


**Agile hardware & system  
development**

-

**Can it really work and  
create value added?**



What big challenge did you bring to this gathering?

What do you hope to get from this group/  
community today?

What do you hope to give to this group/  
community today?





It all starts with our VUCA-driven business world...

Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, Ambiguity

As a consequence companies typically want to become faster, cheaper, better with product development





# For SW development „agile“ has become a proven lever to reach these goals



Company experience with „agile“ in SW development

## Company Experience

### HOW MANY?

2016 **94%**

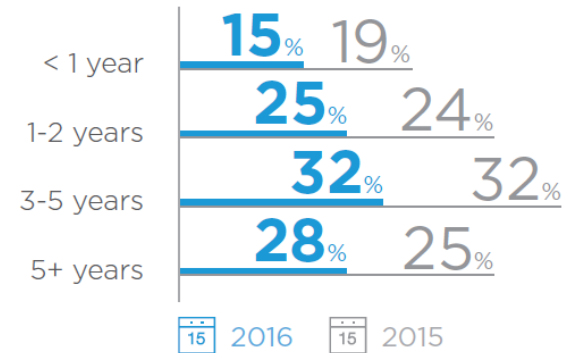
The percentage of respondents' organizations that practice agile



&

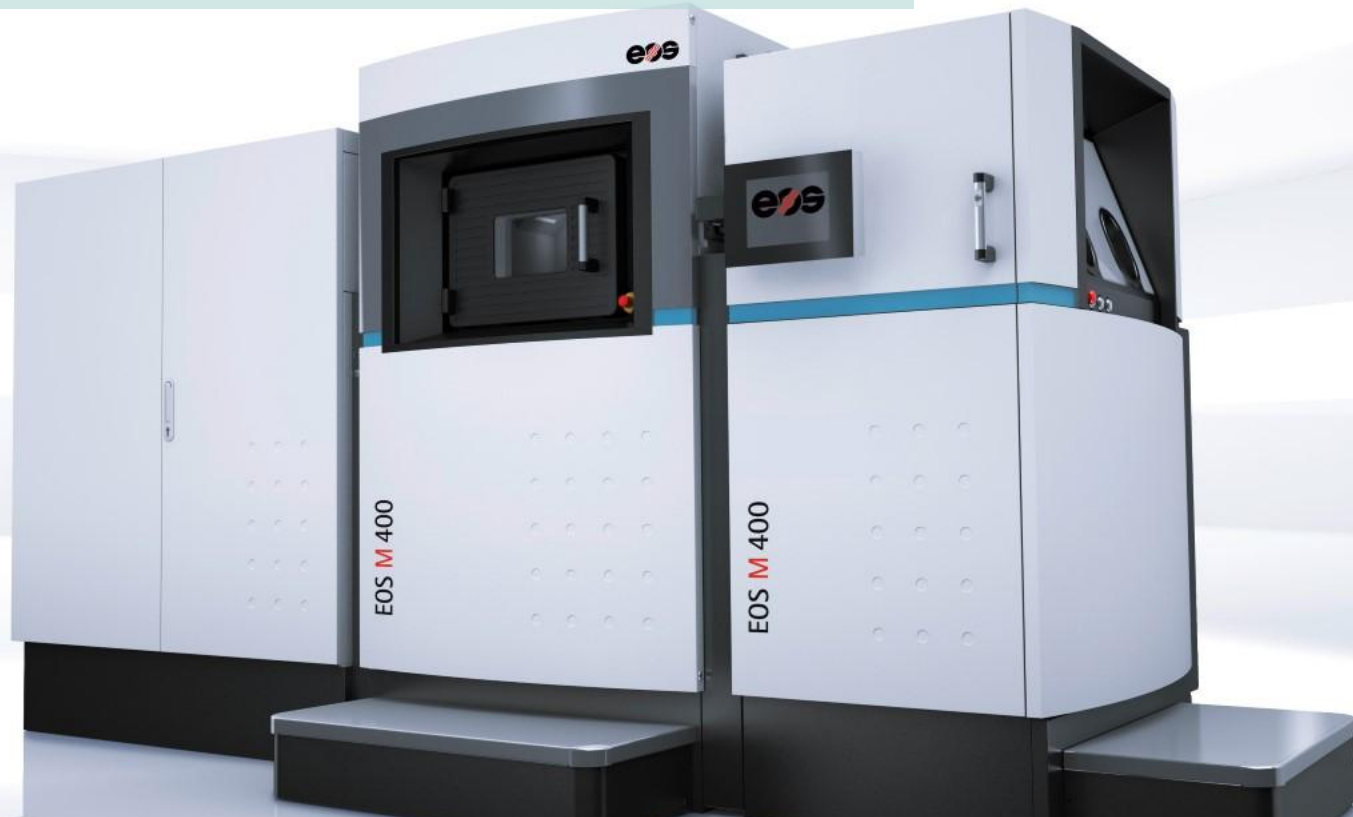
### HOW LONG?

