



# NDIA 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Sys Eng Conf



## Sensors Open Systems Architecture (SOSA)

*Sensor Integration Simplified™*

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<http://www.opengroup.org/sosa>





# Problem Statement



- **The threat is evolving faster than our architectures and processes can adapt**
- **The issue is NOT a lack of innovation, but the inability of our systems to exploit innovation to restore combat advantage before it's countered**
- **Cost growth for Sensors is outpacing our ability to pay for them**

The reality is that, at best, our combat advantage is being eroded for both symmetric and asymmetric adversaries



# Why Open Systems Approach?



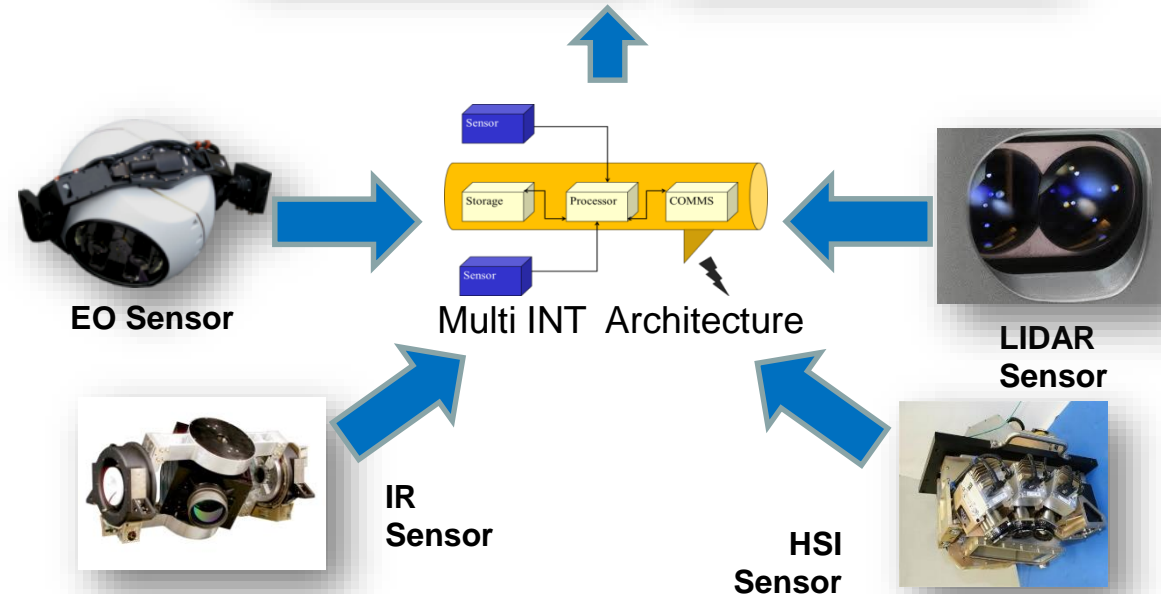
## Previous ISR Systems:

- Quick Reaction Capability(QRCs)
- Proprietary and application centric
  - Expensive to procure
  - Expensive to maintain
  - Expensive to modify



## Advantages of Open Architectures:

- Getting Capability to the Field faster
- Quicker tech refresh
- Drives competition
- Agile for evolving threats





# Open Occurs at Interfaces



- **Systems are generally open (*or closed*) at interfaces**
- **Interfaces typically have multiple layers**
  - ✓ **Common physical connector, e.g., RJ-45**
  - ✓ **Common protocol stack, e.g., TCP/IP over Ethernet**
  - ✗ **Vendor proprietary message set**
- **Openness must be assessed at each layer**
- **Target key interfaces (choose your battles)**





# SOSA Consortium Objectives



## Develop

- An effective Sensor Open Systems Architecture (SOSA) for use across the C<sup>4</sup>ISR community to include DoD and other government agencies

## Maximize

- Platform and system affordability, reconfigurability, performance, and re-use

## Define

- Open interface standards for multiple sensor modalities: Radar, EO/IR, SIGINT, Comms, EW

## Publish

- Technical Standard, Conformance guidance, and Contracting guidance





# SOSA Technical Standard



- **Sensor-to-Platform Standardization**
  - Promotes rapidly integrated sensor systems
  - Includes electro-mechanical, physical/environmental, and C<sup>2</sup>/payload interface standardization (e.g., OMS/UCI, NATO STANAG 4586 (UCS))
- **Intra-sensor Standardization**
  - Promotes readily composable sensor systems
  - Promotes interchangeable hardware and software components within a sensor (e.g., FACE™ standard, OpenVPX, VITA)
  - Promotes innovation for “Multi-INT” sensors



