

# Construction Industry Challenges and the need for Innovation

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# RESEARCH IMPACT - SPARC Lab

**RESEARCH AREAS**

- Infrastructure Management
- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Profitability and Strategic Planning
- International Construction
- Contemporary Issues
  - Housing Industry
  - Intelligent Planning Units (IPU)
  - Composites in Construction
  - Construction Analytics
  - Interactional Analysis

## Solutions for Profitability & Assessment of Risk in Construction

Profitability

**BENEFITS TO THE INDUSTRIES**

- Capital Rehabilitation Planning
- Deferred Maintenance
- Post Disaster Housing
- Disaster recovery/rehabilitation of industries/ communities
- Resilience and Capacity Building
- Profitability of construction firms
- Dynamic interactive risks in global construction
- Composites in Construction
- Protocol for Construction Analytics
- Theory of Intelligent Planning Units (IPUs)

Innovative Manufactured Homes

200 Houses in 1 Month

Impact Analysis on Industries /Communities

Risk Assessment

Infrastructure Management

Infrastructure Planning

Infrastructure Rehabilitation

Deferred Maintenance

International Construction

Disaster Risk Reduction

Profitability

Infrastructure Finance

Housing Industry

Composites in Construction

Theory of Intelligent Planning Unit (IPU)

Project Controls

Interactional Analysis

Construction Analytics

Capacity Building

Capital Efficiency



## History of Construction



Archaeological Ruins at Moenjodaro (present day Pakistan)

[whc.unesco.org/en/documents/108275](http://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/108275)

### 3000 BCE

Water proof great bath, sanitation, water delivery system throughout the city 5x Vatican City. City layout on a grid pattern....

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Great-Bath-Mohenjo-daro>



## History of Construction



**Pyramids of Djoser (2630 BC).** Tools – over 100,000 slaves worked on these pyramids over years



**The Roman Aqueducts – Italy (145 BC).** used to bring in water for the Roman Empire using gravity flow


**AchitChand Baori – India (900 AD).** Constructed to solve the water problem, v-shaped structure 13 stories high, 100 ft deep with 3500 perfectly level steps




<https://www.readersdigest.ca/travel/world/10-architectural-wonders-ancient-world/>  
[https://engineering.rowan.edu/\\_docs/civilenvironmental/cee-materials-reading-assignment.pdf](https://engineering.rowan.edu/_docs/civilenvironmental/cee-materials-reading-assignment.pdf)




## History of Construction



**Sacsaywaman, Peru (900 – 1200 AD)**  
A stone fortress in Cusco, Inca Empire. Stones weighing ~200 ton  
<https://www.readersdigest.ca/travel/world/10-architectural-wonders-ancient-world/>




**A Roman street, Pompeii (300 BC)**  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman\\_roads](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_roads)




**Great Wall of China, (7<sup>th</sup> century BC)**  
A great engineering feat in history, 21000 Km long.


## History of Construction




**Golden Gate Bridge, USA (1937)**  
1.7 miles long.



**Burj Khalifa, Dubai (2010)**  
Tallest building in the world, 828 meters high with 160 stories  
<https://www.ice.org.uk/news-and-insight/ice-community-blog/august-2021/wonders-of-engineering-world>



**Three Gorges Dam (2003)**  
181 meters tall



**The Millau Viaduct, France, 2004**  
At 343 meters the tallest bridge in the world

## History of Construction – use of Material and Technology

- Earthen Bricks
- Stone
- Wood
- Copper/Bronze
- Iron/Steel
- Mortar/Pozzolans

## History of Construction – Challenges faced

- Labor intensive,
- Manual tools,
- Rudimentary technology,
- Environmental issues,
- Disease
- Safety



## Construction Now

### Construction 4.0 – Digital Transformation

3rd platform, innovation accelerators, OT and manufacturing meet in transformation

**INDUSTRY 4.0**

| 1   | 2   | 3   | 4  |
|---|---|---|--|
|   |   |   |  |
| <b>Mechanization</b><br>Steam engines<br>Water/steam power<br>New manufacturing<br>Iron production<br>Textile industry<br>Mining and metallurgy<br>Machine tools<br>Steam factories | <b>Technological</b><br>Electrification<br>Production line<br>Mass production<br>Engines/turbines<br>Broad adoption of telegraph, gas, water supply | <b>Computer /Internet</b><br>Digital manufacturing<br>PLC/Robotics<br>IT and OT<br>Digitization<br>Automation<br>Electronic/digital<br>Networks<br>Digital machines | <b>Convergence IT /OT</b><br>Autonomous machine<br>Advanced robotics<br>Big Data/Analytics<br>Internet of Things<br>Digital ubiquity/Cloud<br>Smart factory<br>Machine learning & AI<br>Cyber Physical |
| <b>1784</b>   | <b>1870</b>   | <b>1969</b>   | <b>Present</b>   |

Universal connectivity and real-time decentralized decision-making

- Internet of Things,
- Digital Twin,
- Additive manufacturing (3D Printing),
- Cloud computing,
- Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) and,
- BIM.

<https://www.i-scoop.eu/industry-4-0/>  
<https://www.buildingtransformations.org/articles/construction-4-0>














## Rapid Change in Society with Advances in Technology


Source: Top 10 disruptive technologies in construction Image: World Economic Forum, Boston Consulting Group  
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/06/construction-industry-future-scenarios-labour-technology/>



# Construction Now – New Challenges

## GRAND CHALLENGES FOR ENGINEERING

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
|  Make solar energy economical ★ |  Provide energy from fusion                 |  Develop carbon sequestration methods ★     |
|  Manage the nitrogen cycle      |  Provide access to clean water ★            |  Restore and improve urban infrastructure ★ |
|  Advance health informatics     |  Engineer better medicines                  |  Reverse-engineer the brain                 |
|  Prevent nuclear terror         |  Secure cyberspace                          |  Enhance virtual reality ★                  |
|  Advance personalized learning  |  Engineer the tools of scientific discovery |   |



Hastak\2023

# Construction Now – New Challenges

## United Nations SDGs (2015 – 2030)

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

|   |   |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

## Construction Now – New Challenges

- Cost, schedule, quality, safety, and sustainability
- Shortage of skilled labor
- Adoption of technology
- Contractual constraints
- Low productivity
- Pandemic
- Supply chain issue
- Interdependencies
- Environmental Issues/Sustainability

## Construction now – use of Technology

Universal connectivity and real-time decentralized decision-making as an outcome of Construction 4.0

- Internet of Things,
- Digital Twin,
- Additive manufacturing (3D Printing),
- Cloud computing,
- Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) and,
- BIM
- Laser Scanning

### **Additionally**

- New material/FRP
- Intelligent Planning Units
- Smart Objects

## Construction Industry/University Collaboration for Innovation

- Center for Intelligent Infrastructure
- Missouri Consortium for Construction Innovation
- Purdue Consortium for Construction Innovation
- Construction Industry Institute
- CIB (International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction)
- CICID, Hong Kong
- Construction Research Institute of Canada
- Etc.