The length of time respondents' organizations have been practicing agile:



Source: <https://explore.versionone.com/state-of-agile/versionone-11th-annual-state-of-agile-report-2>  
SW: Software

**But what about hardware and system development projects?**

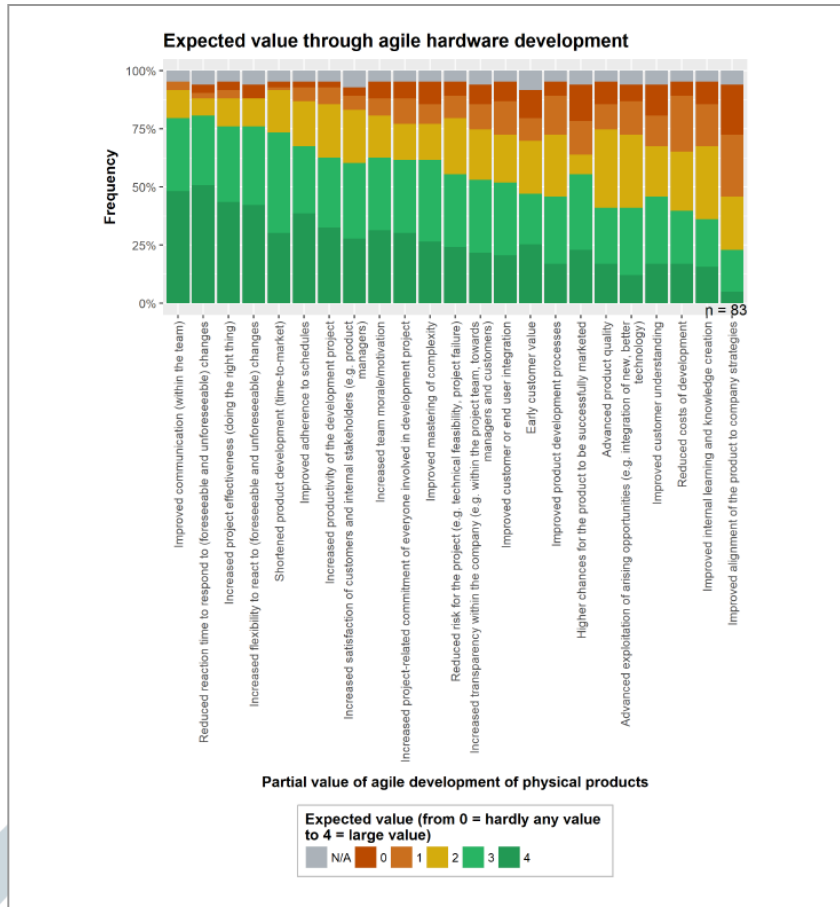


**(System defined as complex, physical, mechatronic product, typically consisting of hardware and software components)**

# Not surprisingly companies have comparable goals for HW/ system development as with SW development when using „agile“



## Expected value through agile hardware development



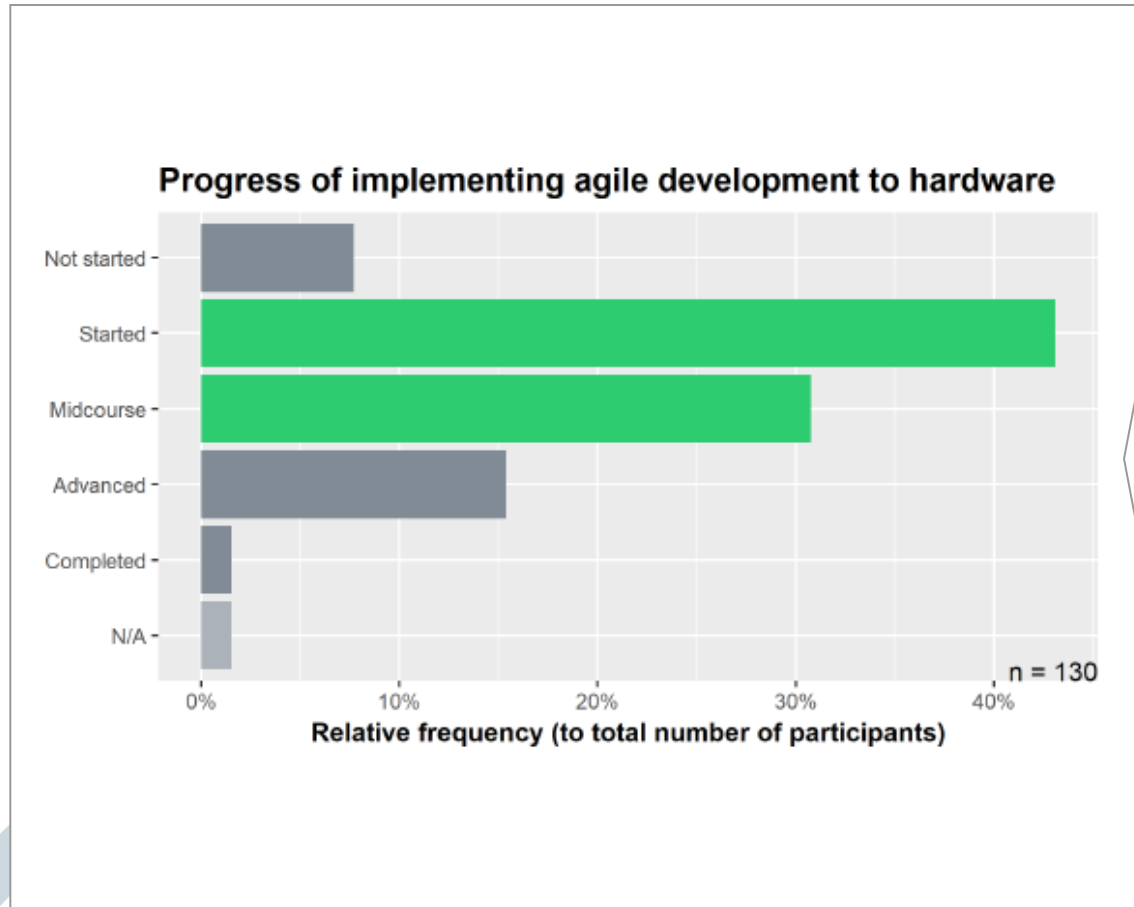
## Key learnings

- Desired improvements through agile development are manifold.
- More than 75% expect agile development to improve communication, reaction time to changes, flexibility and project effectiveness.
- Improved adherence to schedules, shortened time-to-market and increased productivity are among the Top 7. Expectations on agile development to have positive effects on classical KPI's are relatively high.

Source: Schmidt, Weiss, Paetzold: Agile development of physical products, 2018: p51/ 52, Fig 5.1  
HW: Hardware, SW: Software

# But most companies have little experience in „agile“ development of HW/ systems

Progress of implementing agile development to hardware



## Key learnings

- Most companies have little experience in agile development of physical products.
- Some companies are much ahead of the bulk.

Source: Schmidt, Weiss, Paetzold: Agile development of physical products, 2018: p88, Fig 7.9  
HW: Hardware, SW: Software




And are even hesitant to start applying “agile” with HW/ system development as there are numerous myths...







**Myth 1: We cannot have potential releasable functionality in 4 weeks or less!**



**Myth 2: There is too much diversity in the required skills for a cross-functional team...**





Myth 3: First we must develop HW, then comes SW. It cannot be done in parallel.




Myth 4: Continuous integration & automated testing does not work in HW-development.