# SOSA Vision



**VISION** - Business/acquisition practices and a technical environment for sensors and C<sup>4</sup>ISR payloads that foster innovation, industry engagement, competition, and allow for rapid fielding of cost-effective capabilities and platform mission reconfiguration while minimizing logistical requirements

Open

Vendor and platform agnostic open modular reference architecture and business model

Standardized

Software, hardware, and mechanical module interface standards

Harmonized

Leverage existing and emerging open standards such as: CMOSS, FACE, OMS, SPIES, VICTORY, VITA

Aligned

Consistent with DoD acquisition policy guidance

Cost Effective

Affordable C4ISR systems including lifecycle costs

Adaptable

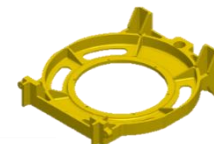
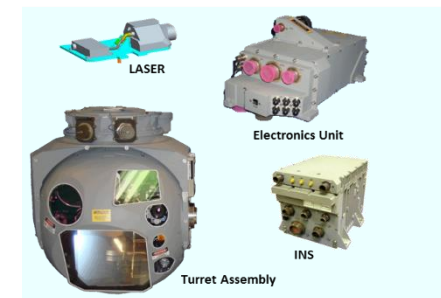
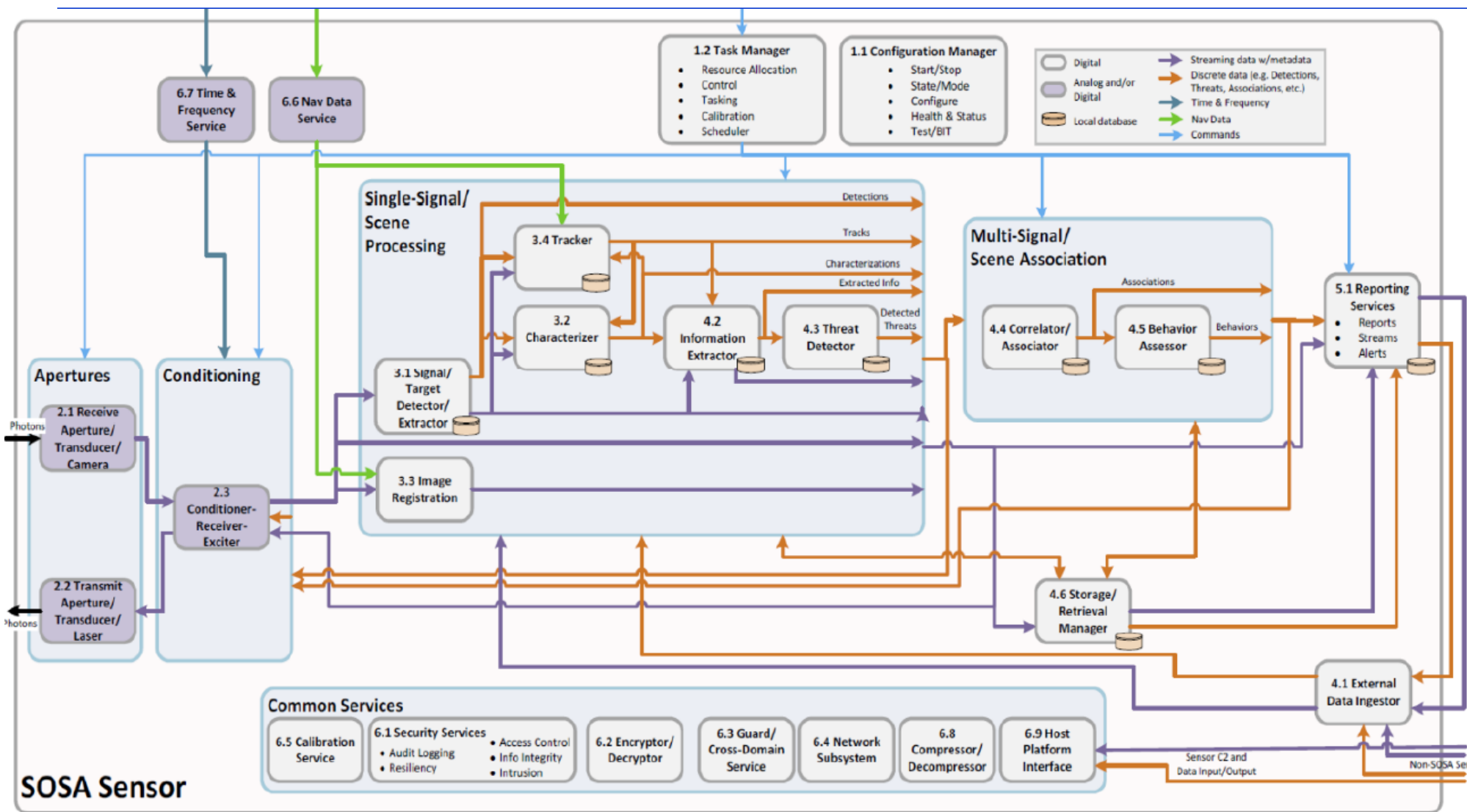
Rapidly responsive to changing user requirements