## Construction Industry Institute 17 Best Practices

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Work Packaging          | <input type="checkbox"/> Lessons Learned             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alignment                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Materials Management        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benchmarking & Metrics           | <input type="checkbox"/> Partnering                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change Management                | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning for Modularization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Constructability                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning for Startup        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disputes Prevention & Resolution | <input type="checkbox"/> Project Risk Assessment     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Front End Planning               | <input type="checkbox"/> Quality Management          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Implementation of CII Research   | <input type="checkbox"/> Team Building               |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Zero Accidents Techniques   |

<https://www.construction-institute.org/resources/knowledgebase/best-practices>





## Adding value for global research

**Global network for collaboration**

-  40 expert Working Commissions & Task Groups  
Conferences, webinars, publications, 30 partner journals, research database, research roadmaps
-  World Building Congress 2025

**Supporting tomorrow's talent**

-  18 Student Chapters
-  New global network for Early Career Researchers
-  "CIB in Conversation"

**Campaigning** on issues which matter, eg impact, research classification

www.cibworld.org

 **53** Countries  
 **75** Organisations  
 **215** Individual Members  
 **1351** Experts  
 **35** Working Commissions  
 **6** Task Groups  
 **18** Student Chapters  
 **30** Partner journals  
 **27,000** Research papers



## 40 Working Commissions and Task Groups (March 2022)

CIB 'Vistas': Global Collaboration - People and the Planet - Futures



Architectural Design and Management

Building Pathology

Clients and Users in Construction

Construction in Developing Countries

Construction Industry Economics

Construction Materials Stewardship

Culture in Construction

Customised Industrial Construction

Disasters and the Built Environment

Education in the Built Environment

Facilities Management and Maintenance

Fire Safety

Global Construction Data

Heat and Moisture Transfer in Buildings

Informal Settlements and Affordable Housing

Information and Knowledge Management in Building

Information Technology for Construction

Infrastructure

Innovation in Construction

Intelligent and Responsive Buildings

Law and Dispute Resolution

Nature Based Solutions for Climate Resilient Buildings and Communities

Offsite Construction

Open Building Implementation

Organisation and Management of Construction

People in Construction

Performance Measurement in Construction

Prediction of Service Life of Building Materials and Components

Procurement Systems

Public Private Partnership

Residential Studies

Roofing Materials and Systems

Safety and Health in Construction

Sandwich Panels

Smart and Sustainable Built Environments

Smart Cities

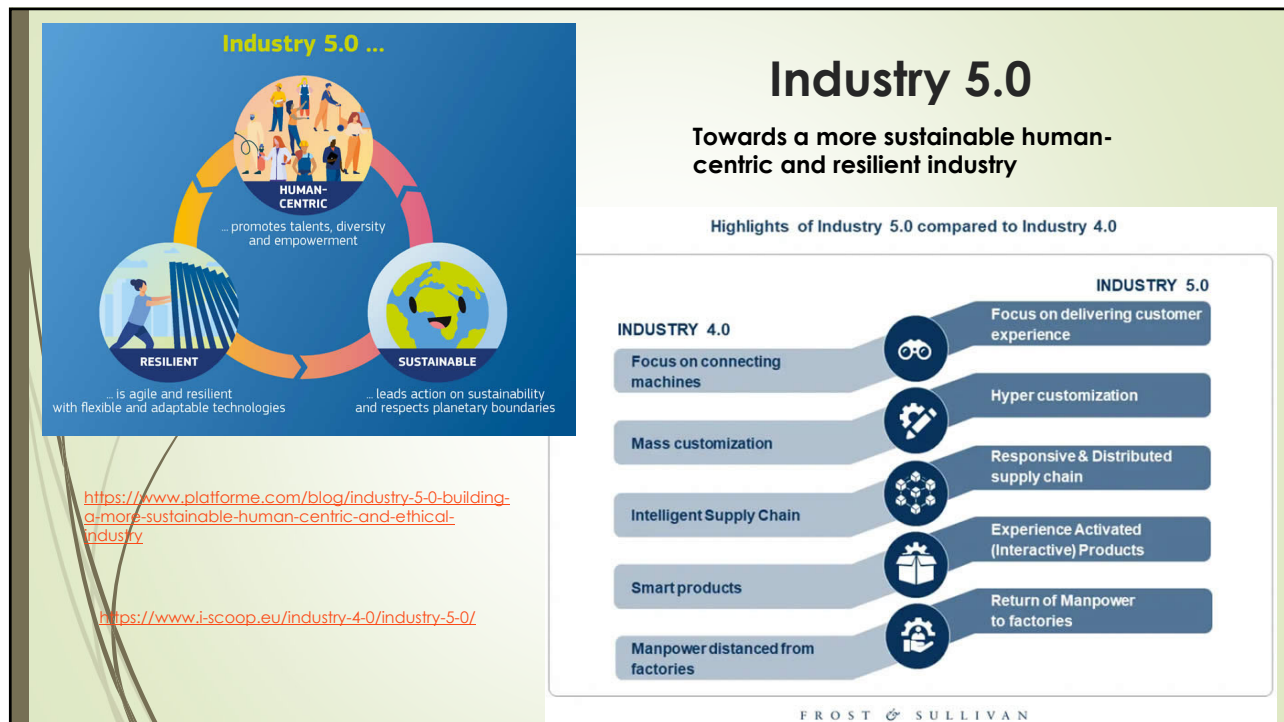
Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Development

Usability of Workplaces

Wall Structures

Water Supply and Drainage

Zero-Carbon Building & Infrastructure Design and Construction



## Sustainable development

*“Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (UNISDR 2009, Brundtland Commission in 1987).*

- Sustainability addresses the time continuous effects of any strategy on the economy, environment and society over the lifecycle of the infrastructure
- Therefore, strategy selection for capacity building should address resilience as well as the sustainability aspects.