Myth 5: “Change (even late) is welcome” → Are you crazy?




Myth 6: Lead time can be six to 12 weeks or far more... We are depending on our R&D- & production suppliers...



A surreal landscape with a path made of text, a red umbrella, a hot air balloon, and a street lamp.

Myth 7: User Stories do not work for HW-/ system-development...

A woman wearing safety glasses and large yellow ear protection.

Myth 8: Quality- & safety requirements are much higher with HW and limit us much more...

## | Myths or not: What are your experiences and opinions?

Reflection

- 1** Reflection in groups: Are the myths true or not? 5 min
  - What are your (practical) experiences?
  - What is your opinion?
  
- 2** Presentation per group. 2 min.





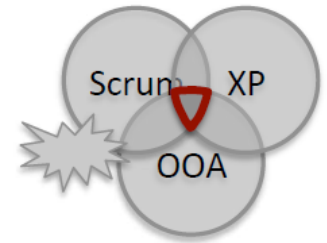
**Initially, Agile methods such as Scrum etc. were conceived in and framed for software development.**

**TRUMPF's experience shows that these methods need further development and adaption, need a certain scale of freedom and flexibility to live up to the differences in each products, solutions and markets.**

Reiner Köttgen, Expert Agile Transition, TRUMPF GmbH & Co. KG

Source: Schmidt, Weiss, Paetzold: Agile development of physical products, 2018: pvi

# How Wikispeed Did It: Extreme Manufacturing (XM)



## I. Scrum Organization

- a. Roles and Responsibilities
- b. Sprints/Iterative Design
- c. Make Work Visible
- d. Measure Velocity
- e. Continuous Improvement (Lean)

## II. XP Engineering Principles

- a. User Stories
- b. Pairing and Swarming
- c. Test Driven Development

“XM”

## III. Object-Oriented Architecture

- a. Modular Components
- b. Contract-First Design
- c. Design Patterns
- d. Re-use and Inheritance

Morale is a multiplier for Velocity!

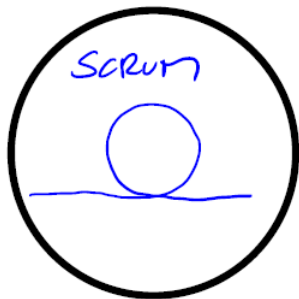


# Our experience shows that at least 4 frameworks have to be orchestrated to make „agile“ development of HW/ systems work

*Releasing Rocks*

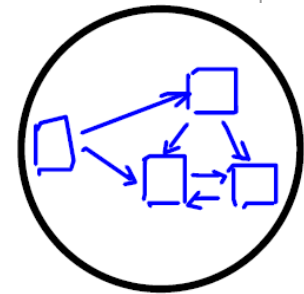
Framework for „agile“ development of HW/ systems