# SOSA Architecture



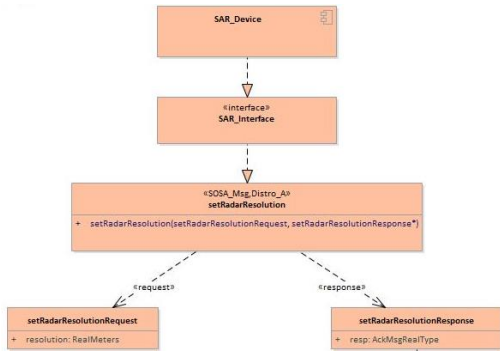
Each Module is Designed to be Competitively Procurable and Translatable to Selected OSAs



# Common C<sup>4</sup>ISR Data Modeling

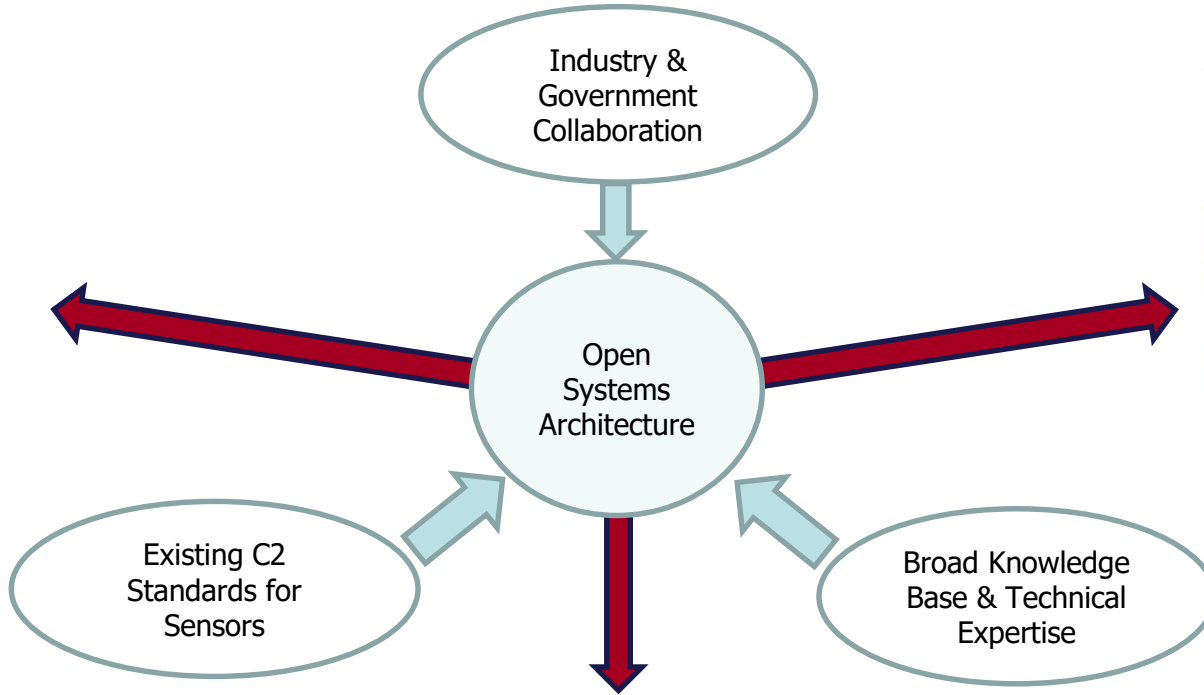


## Interoperable C<sup>2</sup> Messages for Sensors

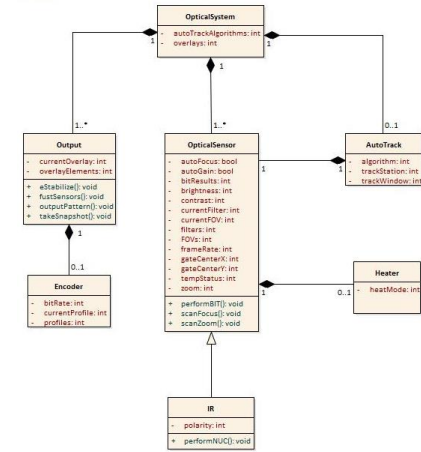


UCI  
VICTORY  
STANAG 4586

## SOSA Consortium

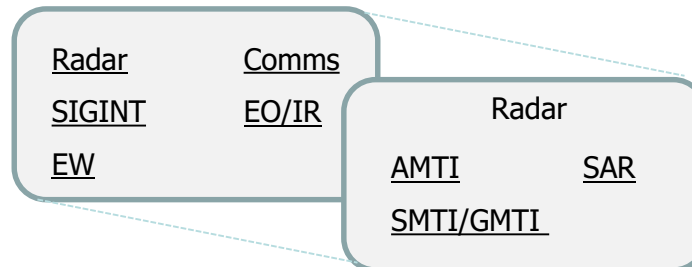


## Universal Payload Interface



Sensor Systems  
Software  
Data Analysis  
Physics

## C<sup>2</sup> Message Browser









# CERDEC CMOSS/SOSA Alignment



- **Common “cards” increase competition and economies of scale**
  - CMOSS/SOSA abstracts software from hardware
  - Reduces sustainment costs
  - Eliminates need for “End of Life” buys for a 30+ years sustainment
  - Enables hardware modernization on 5 to 10-year cycle, perhaps faster
- **Establish a Universal A-kit for Army vehicles**
  - Revolutionizes sustainment by defining standardized interfaces into which both common and specific modules can be easily replaced, swapped, or upgraded
  - Reduces logistics tails by enabling common sparing (both within and across systems)
    - Examples include single board computers and switch cards



# NAVAIR HOST/SOSA Alignment



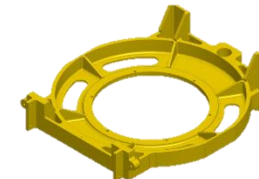
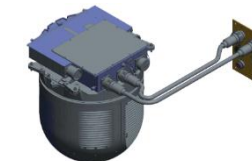
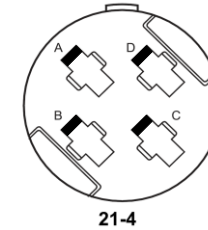
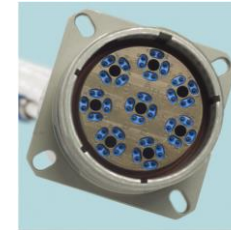
- **Hardware Open Systems Technologies (HOST) standard**
- **Create a hardware technical reference framework**
  - Used for developing embedded computing systems
- **Improve affordability**
  - Enables reuse
  - Increasing economies of scale opportunities
- **Enable effective and timely technology refresh cycles**
  - Abstract hardware from software
    - Acquisition community can pre-plan tech refreshes even during initial system acquisition program
    - Vendors know specified interfaces, mitigating risk in new product investment