## Interdependence of Infrastructure for Societal Resilience



Ecuador Earthquake 2016



2015 Nepal Earthquake



2013 Colorado Floods



2015 South Indian Flood, Chennai

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## Failure of infrastructure after disasters and their impact on community recovery



Bihar Floods



African Drought



2011 Japan Earthquake

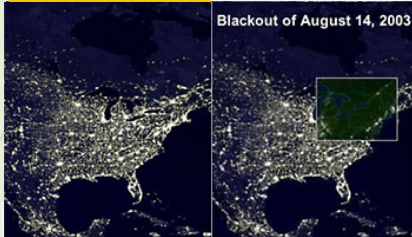


2011 Japan Earthquake



## Disasters - Global Issue

Network Failure



Blackout of August 14, 2003

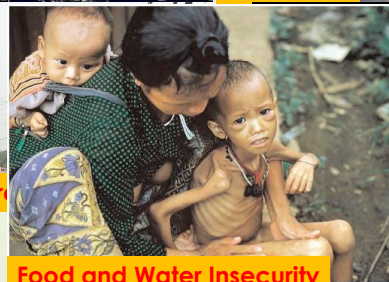


Mass Care

Photo Credit: © ShelterBox UK / www.shelterbox.org



Power Grid Failure



Food and Water Insecurity

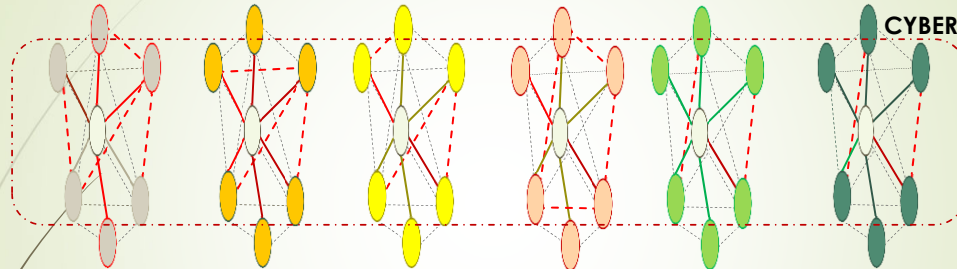


## Types of Infrastructure

CYBER

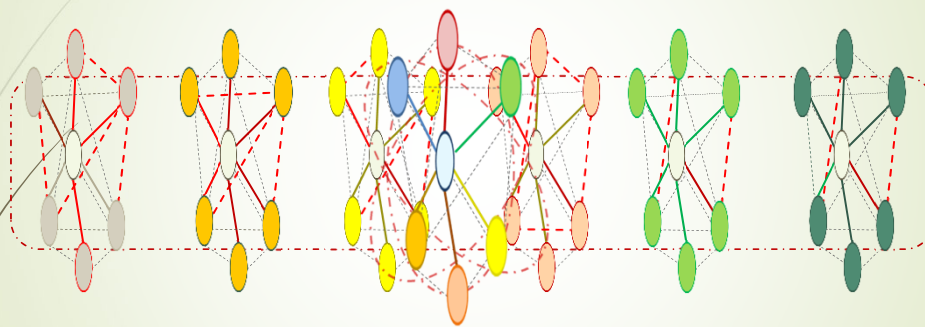
| Civil                   | Civic             | Social            | Environmental | Financial      | Education          |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Utility Systems         | Emergency Centers | Homes             | Landscape     | Disaster Funds | Training           |
| Water, Gas, Electricity | Hospitals         | Religious Centers | Wastelands    | Insurance      | Programs           |
| Transportation Systems  | Police            | Community Centers | Mangroves     | Donors         | Feedback Mechanism |
| Roads, Bridges, etc.    | Governance, etc.  | NGOs              |               |                |                    |

## Interdependencies between the seven infrastructure layers



| Civil                   | Civic              | Social            | Financial      | Environmental | Educational         |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Utility Systems         | Emergency Agencies | NGOs              | Disaster Funds | Mangroves     | Training            |
| Water, Gas, Electricity | Schools, Hospitals | Religious Centers | Insurance      | Debris Site   | Programs            |
| Transportation Systems  | Police, Governance | Households        | Donor Funds    | Forests       | Feedback Mechanisms |

## Criticalities between the seven infrastructure layers



- Civil Infrastructure
- Civic Infrastructure
- Social Infrastructure
- Environmental Infrastructure
- Financial Infrastructure
- Cyber Infrastructure
- ..... Interrelationship between infrastructure types

## Sustainability in the Context of Resilience and Capacity Building

- ❑ **Sustainable resilience-enhancing strategies should be considered** while selecting various alternate strategies for capacity building to enhance resilience.
- ❑ **Sustainable resilience-enhancing strategies** are those strategies **that contribute indefinitely to the development & well-being of both the consumers & infrastructure** whilst not overdrawn natural resources or over-burdening the environment in an irreversible manner.