## Scrum



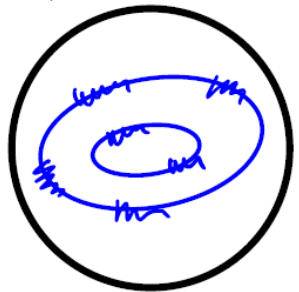
- Pillars: Transparency, Inspect & Adapt
- Values: commitment, courage, focus, openness and respect
- Roles
- Events
- Artefacts

## Systems Thinking/ Engineering



- Modularity, Object-orientation
- Minimization of interfaces
- Minimal prejudicing
- Incremental design/ “Piecemeal engineering”

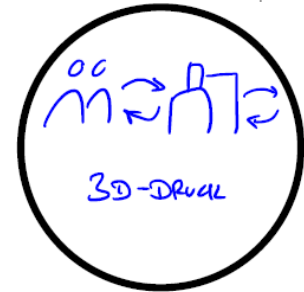
## Engineering-Principals



- User Stories
- Pairing & swarming
- Test-driven development
- Continuous integration/ deployment
- Collocation of teams

## Supply chain management & “Wertschöpfungstiefe”

- In R&D (e.g. rapid prototyping)
- In production



Source: Based on <http://wikispeed.org/extreme-manufacturing/> with many new and own ideas



Show agreed and valuable results every sprint....

...challenge yourself (and the organization) to find alternative ways to verify designs

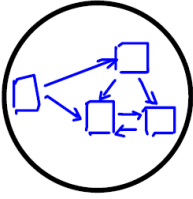
Source: Own adaptation according to <https://www.agile42.com/en/blog/2014/02/17/agile-embedded-software-development-what-wrong-it/>



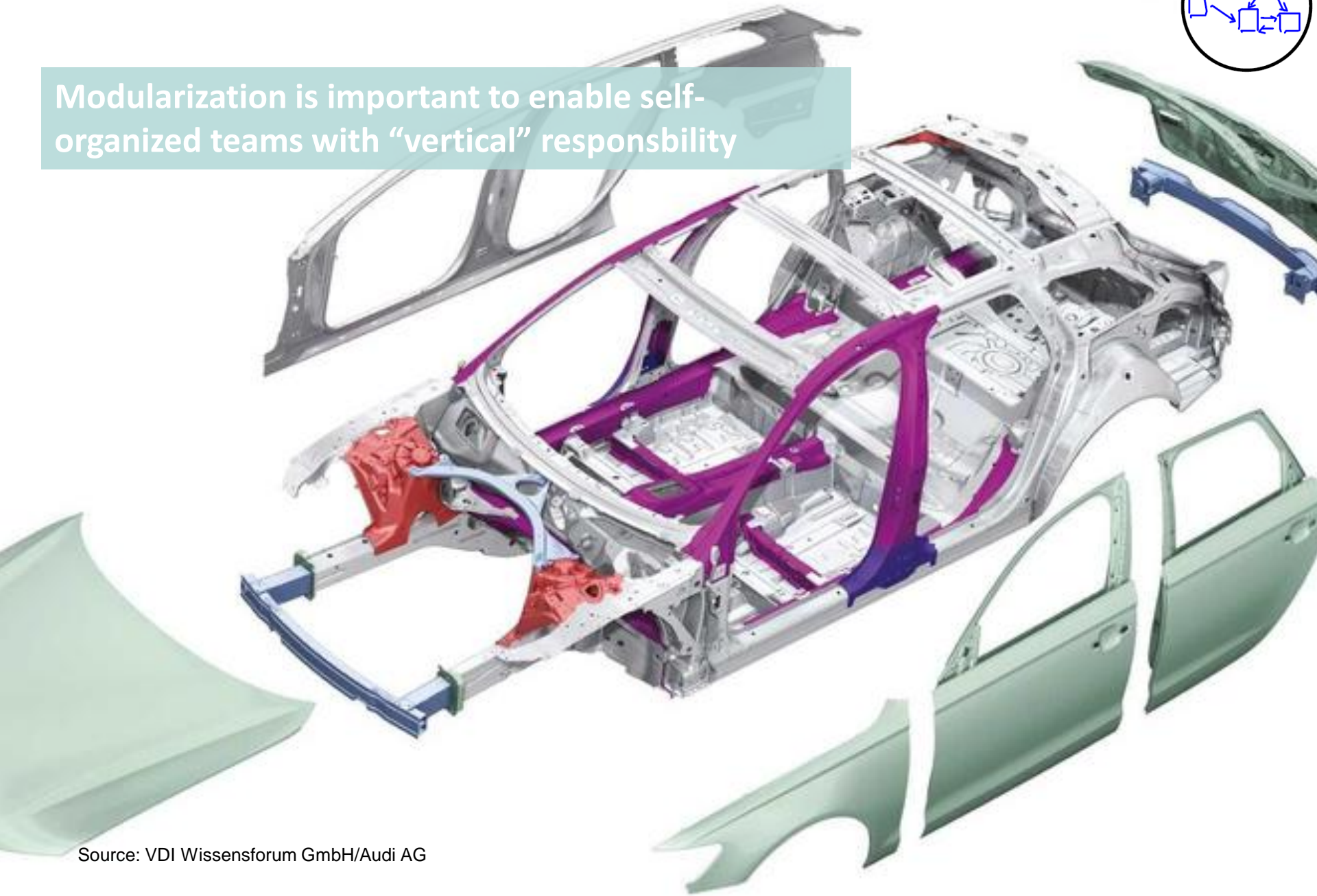


The more the team is cross-functional, the less you will have to deal with handover, reducing waste

