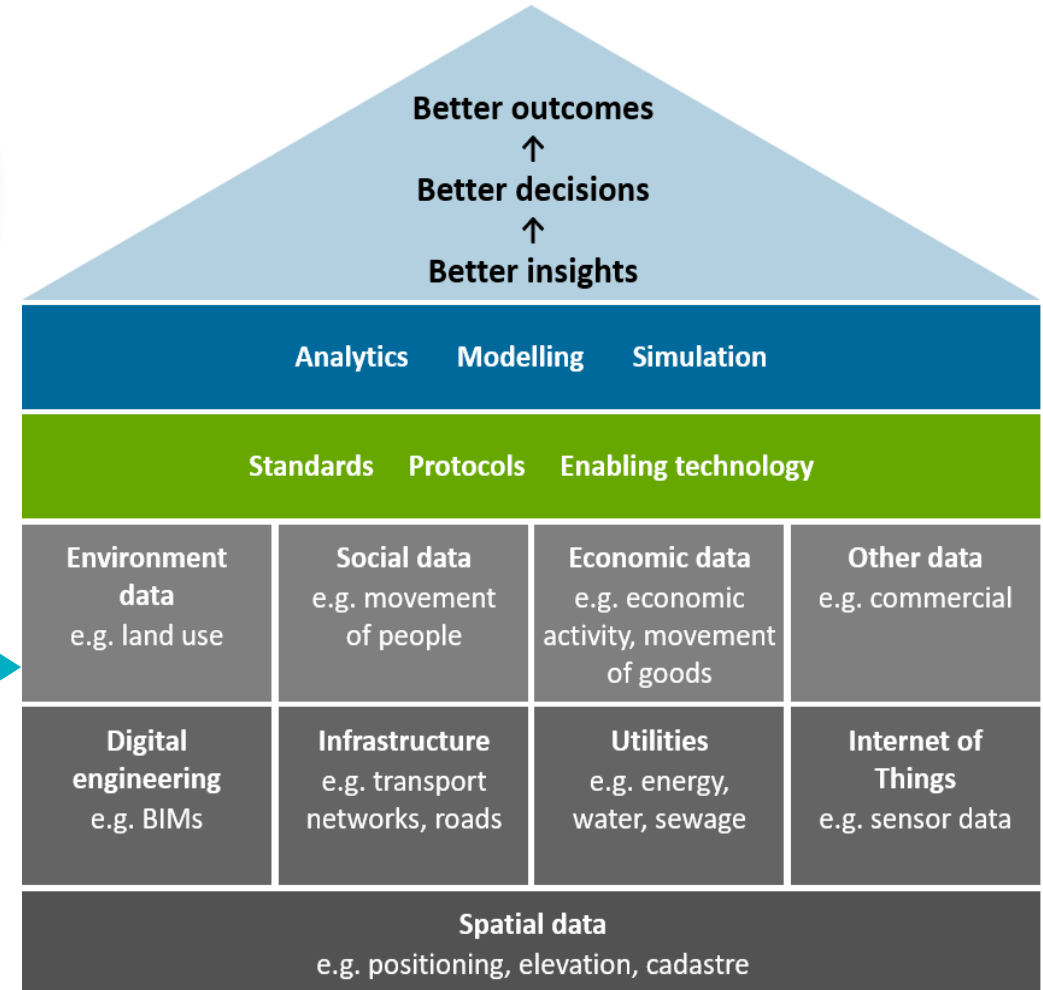
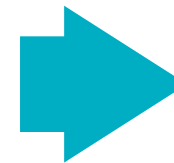
## Principles for Spatially Enabled Digital Twins of the Built and Natural Environment in Australia

December 2019



Highly advanced digital representations of **the real world**.

Combining with underpinning spatial data increases the value of Digital Twins as it can provide **location-based insights**.



# Broad Application Domains



UNGEONOW 2024  
首届联合国地信周



Disaster  
Management



Environment  
Monitoring



Transport &  
Energy



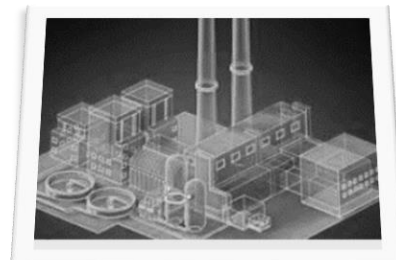
Smart City &  
Urban Planning



HealthCare



Land  
Administration



Infrastructure &  
Construction



Manufacturing &  
Industry 4.0



And more ..