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## Global Leadership Forum for CEM Programs (GLF-CEM)

### Task Force on Resilience in Construction Industry

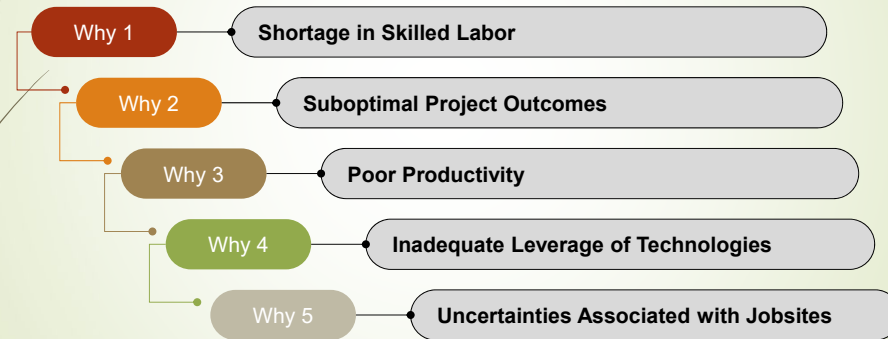
Pandemics and recessions have revealed the **need to extend the definition of Resilience in construction industry**. This Taskforce aims to explore and perhaps define Resilience in the Construction Industry by looking at:

- **Different shocks and stresses:** Natural hazards, Pandemic, Supply chain delay, Recession, Legislation
- **Different levels:** City, Community, Organization, Individual
- **Different technical infrastructure:** engineering, networks, and assets
- **Different mitigation strategies:** Local supply chain, Modularization and Prefabrication, Remote Working, etc.



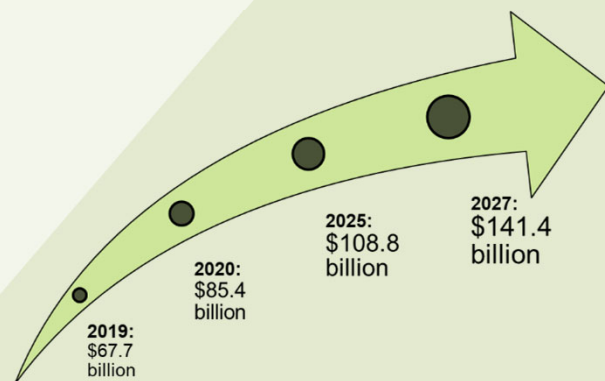
## Getting Ready for 2030: A People, Process, and Technology Roadmap for Offsite Construction (CII RT371)

### Motivation



PI: Islam El-adaway, Mark Hastak and Kim Needy

### Size of Global Offsite/Modular Construction Market



Compound annual growth rate (CAGR)  $\approx$  9.6%

## Key Quotes on the 2030 Vision for Offsite Construction

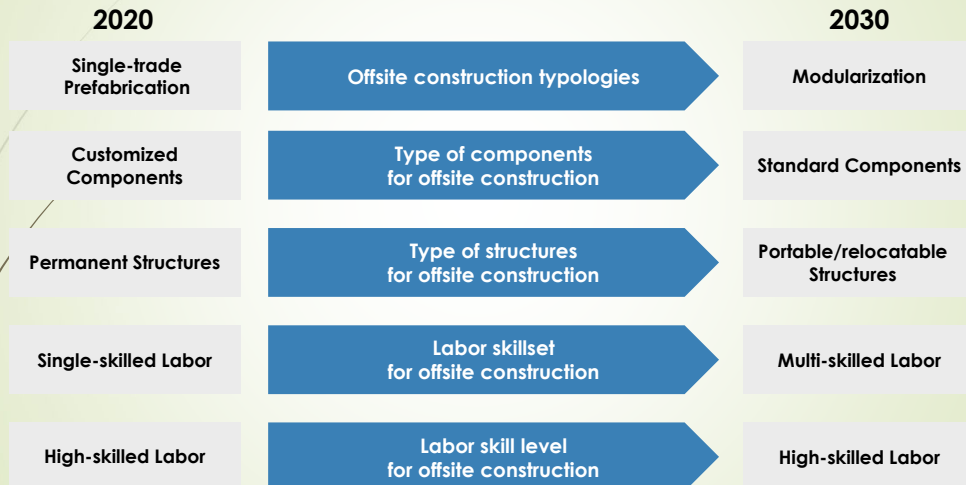
"The **percentage of offsite construction will continue to increase**"

"We will get more and more **automated**...like video games...to reduce the number of workers on the jobsite"

"Going offsite will be **huge and advantageous to hiring and attracting more or higher qualified people into the industry**"

"The **definition of construction workforce will change**...people at the job site and on the manufacturing floor"

## Most-used Offsite Construction Characteristics



## Top 3 Workforce Occupations in Highest Need for Training in Offsite Construction

| Category                           | Rank #1                                    | Rank #2   | Rank #3                                     |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <b>Design and Engineering</b>      | BIM and 3D/4D/nD information modeling      | QA/QC engineers                                 | Planning engineers                          |
| <b>Construction and Management</b> | Construction managers                      | Constructability specialists                    | Field interface management personnel        |
| <b>Administrative</b>              | AWP professionals                          | Computer IT professionals                       | Project controls professionals              |
| <b>Onsite Craft</b>                | Offsite module installation personnel      | Lifting, cranes, and rigging personnel          | Instrumentation and control personnel       |
| <b>Offsite Fabrication</b>         | Computer-aided manufacturing professionals | Assembly, fabrication, and production personnel | Planners, expeditors, and sequence managers |

## Key Offsite Construction Skills to Incorporate into Training

### Design and Engineering



- **Fabrication package** creation and detailing
- **Stability and constructability** of components and modules
- **Supply chain** and procurement
- **Logistics** and transportation
- **Offsite construction philosophy**
- **Design for manufacturing and assembly**
- **Design freeze**
- **Offsite typologies**

### Construction and Fabrication



- **Automation, robotics, and computer-automated technologies**
- **Placement, assembly, and installation**
- **Manufacturing and fabrication processes**
- **Operation management** and process planning
- **Good manufacturing practices**
- **Integration of onsite and offsite activities**
- **Offsite construction philosophy**

### Administrative



- **Manufacturing and factory knowledge**
- **Offsite construction philosophy**
- **Systems thinking** and integration
- **Process streamlining**
- **Personnel information systems**