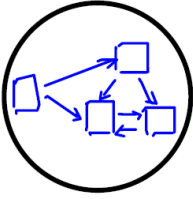




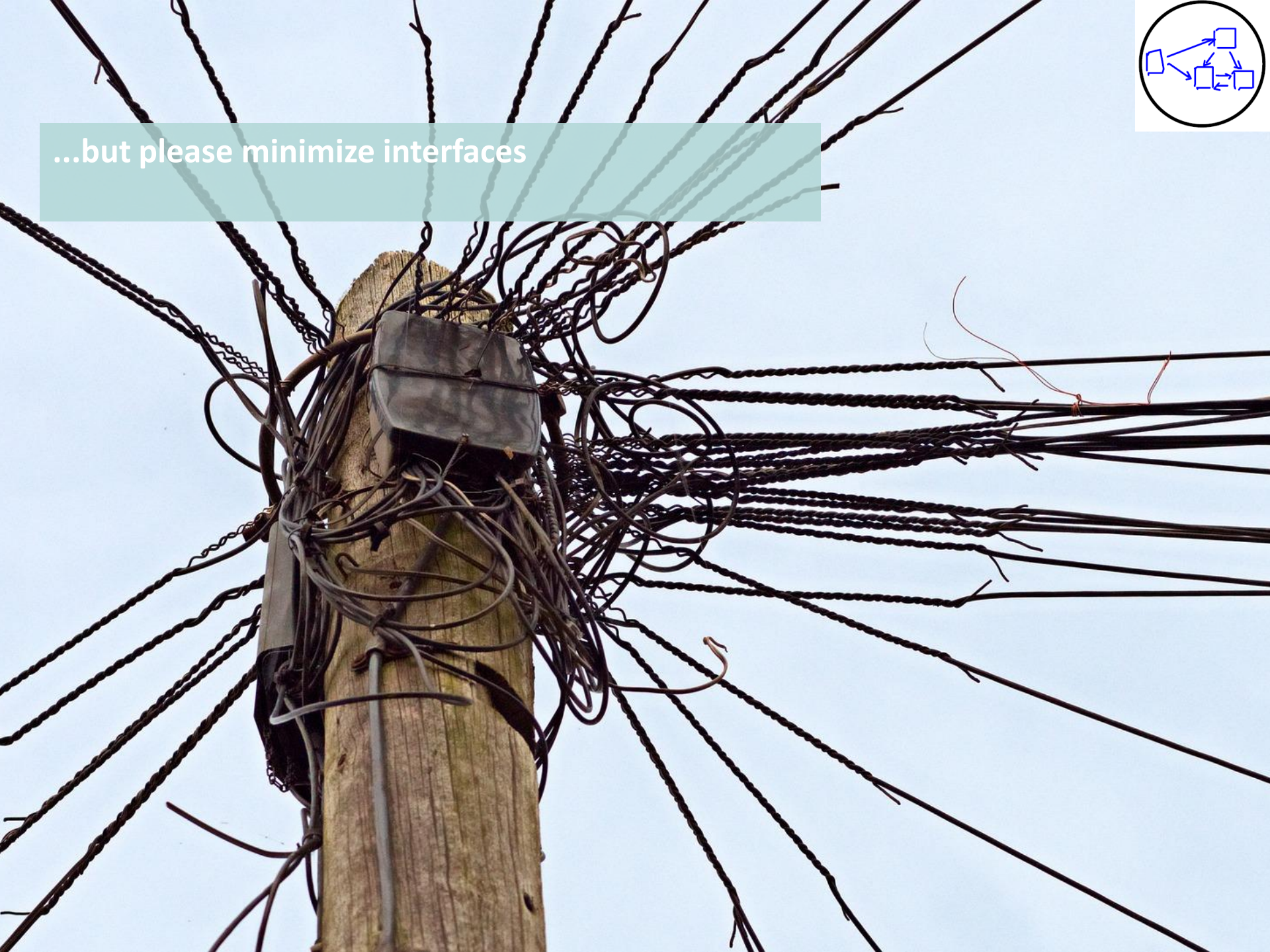
Modularization is important to enable self-organized teams with “vertical” responsibility