# Digital Twin Conceptual Architecture



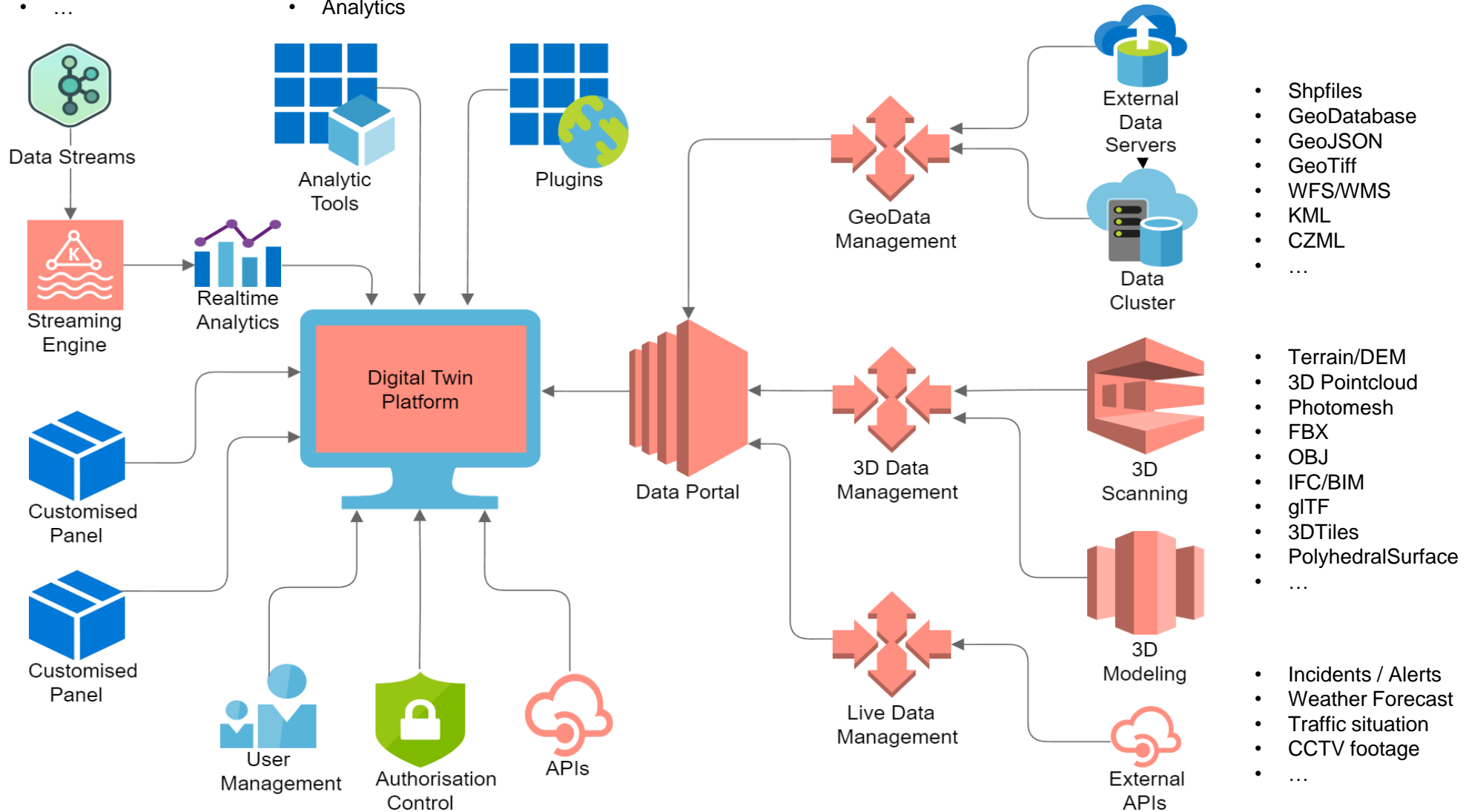
UNGEONOW 2024  
首届联合国地信周



- IOT Data Packet
- Live streams
- ...

- Modelling & Simulation
- Analytics

- Ecosystem & Community





A man in a light blue shirt is standing in the center of the frame, slightly out of focus. He has his hands clasped in front of him. The background is dark with a complex, geometric pattern of white lines that create a sense of depth and perspective, resembling a stylized architectural or digital structure. The text is overlaid on the image in a large, white, serif font.

The future  
of digital twins.



UNGEONOW 2024  
首届联合国地信周



**THANK YOU**