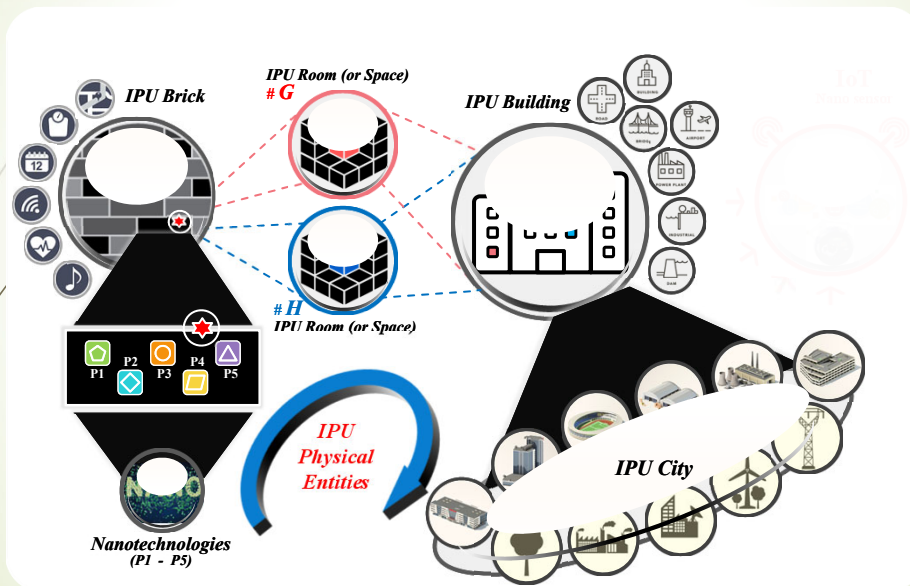


## Top 5 Technologies To Invest In and Train the Workforce on for 2030



We still need to address the issue of complexity in the built environment

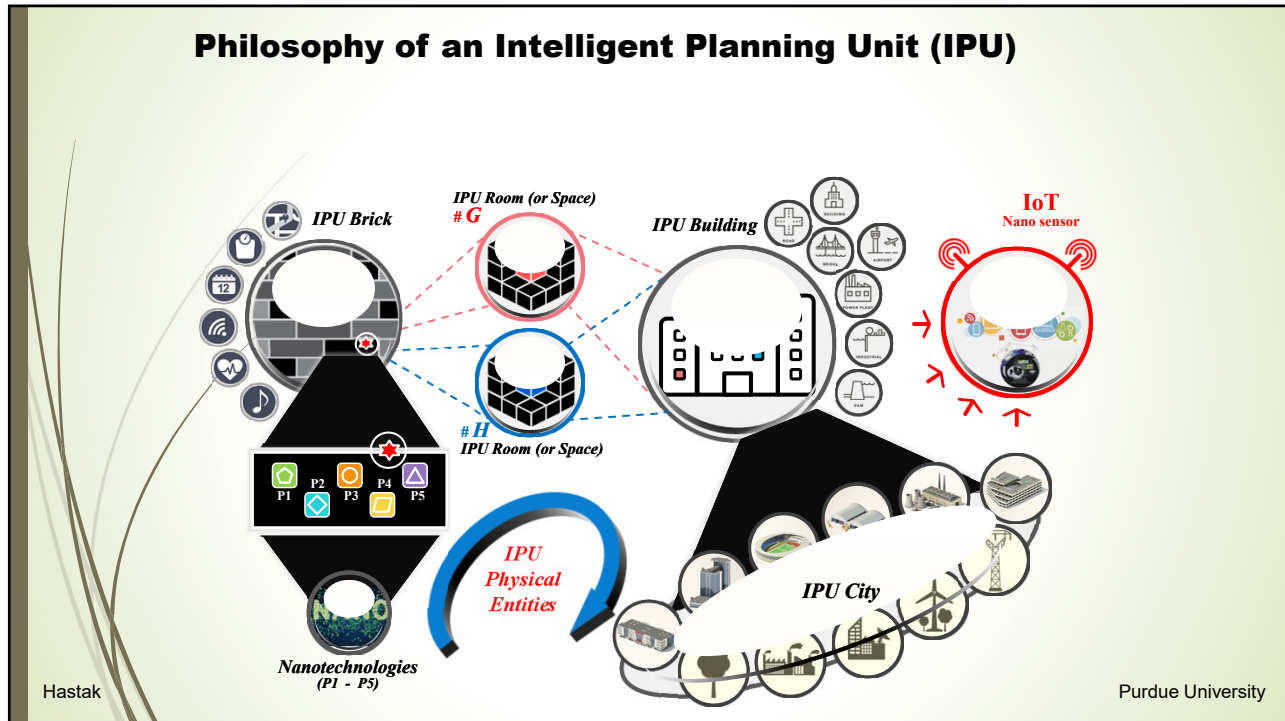
## Philosophy of an Intelligent Planning Unit (IPU) to facilitate offsite construction



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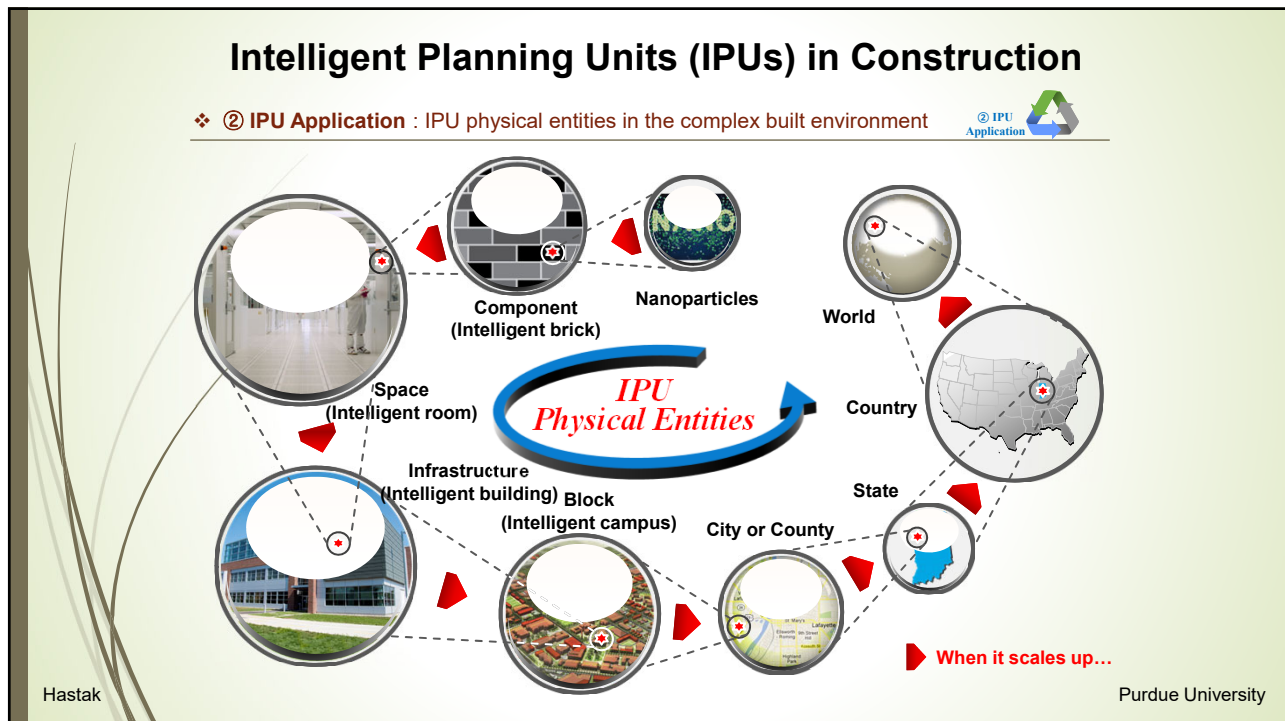
Purdue University