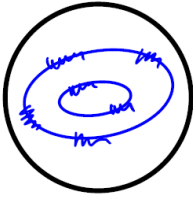




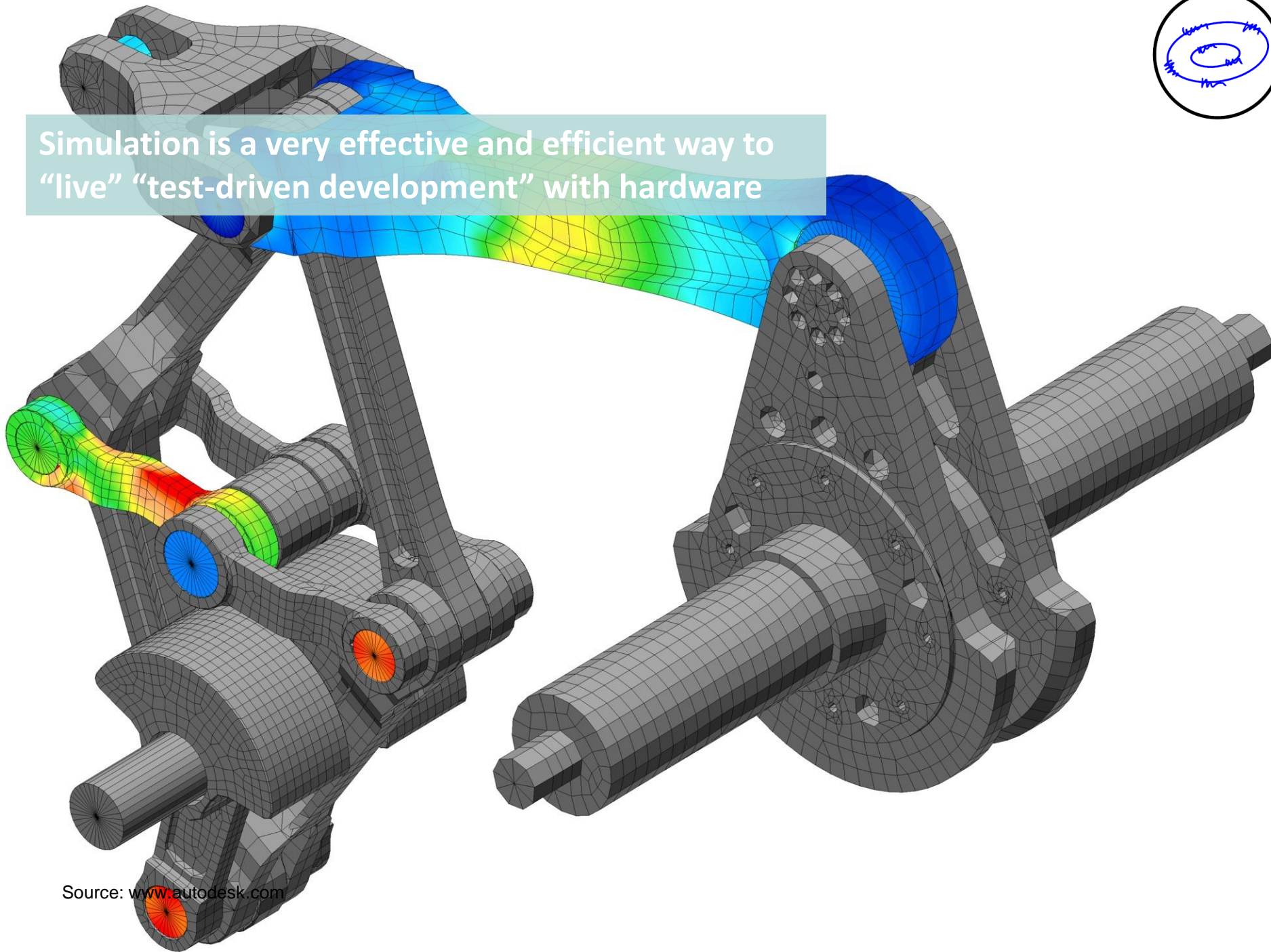
...but please minimize interfaces



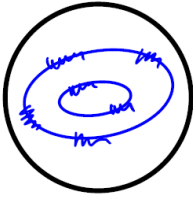




Simulation is a very effective and efficient way to “live” “test-driven development” with hardware







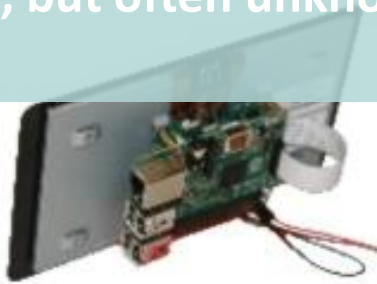
# HARDWARE PROTOTYPING TOOLS: MICROCONTROLLERS

For applying continuous integration/ deployment there are plenty, but often unknown solutions on the market



**BeagleBoard**

Open-source computer



**Raspberry Pi**

Low-cost computer



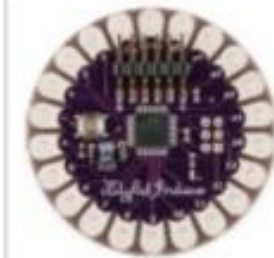
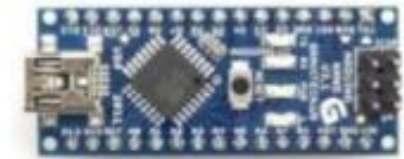
**Intel Edison**

Make it Wearable!