- **Initial focus on airborne mission processing**



# Electrical/Mechanical Interfaces



- **SOSA specifications for Common Sensor Interconnects were successfully tested with AFRL AgilePod®**
  - Performed first ever flight of AgilePod® with 8 different sensors
  - Follow on testing for DARPA (June 18) and AFRL (July 18)
  - FMV / SAR / MTI tested with common interfaces
  - Test flights at Wright Patterson AFB OH, Homestead FL, and SOUTHCOM location
- **Working on next generation high-density/high-performance non-proprietary fiber connectors**
- **Planning to add a 5 inch Gimbal connector and mounting standard for small UAS systems**





# SOSA Membership



- **As of 23 October 2018 – 42 members**
- **Sponsor-level Members (6)**
  - **AFLCMC, Lockheed Martin Corp, NAVAIR, Raytheon, Rockwell Collins Inc., US Army PEO Aviation**
- **Principal-level Members (7)**
  - **BAE Systems Inc., GE Aviation Systems, General Dynamics Mission Systems, Harris Corporation, Leonardo DRS, U.S. Army RDECOM CERDEC I<sup>2</sup>WD, UTC Aerospace Systems**
- **Associate-level Members (39)**
- **More than 400 industry and government personnel on-board**

<http://www.opengroup.org/sosa/members>





# Takeaways

- **OSA for multiple sensor modalities (RADAR, SIGINT, EO/IR, COMMS, EW) requires careful thought from both technical and business perspectives for what makes sense for decomposition**
- **Key to OSA success is to think of long-term sustainment up-front in support of realistic acquisition timelines and schedules**
- **The SOSA Consortium is focused on leveraging existing standards in order to create an open systems architecture that is widely applicable to both military and commercial sensor systems with a business model that balances all stakeholders' interests**
- **Government funded SOSA prototypes are currently providing programs of record with risk reduction, both near term (within 2 years) and long term (within 10 years)**