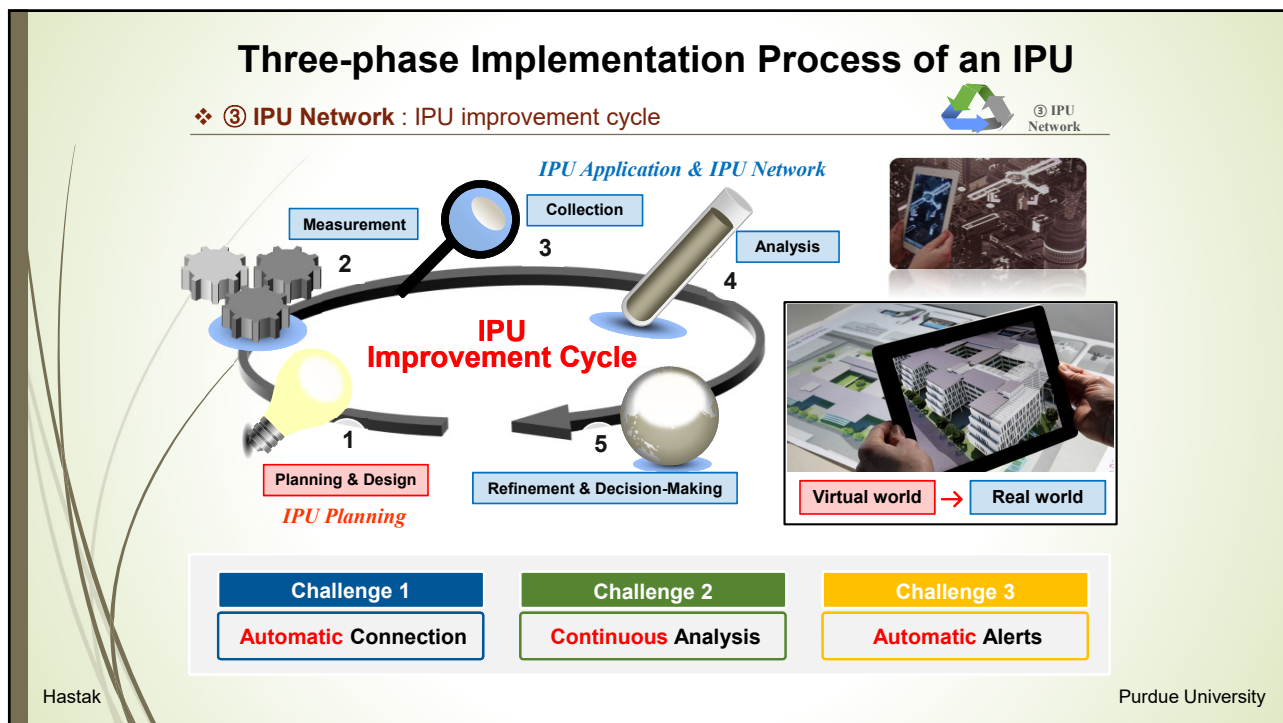
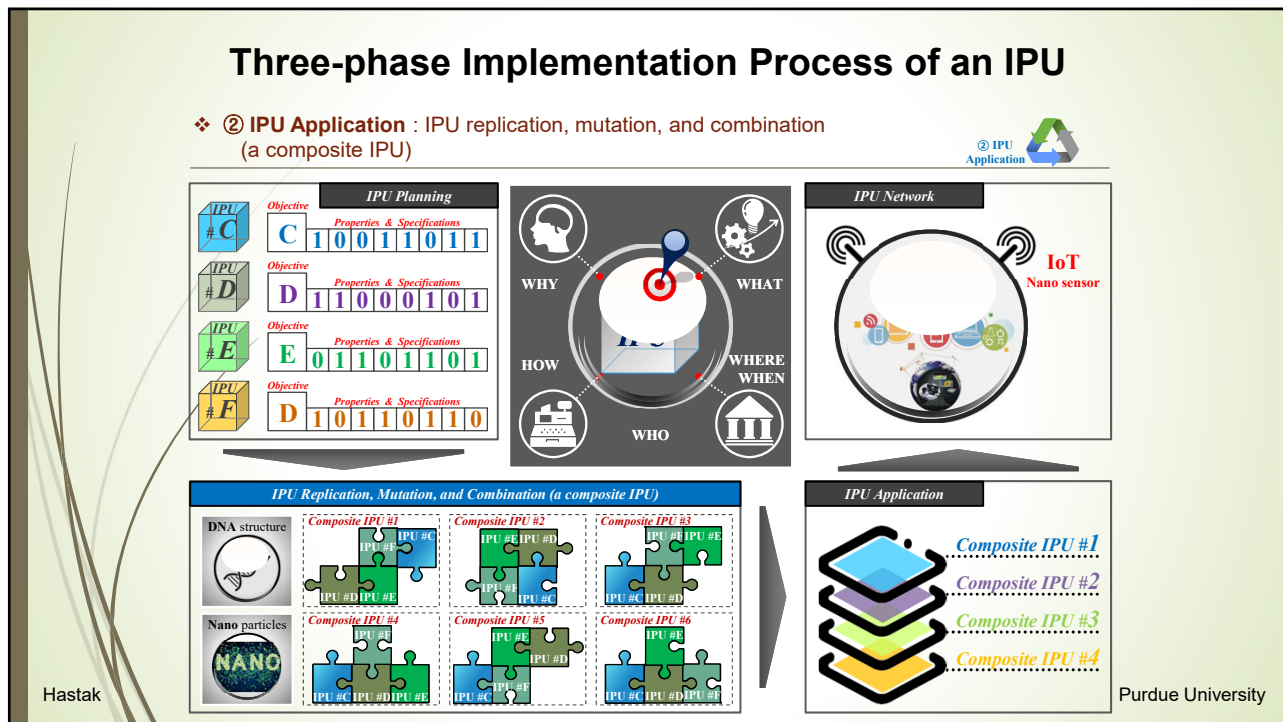
## Philosophy of an Intelligent Planning Unit (IPU)