**Arduino**

Intended for Makers

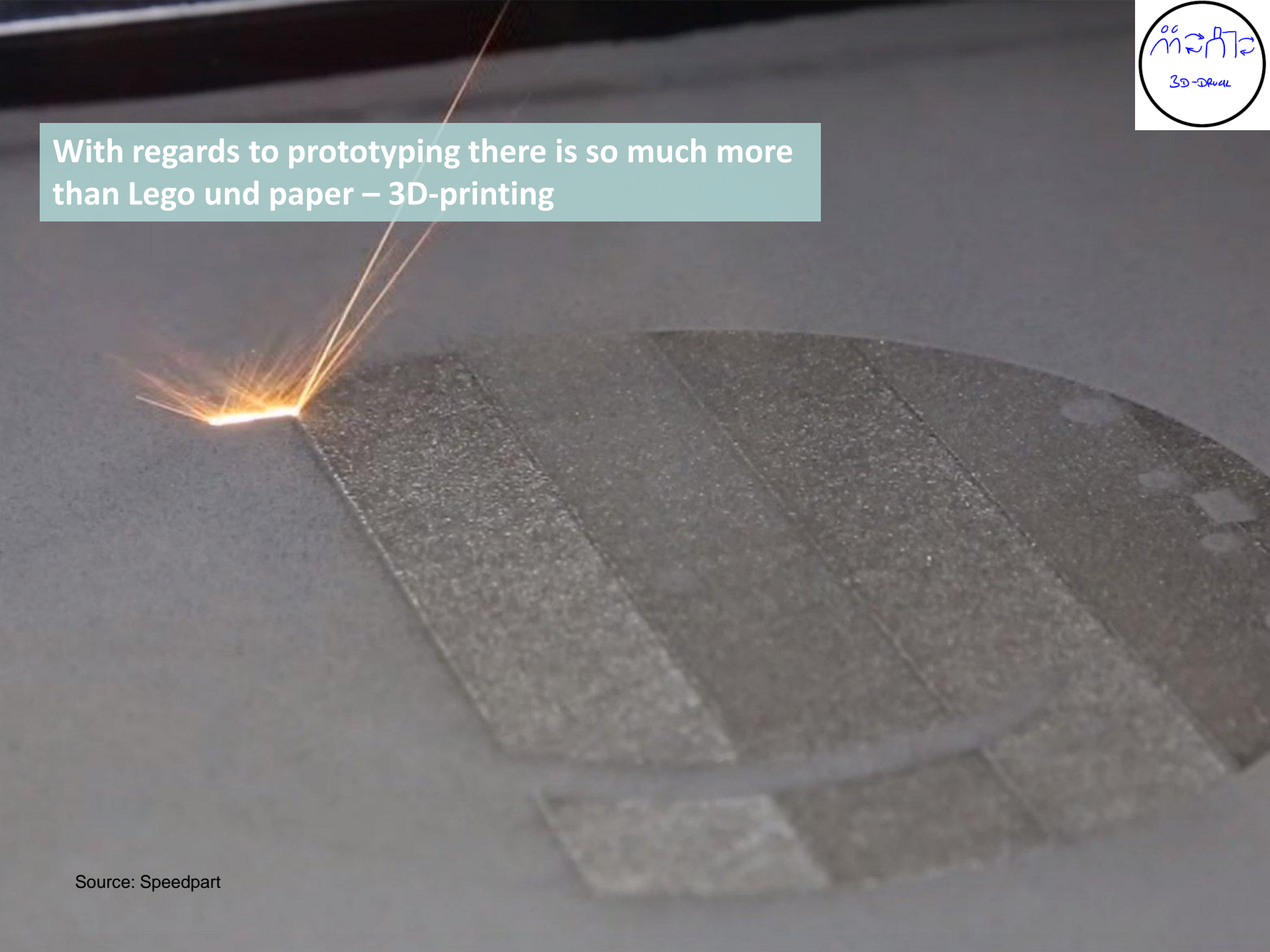


**Litt**

We'll cover electro cover 1



With regards to prototyping there is so much more than Lego und paper – 3D-printing







With regards to prototyping there is so much more than Lego und paper – Bristle Blocks



Source: [www.aliexpress.com](http://www.aliexpress.com)

FIMO

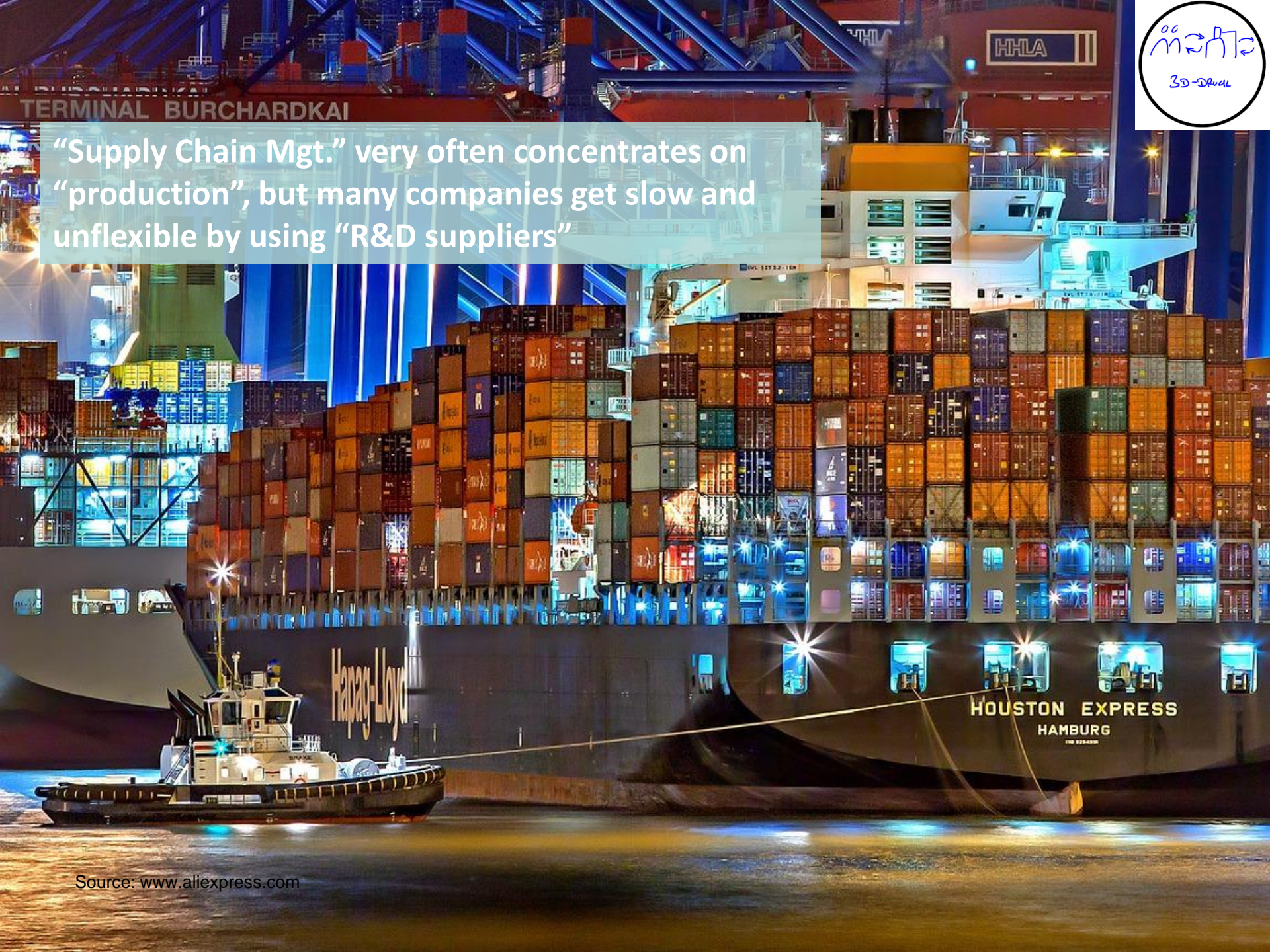
MAKE it REAL







“Supply Chain Mgt.” very often concentrates on “production”, but many companies get slow and inflexible by using “R&D suppliers”



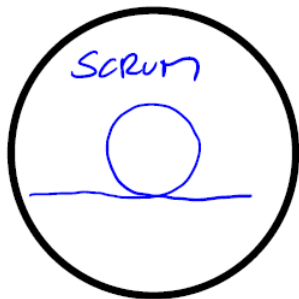


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Framework for „agile“ development of HW/ systems

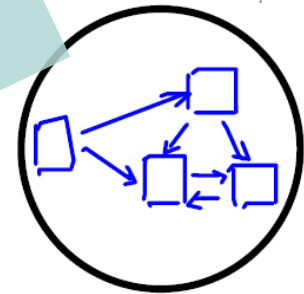
## Scrum



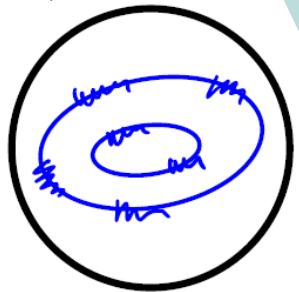
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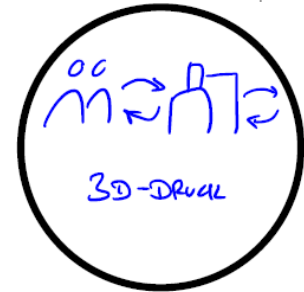
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- Libraries
- Clustering & swarming
- Test-driven development
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## Supply chain management & "Wertschöpfungstiefe"

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Source: Based on <http://wikispeed.org/extreme-manufacturing/> with many new and own ideas



## | What big ideas would you recommend?

1-2-4-ALL

- 1** Silent self-reflection by individuals on a shared challenge. 1 min
  - Did you work with one or more methods/ tools of the introduced framework in of your (last) agile Hardware-/ System development projects? Which exactly?
  - Which positive / negative experiences can you share?
  - What big ideas would you recommend?
- 2** Generate ideas in pairs, building on ideas from self-reflection. 2 min.
- 3** Share and develop ideas from your pair in foursomes (notice similarities and differences). 4 min.
- 4** Ask, “What is one idea that stood out in your conversation?” Each group shares one important idea with all (repeat cycle as needed). 5 min.