## Intelligent Planning Units (IPUs) in Construction

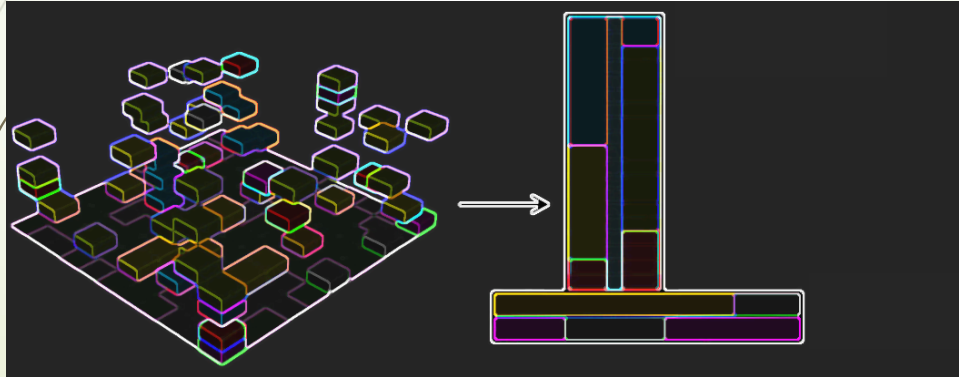
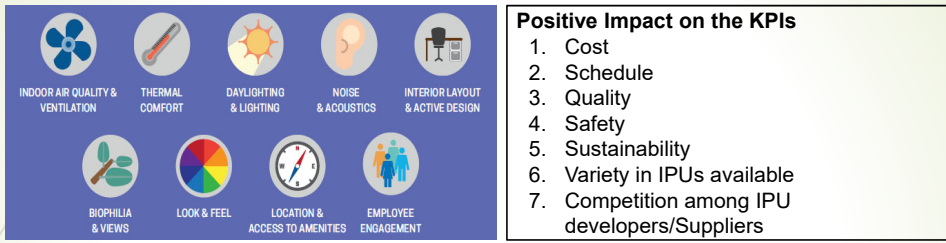
❖ ② IPU Application : IPU physical entities in the complex built environment







## IPU : Impact on the KPIs

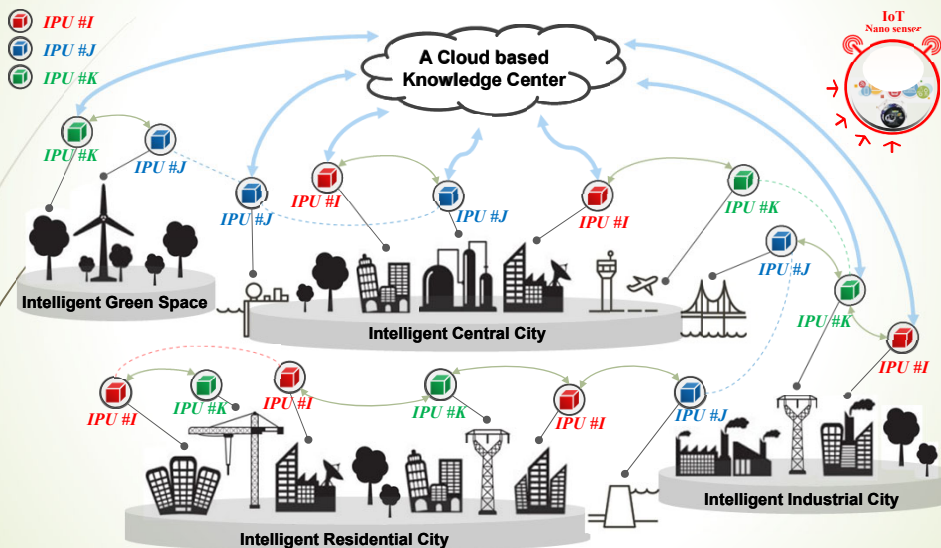


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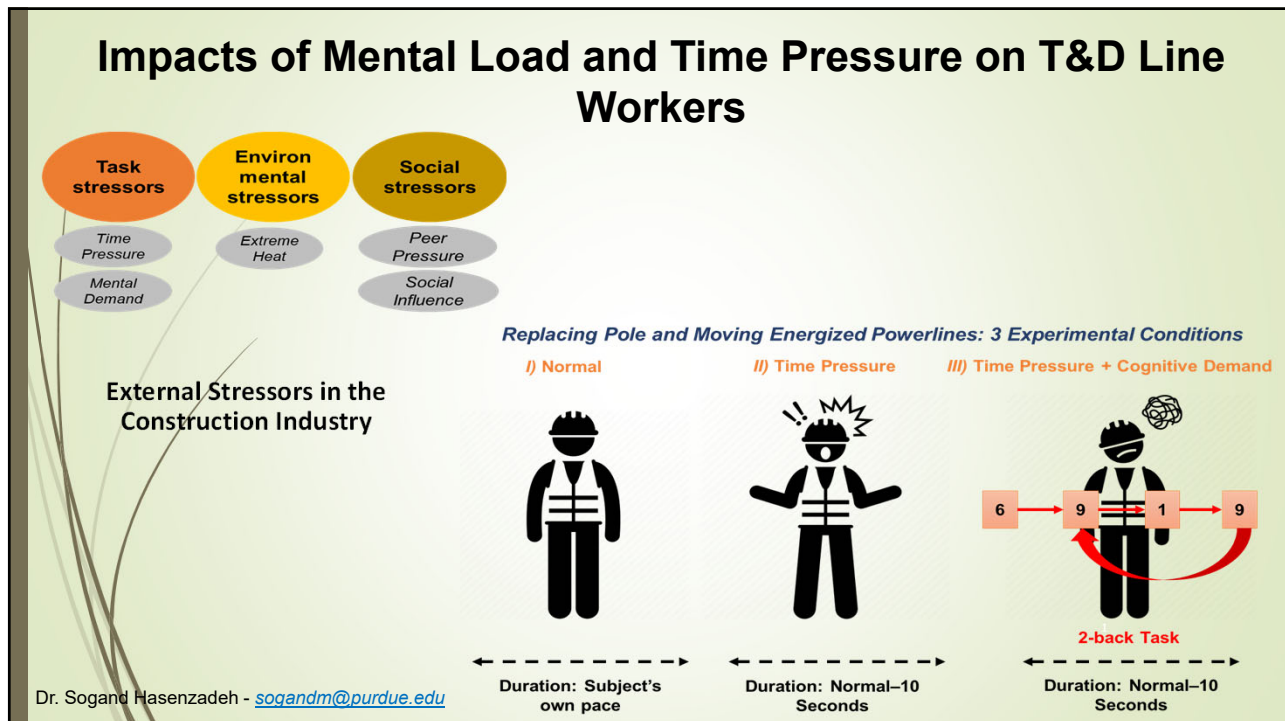
## Three-phase Implementation Process of an IPU

❖ ③ IPU Network : IPU interaction using the emerging concept of IoT technology 

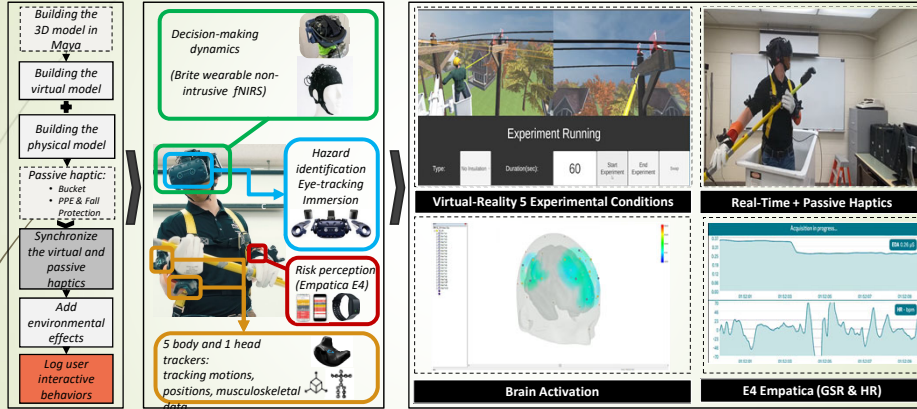


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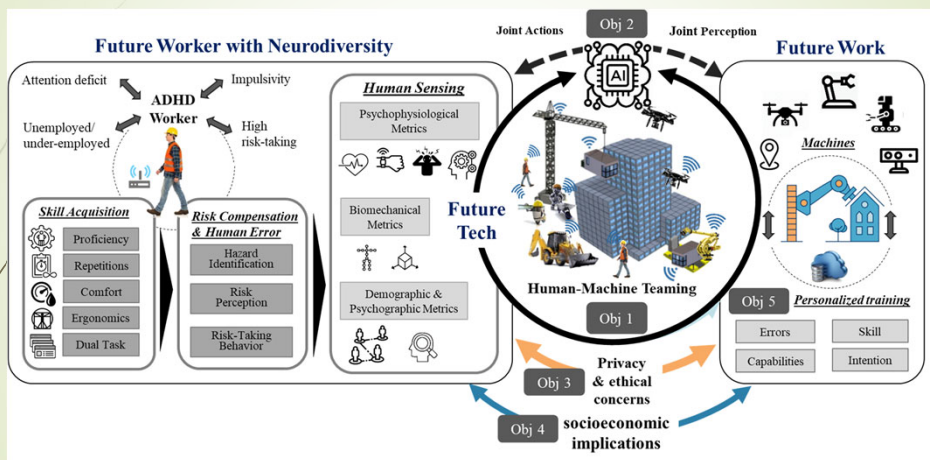
## Impacts of Mental Load and Time Pressure on T&D Line Workers



### Multi-Model Mixed Reality (MR) Environment

Dr. Sogand Hasenzadeh - [sogandm@purdue.edu](mailto:sogandm@purdue.edu)

## Worker-AI Teaming to enhance inclusivity in the Construction Industry of the Future



Dr. Sogand Hasenzadeh - [sogandm@purdue.edu](mailto:sogandm@purdue.edu)



## Construction – Future



### Construction on Moon? NASA Artemis Project

<https://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-advance-lunar-construction-technology-for-moon-missions>

### Construction on Mars?

<https://www.busstheworld.com/elon-musk-said-mars-is-independent-will-he-build-his-own-country/>



## Construction Engineer of the Future Engineering Areas of Growth?





## In Conclusion

- ❖ A snapshot of “Construction Industry Challenges and the Need for Innovation”
  - ❖ Construction is a very robust industry that has innovated for ages in delivering complex and challenging projects
  - ❖ Cost, Schedule, Quality, Safety, and Sustainability remain the KPIs
  - ❖ Challenges exist
    - ❑ Shortage of skilled labor
    - ❑ Adoption of technology/Human-System Interface
    - ❑ Contractual constraints
    - ❑ Low productivity
    - ❑ Pandemic and Supply chain issues
    - ❑ Resilience of the industry
    - ❑ Interdependencies
    - ❑ Environmental Issues/Sustainability
    - ❑ Safety
  - ❖ Lot of opportunity exists but there is a strong need for innovation to resolve the challenges ahead that could be addressed with Industry/University Collaboration

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# Thank you

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